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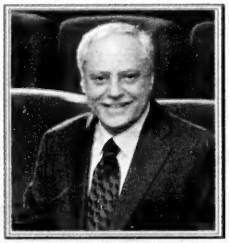

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# Prime minister links Holocaust with current threats to Israel

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — Learning the lessons of the Holocaust means not ignoring threats to Israel from Iran and the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said at last week's Canadian Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony on Parliament Hill.

The prime minister urged Canadians to be vigilant, and to learn from the past never to turn a blind eye to signs of trouble.

"We will not ignore them from Hamas and we will not ignore them from Iran," Harper said, referring to threats to Israel by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and from the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

"Words are not enough. It is only in our vigilance and in our actions that we will honour those who died in places like Auschwitz and Dachau," he added.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of perhaps the greatest crime of the 20th century. More than 60 years later, it is still difficult to believe a plan of such scale and such evil as the Holocaust was conceived and carried out – but it was."

Harper referred to a session in the House of Commons earlier in the day in which Holocaust Memorial Day was discussed.

"Today we did a special thing that we don't do often in this place – all of us set aside our differences to listen to [MP and former justice minister] Irwin Cotler talk about the Holocaust... Whatever differences we have, we must never be afraid to stand together and speak out against the Holocaust."

Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, described how Israelis live under a constant shadow "that will never go away."

He also asked people to try to imagine six million people as individuals, "each with a name, a life and a family.

"Imagine what a contribution those six million souls could have made to humanity had they not been gassed and incinerated... We call on you, Canada, the Canadian people, we call on the international community, we call on all humanity, not to let this happen again."

**Continued on page 31**

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke at the rally last week on Parliament Hill to mark Canadian Holocaust Memorial Day. Jewish Canadian war veterans carried the colours.** [*Carolyn Blackman photos*]

# Candles attest to memory

**Students from Montreal placed memorial candles at the crematoria in Auschwitz-Birkenau last week on the March of the Living.**
***Please see related stories on pages 5, 16-19, 32, 33.***
[*Ryan Blau photo*]

**Acharei Mot/Kedoshim**
**Candlelighting: 8:07**
**Havdallah: 9:12**
*Greater Toronto Area*

*Hamas behind foiled attack, Israel says — see page 36*

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### New Portus Charges

**TORONTO** — The Ontario Securities Commission has filed more charges against the co-founders of failed hedge fund Portus Alternative Asset Management. The OSC, which forced Portus into receivership last year amid a number of investigations, said it has charged Boaz Manor "for failing to act fairly, honestly and in good faith with clients; and failing to meet his duties as a fund manager." The OSC also said it has charged Michael Mendelson "with unregistered trading; issuing non-exempt securities without filing a prospectus or having obtained a receipt from the director; failing to act fairly, honestly and in good faith with clients; and failing to meet his duties as a fund manager." Manor left for Israel last year after Portus collapsed and both he and Mendelson face other charges related to more than $800 million in missing investor assets. They have denied wrongdoing and the charges have not been proven in court.

### WORLD

#### Canadian Wins Quiz

**ASHKELON** — Toronto teen Yisrael Witty beat 60 youths from 36 nations – including, for the first time, Peru and Poland – to win the 43rd annual Diaspora Bible Quiz last week in Israel. The Grade 10 Yeshivat Or Chaim student – a grandson of the late Rabbi Yitchak Witty, longtime head of Toronto's Board of Jewish Education – was to face Israeli and Diaspora youths in the International Bible Quiz on Yom Ha'atzmaut. David Pellow, in Grade 11 at Or Chaim, also qualified for that event. Moshe Cohen, a Grade 11 student at Montreal's Hebrew Academy, represented Quebec in the Diaspora contest but failed to reach the second event.

#### Not Keen on Shul?

**NEW YORK** — U.S. Jews are less likely than U.S. Christians to attend weekly services, a new Gallup poll says. Some 15 per cent of Jews say they go each week, versus two-thirds of Mormons and evangelical Protestants. From 43 to 45 per cent of Lutherans, Catholics, Presbyterians and Methodists attend weekly. The poll of 11,000 people was conducted from 2002 to 2005.

#### May Is For Jews: Bush

**WASHINGTON** — U.S. President George W. Bush proclaimed May Jewish heritage month. "As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens," Bush said in his April 21 proclamation.

#### Anti-Jewish Acts Down

**TEL AVIV** — Incidents of violent anti-Semitism dropped around the world in 2005, an Israeli study found. An annual report issued last week by Tel Aviv University's Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism said serious attacks on Jews in western Europe and North America decreased last year compared to 2004. But the report said 2005 levels were still the second-highest in the last 15 years. It credited the dip to global efforts to fight anti-Semitism, and to key 2005 initiatives such as events to mark Auschwitz's liberation and a UN resolution for an annual Holocaust Remembrance Day. It also said Mideast calm helped stem attacks in Europe fuelled by anti-Zionism.

#### Nazi Convictions Up

**LOS ANGELES** — The number of ex-Nazis convicted of war crimes – 16 – between April 1, 2005, and March 31, 2006, represents a 320 per cent increase over the previous year, the Simon Wiesenthal Center said in a report last week. Despite the gains, the report rapped some countries, including Austria, for refusing to cooperate in prosecuting Nazi war criminals on their turf.

#### Czechs Mark Yom Hashoah

**PRAGUE** — As Yom Hashoah was marked this year in Prague in an open public space for the first time last week, education ministers from 50 European nations gathered in the Czech Republic to learn about Holocaust education.

The venue for the April 25 ceremony was chosen by the Terezin (Theresienstadt) Initiative Institute so that it spoke to the entire public, not just Jews. The names of 80,000 Holocaust victims from Czech lands – 89 per cent of Czechoslovakia's Jews at the time – were read and their photographs shown. Previous ceremonies were held privately at venues such as the Pinkas Synagogue or the grounds of Theresienstadt, a former concentration camp.

Also last week, education ministers from 50 countries gathered for a two-day Council of Europe seminar on the Holocaust. It was held at the Theresienstadt museum and memorial on the grounds of the former camp.

Attendees were told teachers should help students make links between Nazism and some modern skinhead groups. Also, in his keynote address, former Czech president Vaclav Havel equated Turkey's killing of Armenians in World War I to the slaughter of Jews by the Nazis. Havel was key in setting up Shoah education in his country in the 1990s.


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# National

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# Demonstrators scream for action on Darfur

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

About 1,000 mostly young people raised their voices in a "Scream for Darfur" at a rally at Queen's Park on Sunday.

Instead of observing a moment's silence for the victims of genocide, the crowd bellowed loudly for politicians to take heed and intervene to save the people in Darfur, a war-torn region of western Sudan.

It is estimated that in three years of conflict, 450,000 men, women and children have been killed and two million more made homeless in a genocide led by a government-supported militia called the janjaweed.

Norman Epstein, co-founder of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS), called on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to show leadership in marshalling outside nations to step in and help the people of Darfur.

The prime minister once said, "'I want a country that does not lead from the bleachers,'" Epstein said. "Today I see no bleachers. I see hundreds and hundreds of Canadians in the field screaming, 'Mr. Harper, lead.'"

The Queen's Park rally was one of dozens held across North America. In Washington, thousands gathered at the Mall to hear advocates call on President George Bush to save Darfur.

Continued on page 30

Rally organizers (forefront in T-shirts) scream for Darfur [Paul Lungen photo]

## Alona was giggling ... suddenly everything went black

On a warm evening in Tel Aviv, 14-year-old Alona Shportova and her best friend, Kathryn Kastiniada, both energetic, happy teenagers, decided to go dancing.

They got to the Dolphinarium Disco and stood in line waiting to get in. Kathryn was beside Alona and the two were giggling and talking when suddenly everything went black. Alona remembers nothing of what happened during those moments.

A Palestinian terrorist blew himself up half a metre from them. Alona's best friend was killed instantly. Alona was severely wounded, losing the left side of her brain. Consequently, her right arm and right leg are paralyzed, and she has lost some of her speech and memory capabilities.

The doctors warned her family that her chances for survival were very slim. Alona is considered a medical miracle. Despite this, she cannot do anything on her own, and is still fragile. She can no longer read or write and often forgets from one minute to the next what she was going to do or say.

With four years of rehabilitation behind her and many more ahead, Alona Shportova remains determined to recover her life.

"I want to be like all the girls my age," Alona says.

After more than 30 surgeries, Alona is getting the help she needs at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv. She uses the gym and the swimming pool for her ongoing therapy. The skilled staff and her new friends offer her much-needed support and encouragement. There she can see that rehabilitation is possible. Says Alona's mother: "Everyone at Beit Halochem cares deeply and gives her so much attention ... It is as if she is part of a family, a little sister."

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# In our own ways, we all protect Israel

*From the editor's desk*

For most of the Jewish people, at least for those of us born in the dark mist of the shadow of World War II, the celebration of Israel's independence is very much more than merely the celebration of a political anniversary.

It is the celebration of the proof of the power of hope and of the force of an ideal.

Yearning for the refounding of a sovereign, this-world, run-by-human-beings, physical, Jewish state in the biblical land of the Jews has been at the very core of Jewish theology, liturgy and ritual since our forebears lost that sovereignty some 2,000 years ago. The ideal of living once again, as a free, self-governing people was the hope that sustained us through the many lands and many years of our dispersion.

For thousands of years, our daily prayers and our festival prayers always included the prayer for Return. Our calendar, language, folkways, superstitions, certain of our foods, and for many, our faith, were oriented toward the hope and the promise of Return.

But one need not have been pious to have sensed and understood in 1948 that something different, something perhaps even outside the normal flow of time had happened when the State of Israel was proclaimed and when it emerged victorious from the blood-soaked war launched against it at its birth by its neighbours.

Thus, celebrating the refounding of a sovereign Jewish state, to a great degree, is also the affirmation of the deep values of our faith and the theological doctrines in which we have long believed. Somewhere in the vast, metaphysical beyond of human existence, we comfort ourselves, the forces for good have aligned for all remaining time in a splendid heavenly geometry.

And that explains why so many of us strive with all our might to "protect" the Jewish state. Our first wish, to be sure is to protect the men, women and children there, but we are also intent on protecting the ideals of hope and goodness, and one of the key millennial purposes of our faith.

Of course, different people "protect" Israel in different ways. Soldiers defend, students rally, editorialists write and doctors heal.

Two years and one month ago, I wrote about an emergency medical mission to Israel by Allan Covens, a gynecological oncologist at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital and at the faculty of medicine at the University of Toronto.

Responding to the plea from a doctor in Israel who had trained with him in Toronto, Covens rushed to the hospital in Afula to operate on a patient in her early 20s.

Covens is one of the world's foremost experts in treating cancers of the cervix through laparoscopic surgery. Perhaps more than anyone else, he has advanced this method of treatment in an effort to preserve the fertility of women afflicted with this particularly insidious and cruel type of cancer.

Allan Covens

By all accounts, the surgery was a success, although the final assessment will only be known in about three years.

"I felt a sense of obligation to the patient even though I didn't know her, to my colleague and to the country," Covens told *The CJN* at the time.

Last month, *The CJN* met with Covens once again. A new medical tale could now be told.

Another of Coven's former trainees in Israel, Dan Grisaru, had called him earlier in the year urgently seeking his help with an unusual case. (Indeed, are there any other kind in which Covens is called upon to intercede?)

The patient was 14 years old, "a skinny, little girl," as she was described to him. This was an extremely young age for someone to have developed cervical cancer. But the cancer had already spread to at least one of her lymph nodes. The first priority in the situation was to cure the cancer rather than to preserve the patient's fertility.

Covens acceded to his former student's special plea for help and flew to Tel Aviv. "I had no hesitation to go," he told *The CJN*. There was little time to spare. "It was basically a last-minute thing.

"The surgery was very difficult due to the small, narrow area in which we had to operate. It took 10 hours."

The patient came through the surgery quite well. But because the cancer had appeared in her lymph node, she also needed radiation therapy. "She is doing okay," Covens said in his typically understated, cautious way. "We'll know for sure in a year or two."

The patient's mother was from France; her father from Russia. They spoke no English. But through the patient herself, the family and the physician from Canada managed to communicate their respective gratitudes and hopes for a full recovery.

Along with students from other parts of the world, Covens has already trained three Israelis in his specialist three-year program. One is currently in his program; two more Israelis are slated to train with him in the future. Within four years from now, Covens proudly pointed out, there will be a gynecological oncologist trained at Sunnybrook Hospital in every major population centre in Israel.

As we know, "protecting" Israel takes as many forms as there are human beings seeking to do so. But is there any way more profound than that which Allan Covens has chosen?

*–MBD*

See JN

## THE LIVING MARCH IN POLAND

**The Toronto delegation on the March of the Living last week walk toward Auschwitz-Birkenau.**

**[Yisrael Hecht photo]**

Greater Toronto Area

**Fabel Nitikin, at the microphone, was one of the students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Richmond Hill branch, to take part in a dramatic presentation at the community Yom Hashoah commemoration last week. [Tal Ben-Izhak photo]**

# Former partisan bears witness at commemoration

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Sara Ginaite-Rubinson, author of three books on the Holocaust in Lithuania, told a crowd of close to 2,000 people last week that she has "fulfilled her holy obligation to bear witness and remember those who did not survive" and that despite her age – over 80 – she hopes to be able to continue to do so.

The retired York University professor was the keynote speaker at this year's Yom Hashoah community commemoration held at Earl Bales Park. The Apr. 24 event was co-sponsored by 13 Jewish organizations and facilitated by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

(This year, for the first time, the Toronto Board of Rabbis was not among the sponsors or participants of the event. TBR members, consisting mainly of non-Orthodox rabbis, contend that by adhering to standards of Orthodox Judaism that preclude the participation of female clergy, female soloists and mixed choirs – the event no longer reflects the Jewish community.)

Ginaite-Rubinson, who was born in Kaunas (Kovno) in 1924, told of her decision to take her fate into her own hands after more than 9,000 of her fellow Jews were killed in her hometown in one day in 1942. Then 17 years old, she decided to join the underground resistance movement, where she met her husband, Misha Rubinson.

"If it was bashert for me to die, I would die on my own terms," she said.

The following year, her group of ghetto fighters were ordered to escape and join the partisans. She saw her mother one last time when five fighters were ordered to return to the ghetto from the Rudninkai Forest – walking more than 100 miles on foot on cold winter nights – to establish contact with the underground there.

Life in the forest was "dangerous and difficult," but it was a "life of freedom," she said. Her detachment would participate in the liberation of Vilnius in 1944.

Her family reunion sparked "intense joy and fear." Her mother, who would perish before the war's end, told Ginaite-Rubinson she had been overjoyed to know that she had escaped the "gates of hell."

Because of the decreasing numbers of Holocaust survivors, "we should do whatever we can in order to preserve these memories, in order to teach our children and to let the world know what happened," said Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto.

Now that the State of Israel exists, it will ensure that any hand raised against Jews today will be "cut" before a crime is committed, he added.

Michael Colle, Ontario's minister of citizenship and immigration, brought greetings on behalf of Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"We are committed to sending a strong message to all Ontarians that there is no place for anti-Semitism – not in this city, not in this country, nor any place in the world," said Colle.

Other participants in the ceremony included violinist Ruth Fazal, Cantor Tibor Kovari, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, General Wingate Branch 256 Royal Canadian Legion and the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto Post. Two members of Hillel of Greater Toronto, Judy Siklos and Shira Zeliger, read names of Holocaust victims, and a group of students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's Richmond Hill branch read dramatic commemorative excerpts.

Annie Gamliel and David Tock of Canadian Young Judaea also read poignant vignettes as six commemorative candles were lit to honour Jewish victims; Jewish children who were killed; survivors; children of survivors; Jewish partisans, resistance fighters and Allied armed forces; and the righteous among the nations.

*For more Yom Hashoah coverage, please see pages 16-19 and 31-33.*

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# Jewish heritage sites to be marked

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Jews have lived in the city of Toronto for better than 150 years, making their mark in the political, cultural and social realms. Now, Heritage Toronto, a charitable agency of the City of Toronto responsible for heritage programming, has agreed to commemorate the Jewish contribution to Toronto by marking Jewish historical sites with commemorative plaques.

Although still in its early stages, the project could see 20 or more plaques placed on such locations as the site of the city's first synagogue (a number of stores at the foot of Bay Street), the original Mount Sinai Hospital (on Yorkville Avenue) and the first Yiddish playhouse (the Standard Theatre at Spadina Avenue and Dundas Street).

Other possibilities include commemorating the contribution to Toronto of significant historical figures, such as its first Jewish mayor, Nathan Phillips.

Eric Slavens, a member of the Heritage Toronto board, conceived of the project and set it in motion. He has called on his extensive contacts in the Jewish community to fund the project and suggest possible venues to be honoured.

Response has been impressive, said Slavens, the former chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region and current president of State of Israel Bonds Canada. More than $25,000 has been raised in a little more than two weeks and several ideas for commemorative sites have been suggested.

Slavens has also solicited the co-operation of Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA), an agency of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. OJA has agreed "to participate as a partner with Heritage Toronto to ensure the careful selection of appropriate plaque subjects and to consult in the drafting of appropriate texts for these plaques," according to a letter from OJA director Ellen Scheinberg.

Slavens, a history buff, said each plaque and marker project includes the expense of research, design, production, installation, a perpetual maintenance fund, publicity and a reception to launch the project. Cost of a marker is expected to range from a few hundred dollars to $4,000.

"Toronto is an amazing city for many reasons, not the least of which is its rich and varied past," Slavens stated. "It is important that we are all active in ensuring that our Jewish heritage is maintained, restored, communicated and celebrated through a professional comprehensive series of plaques and markers across Toronto."

If the pilot project proves successful, other communities may follow suit, he added.

For more information, contact Heritage Toronto at 416-338-0682.

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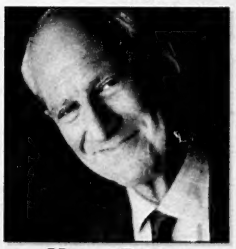
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# No cause more precious

The small photo that appears in this editorial is an eloquent capsule of the history that Israel's enemies are now trying to distort and erase. It is also timeless, tearful testimony to the courage and sheer heroic will of the Jews of Israel to defend their rightful claim to build their homeland in the land of their ancestors.

Travellers climbing the road to Jerusalem from its western hills always pass the remnants of the armoured vehicles that lie amid the pine needles on the side of the road. The vehicles were part of the convoys that tried, alas often in vain, during the War of Independence, to break the siege of Jerusalem by the Arabs who were attempting to starve and deprive of water the more than 80,000 Jews who lived there.

Hundreds of soldiers and civilians lost their lives trying to break the siege of Jerusalem. Eventually, the blockade was broken. It was a melancholy portent of the days and years to come. For, over the years, thousands have died in defence of the sovereign Jewish state. As of this writing, 22,123 servicemen and women have fallen defending the Land of Israel since 1860, the year Jews began to settle outside Jerusalem's Old City walls.

Except for a brief period immediately after the expulsion by the Romans in the first century AD, Jews have always lived in Jerusalem. Indeed, except for brief periods over the years, Jews have also always lived in Hebron, Safed and Tiberius.

Despite their best efforts, no amount of prevarication and duplicity on the part of Israel's enemies can change that. The Jews are indigenous to the land of Israel. It is important that Israel's enemies know this truth: Jewish wandering has come to an end. Jewish Return is in full flower.

Israel's prime minister Ariel Sharon conveyed the message very well on the occasion of the 57th Yom Ha'atzmaut of Israel, May 11, 2005, his last as prime minister of Israel.

"The State of Israel is a modern and vibrant country built on deep and ancient foundations. It is a country risen from the ashes of the Holocaust, a country of refugees which has become a haven for Jews from all over the world. As the only free and open democracy in the Middle East, the State of Israel has developed, flourished and prospered... We are among the world leaders in the fields of technology, medicine, agriculture and the arts, as we continue to stride boldly into the 21st century.

"Despite the hardships we face, the people of Israel remain strong and resilient, and with the support and solidarity of our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora, we will be able to overcome all challenges on our path. We share a common history and heritage, and are entrusted with the mission of ensuring the future of the Jewish state." *Chag samayach.*

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Controversy surrounded Saudi Arabia's efforts to acquire more and better weapons, as West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt announced that Berlin was refusing to supply Riyadh with Leopard tanks, self-propelled armoured vehicles and other equipment. But despite protests from Jewish groups, the United States still planned to sell AWAC spy plans and other advanced weapons to the Saudis.

**Dry Bones**

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY!
YUP!
SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES, BOMBED BY TERRORISTS, THREATENED BY DICTATORS, AND YET. . .
AND YET?
THE BRAVE LITTLE DEMOCRACY REMAINS A "LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS"
TRUE
BUT SINCE "THE NATIONS" ALL HAVE THEIR EYES TIGHTLY CLOSED. . .
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# Yom Hashoah memorial program

The Yom Hashoah community commemoration at Earl Bales Park was an all-inclusive event in which men, women and teenagers participated with an audience that included members from across the Jewish community, so that a feeling of togetherness was truly manifested.

I find it sad that there are a few in our community who would use such a holy evening for the purpose of furthering a political agenda that ultimately divides and does not unite us.

**Rabbi Moshe Stern**
**Shaarei Tefillah Congregation**

* * *

As a Holocaust survivor of three camps and a death march, and a community activist in Holocaust education in Toronto, I wish to express my wholehearted support for the stand the Toronto Board of Rabbis took in connection with the community-wide Yom Hashoah memorial service in Earl Bales Park ("Why we chose not to take part," *CJN*, April 27).

I am in agreement with their reasoning and wish to add only that in addition to others who were in attendance, the Orthodox Jewish women, half of the Orthodox community, was also deprived by this decision of the organizers to hear the sweet voices of a mixed children's choir, who in many ways would have been mirroring and honouring the memory of the 1.2 million murdered children – girls and boys alike.

I find this kind of discrimination, 61 years after the Shoah, deeply disturbing and totally unacceptable.

**Judy Weissenberg Cohen**
**Toronto**

* * *

I attended the community-wide Yom Hashoah memorial service in Earl Bales Park on April 24 together with my four children. The guest speaker was a woman, two young ladies were reading out names of Jews who perished in the Holocaust, the violinist was a woman and several of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto students participating were females, so I fail to see how Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich and the Toronto Board of Rabbis could not participate because the program "marginalized women or children in any way, shape or form" ("Why we chose not to take part," *CJN*, April 27). The "diverse and rich fabric of our Jewish community" was well reflected in the program, and I would hope that we as a Jewish community can take pride in that which unites us rather than take actions that further divide us.

**Tova Gutenberg**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

As university students who are active in the Jewish community, we wish to express our disappointment in the divide that has occurred as a result of the organizers' decision to bar the girls of the Renanim Youth Choir from participating in community-wide Yom Hashoah commemoration in order to appease the Toronto Vaad Harabonim ("Group of rabbis withdraws from Yom Hashoah event," *CJN*, April 21). While recognizing the halachic stringency involved in the matter, the divide it has caused has sent a disheartening message to us, the current and future young leaders of the community.

By silencing the children in the choir, the organizers are excluding a large segment of the community who are inspired by the voices of children and who can relate to Holocaust commemoration through song.

Would it not be possible to allow those who are offended by the voices of a co-ed children's choir to leave during that part of the program? We hope that the current leadership of our community will be able to work more cohesively in the future.

**Shira Zeliger**
**Toronto**
**Judi Siklos**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

Toronto's Yom Hashoah memorial program has historically served as a North American model for community co-operation in the interests of a higher cause. Toronto's program is the largest Holocaust commemoration outside of Israel, and our event on April 24 was both moving and successful.

In "Why we chose not to take part" (*CJN*, April 27), Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich is correct in asserting that "having the community draw together, and not apart, in these moments had great value and meaning." Nothing should deflect from the overriding purpose of the Holocaust memorial event and those whom we are memorializing.

As co-chairs of this year's Yom Hashoah commemoration, we are extremely distressed that another issue was allowed to take centre stage and we regret the Toronto Board of Rabbis decision to withdraw from the event.

Now that this year's event has passed, we will be conferring with all parties to determine whether a truly unified initiative is possible next year. We urge all involved in this exceptional event to remain focused on its primary purpose.

**Lou Greenbaum and Joyce Rifkind**
**Chairs, Yom Hashoah Community Commemorative Service**
**UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**

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# Speaking out on Israel's behalf

By JENNIFER LASZLO MIZRAHI

The 5th of Iyar on the Hebrew calendar, May 3 this year, marked the 58th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel. Despite having to live under constant conditions of war since the very first days of its life – and in recent years, under threat of hideous terror as well – the young country has prospered and has made significant contributions in scientific, medical, cultural, economic and other areas for the betterment and advancement of humankind.

Sadly, however – primarily though not exclusively because of the predominance of the often problematic coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the western media to the virtual exclusion of the countless positive aspects of life in Israel – many Jews are unable or unwilling to speak up in support of Israel. Indeed, polls in the United States show that many of us won't talk about Israel to our friends, co-workers, or even to some family members.

One of the reasons for this is that we simply do not know how to make such a conversation comfortable or successful in terms of persuasively making a few essential points concerning Israel's case and its cause.

The following are 10 suggestions from among many possibilities to help us speak out successfully on Israel's behalf.

**1. Let people know that Israel wants peace.**

North Americans need to be reminded that Israel has a long-term commitment to peace. Israel accepted the need for a two-state solution as early as 1947, again at Camp David (2000) and in the process that led to the road map peace plan. When courageous Arab leaders such as Egypt's president Anwar Sadat and Jordan's King Hussein extended their hands to Israel, peace was achieved. Recently, Israel made painful sacrifices – moving some 9,000 citizens and giving up all of Gaza in the hope of having peace. Israelis are firmly committed to peace for both sides.

**2. Don't pretend that Israel hasn't made mistakes or is without fault.**

It's not true and no one believes it. Pretending Israel is free from error does not hold up. Doing so will only make your listeners question the veracity of everything else you say. No western government has been error-free in fighting terrorism. For example, while fighting in Iraq, America has not yet found Osama Bin Laden. No one could reasonably expect Israel to be totally successful in all its efforts to stop terrorism.

Admitting that Israel has made mistakes and will likely make more does not undermine the overall justice of Israel's goals and efforts to have peace and security and a better quality of life for both sides.

It's not a weakness to say, for example: "I know that in trying to defend its children and citizens from terrorists, Israel has accidentally hurt innocent people. But Israel must defend itself. If terrorists had crossed Canada's borders more than 250 times and killed innocent citizens in pizza parlors, coffee shops and buses, what would the Canadian government have done? What protective steps would Canadians demand of their government?"

**3. Be empathetic toward the Palestinian people – especially the children.**

Let the other person know that you long for a time when Palestinian children will be raised to be doctors, farmers, teachers and business people – not suicide bombers. Israelis want a better future for both Israel and the Palestinian people.

In the West, it is a matter of common decency as well as common sense to raise our children to love life and to want to do good things with their lives. Yet, to this day, unfortunately, many of the institutions within organized Palestinian life talk about and teach a culture of hate that glorifies violence and death and encourages even small children to become suicide bombers.

Thousands of Palestinian children attend some 300 public schools named after terrorists. Palestinian public television uses *Sesame Street*-type programs to glorify suicide bombers. No children should be abused in such a way. Palestinian children deserve better. They deserve the coddling and cooing of love, not the incitement and ingestion of hate.

**4. Remind people of Israel's deeply democratic nature.**

There is a strong connection between Canada and Israel based on shared values and interests.

Israel is a democracy in a part of the world that has no other democracies. In Israel, Christians, Muslims and Jews all have freedom of speech and religion and the right to vote. Nearly a million and a half Arabs are citizens of Israel, representing almost 20 per cent of the population. Furthermore, 11 Arabs and 21 women serve in Israel's 120-member Parliament, and an Arab judge is a member of the Israeli Supreme Court. On another level entirely, a recent Miss Israel was an Israeli Arab.

Israel is the only place in the Middle East where a young girl can grow up to be anything she wants to be – from a doctor to a mother to a businesswoman – and even prime minister!

**5. Draw direct parallels between Israel and the West, including the need to defend against terrorism.**

Israel is an important western ally in the war against terrorism and faces the same challenges as western countries do – indeed probably more – in protecting its citizens.

Israelis know what it's like to live with the daily threat of terrorism. They know what it's like to send their children off to school one day and bury them the next. For them, terrorism isn't something abstract that they read about in the newspaper. It's a ghoulish scourge they have had to contend with since well before September of 2000.

**6. Acknowledge the contributions of good Arab leaders as well as the deceptions and prevarications of the bad leaders.**

Sadat and King Hussein were people of courage who stood up to terrorists, told their people to put down their guns and made peace with Israel.

Hamas is a terrorist organization today, but we can still hope its leaders will change their ways and embrace a real and lasting peace with the Jewish state. A change in their words alone, however, will not be enough. Only when they recognize Israel's right to exist, end terror and the culture of hatred of the Jewish state, and honour previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, will we be able to say that Hamas appears to have changed.

**Young people hold Israeli flags in Tel Aviv Nov. 29, 1997, during celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the 1947 UN Palestine Partition Plan, which led to the creation of the State of Israel. [Reuters/RNS photo]**

**7. There is never, ever, any justification for the deliberate slaughter of innocent women and children.**

The primary Palestinian public relations goal is to demonstrate that the so-called "hopelessness of the oppressed Palestinians" is what causes them to kill Israeli children. This must be challenged immediately, aggressively and directly:

Say, "We may disagree about politics and we may disagree about economics. But there is one fundamental principle on which all peoples from all parts of the globe must agree: civilized people do not target innocent women and children for death."

**8. Explain the basis of your support for Israel.**

North Americans respond much better when they know the underlying facts. For example, why is there a security fence?

On more than 250 occasions, terrorists have travelled through that area on a mission to kill innocent people. Israel must defend its citizens from terrorism, and the fence is a critical part of this defence. At the outset, most Israelis, including then-prime minister Ariel Sharon himself, were opposed to the construction of a security fence. But the persistence of Palestinian terror forced them to reluctantly change their minds.

**9. Use the plain truth.**

It is entirely legitimate to ask: How can anyone call it a "cycle of violence"? If Israel stopped fighting terror and simply surrendered the right to defend itself, would the violence end? Of course not.

On the other hand, if the Palestinian leaders had agreed to a territorial compromise, would the Palestinians not have long ago had their state? Would the fighting and the conflict not long ago have ended?

If they had stopped their terrorism, if they had stopped trying to infiltrate bombs and other explosives in ambulances, under the clothes of pregnant women, inside baby carriages, in the underwear of people or in the packages carried by young children, just to name a few examples of attempted smuggling, would the curfews, checkpoints and even the security fence not have all come down?

Is it too much to ask that the Palestinian leadership condemn all terrorist activities, including suicide bombings? Is it unreasonable to insist that they stop killing innocent civilians before Israelis jeopardize their security with more territorial and other concessions for peace?

**10. KISS and tell!**

A key rule of successful communications is "Keep it simple, stupid."

Successful communication is not about proving how smart you are, or about being able to recite every fact from the long history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Do that, and you're almost guaranteed to lose your audience. Rather it is about imparting a core message and repeating it.

In Israel's case that core message is this: Israel is a democracy whose people desperately want a way to make peace, whose leaders have striven to make peace since even before the state came into being and who will continue to seek a way to make peace with its neighbours. But not at all costs. Not at the cost of its very existence as a sovereign Jewish state.

Israel's neighbours must want peace too. They must, in truth, acknowledge and accept that the Jewish state has a rightful place in the Middle East.

*Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi is the founder and president of The Israel Project in Washington, an international non-profit organization that provides accurate information about Israel.*

# Praying or humming?

We were sitting one Friday evening in the current "in" place of worship in Jerusalem, known for its congregational singing. At one point in the service, a colleague whispered to me in Yiddish: "*M'lozt nisht davenen*" ("They don't let you pray here"). He had a point.

*Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto*

The niggun, the wordless prayer that was once chassidic and has now become universal, dominates the "singing" in many Jewish worship services. The chant is pushing out the word. Most prayers are said quickly and often silently. It seems that you don't need to pray as long as you can hum.

You don't need to know Hebrew either. Though this is, of course, not the case in Jerusalem, outside Israel, this form of worship eases the pain for those who don't know Judaism's language of prayer. People have often said that, had they known Hebrew, they would have attended services more often. But congregations that use English in their services don't attract many worshippers, either. The niggun seems to be doing much better than both the original and the vernacular. It offers mood without content.

Yet, believing with Heinrich Heine, the German Jewish poet, that "Jews pray theology" – meaning that we don't emote when we pray, but make definite statements – I am uncomfortable with wordless prayer. Deprived of language, the prayer can mean anything. And if it can mean anything, is it necessarily Jewish?

On the other hand, since Heine's time the world has seen the abuse of language, so the effort to reach Heaven without words may be a wholesome development.

Nevertheless, I remain worried. When we abandon language, we also abandon content and thus sow the seeds of anarchy. What is perceived as warm and fuzzy only has the significance that individuals ascribe to it. That may mean that anything goes, including heavy borrowing from other religions.

On the other hand again, postmodern contemporary thought is suspicious of every structure that offers over-arching answers and that demands consistent uniformity. Liturgy has always been a vehicle for the free spirit, even if the forms had to be observed. Piyutim, poetic prayers that take people beyond the established liturgical framework, are an integral part of traditional Jewish worship. Wordless chants may be their contemporary successors.

And as no words are spoken, denominational differences become less pronounced. The need to reach out to God and pour out one's heart in worship may transcend traditional institutions. "Post-denominational" services in chassidic garb are in great demand, even in Reform congregations. Theologies may differ, but the humming is the same.

Each time I feel that my davening is being interrupted and the content of my prayer obscured, I console myself with the thought that, on balance, this may not be as bad as it sounds.

# Finding a comfy rock in a hard place

Now that I'm home in Toronto and contrasting Halifax's fresh and crisp air with Toronto's hazy smog, I've come to realize the impact that Mother Nature can have on my mood.

Thinking about nature always gets me thinking about my solo experience on Outward Bound a few years ago, and I wanted to tell my readers about it.

*Matthew Pottens in Halifax*

Around the week-and-a-half point of my three-week-long Outward Bound adventure, the trip leaders dropped each member of the group off at sites one kilometre apart around a lake. Each trip member was given a tarp, a bug net, rope, and a small bag of dry food consisting of crackers, cheese, trail mix, cookies, granola, and a few other things. We were also given a pen or pencil and an Outward Bound notebook to write in. Other than those items, our sleeping bags and clothes were the only other things we were allowed to bring.

So there I was, a small 17-year-old kid, being dropped off at my solo site, scared, excited and unsure of what I was about to experience.

I spent the first few hours trying to set up a bug-resistant area to sleep in. Using my bug net, tarp and some sticks to provide structure, I created a sleeping area that resembled a coffin. For the rest of the day, until sunset, I spent my time writing and drawing in my journal, pretending to be a ninja with a really great stick I had found, reciting song lyrics and doing anything else that came to mind – being alone in the wilderness can drive you mad!

The daytime was tolerable. The boredom gave me opportunities for self reflection. As the Outward Bound Canada handbook explains, "Solo is a time for self-reflection. It is a time to think about your experiences here at Outward Bound, and your experiences in life in general."

The first night was indeed an experience that I will never, ever forget. At sleep time, I settled into my coffin-shaped bed and excitedly awaited the onslaught of bugs. Unfortunately, when the sun set, the bugs came in the millions, and as determined as I was to fight through a swollen face, ants in my pants, and buzzing in my ears, I only lasted a few minutes before I jumped up in a rage and destroyed my failure of a bed with my ninja stick, then ran toward the water, where I prayed the bugs would be less dense.

I tied some rope around my wrists and ankles to prevent bugs from entering my clothes, and I tucked my pants into my socks. I found a pretty comfy rock to lie on, and I lay alone under the stars, pondering life, until dawn. While the night was brutal at times, it was a great experience overall. I was able to overcome the bed-and-bug disaster and actually enjoy myself.

I watched the sunrise and was happy to have survived the night. I spent most of the next day writing my thoughts in my journal. I also spent some time exploring the vast wilderness behind me and the water in front of me.

The wilderness seemed risky, since my only weapon was a whistle, so I decided to go for a swim. The water didn't seem very clean on this small lake, and once I was submerged in it, the thought of leeches crept into my mind. I jumped out, and sure enough, I found two new, and juicy, friends attached to my leg. I scraped them off, and after squishing them for a while, I decided to keep them around as company.

I must not have been the best host, because they slithered away into the water soon afterward.

The second night was fine. I remained on my rock, which seemed to have a Matthew Pottens groove in it. Or maybe it was my back that had the groove of the rock in it.

Either way, other than a rainstorm during the night, I slept like a baby and was picked up the next day by the trip leaders. I survived my solo experience and emerged as a changed young man.

# The con of the century

As final exam season comes to a close, students can finally celebrate the end of another year of university. For some, this is the end, with graduation and real life to follow. They are now officially grown up – with a degree, perhaps an extremely significant other, and maybe some idea of what they want to do with their lives to show for it. If you are one of these people, I wish you sincere congratulations.

*Gershon Richter in Winnipeg*

But most of us students are not in this position. We have survived another year, hopefully with our sanity and in some semblance of health. For the most part, the stress is over. There are no more exams and no more assignments. We no longer have to get up early to catch the bus, and we don't have to listen to the buzzing drone of our professors.

But life is not all carefree.

We have anxiety about the final exams and assignments we've just turned in. We worry about whether we got the B+ or the A, and we've already calculated what grades we need on these assignments (to the umpteenth decimal point) to get the minimum mark that our meagre self-respect requires. Now that the work is done, there's nothing to do but sit and worry – something we're very good at, since we learn it from our mothers.

For some, this is not the end of the school year. The poor souls who are stuck in spring session will subject themselves to smaller doses of the same stuff that almost drove them to madness and exhaustion. Perhaps they think they'll build up a resistance to it. Perhaps they failed a class and have no choice in the matter. Perhaps homework is something they use to ward off boredom. Perhaps they simply enjoy pain.

But the most important issue of all is money. The question is no longer "What are you going to do when you grow up?" but "When are you going to get off your butt and get a job?". We hand out resumes to everyone we meet in the hope that someone needs a poor university student for work. Soon, total strangers will judge us based on the content of a single document, one that's not very long and outlines everything of value we've ever done in our lives, such as line dancing and fly fishing (two unrelated, yet important, pastimes).

If you're lucky, you'll get paid to repeat a task over and over again. What task? That depends on your resume. I advise you to never put anything you dislike doing on your resume. Avoid activities that smell or require picking up heavy things, such as farming or bowling (two completely unrelated, yet important, activities).

Finding work is important for more than getting your family to stop nagging you. It costs obscene amounts of money to go to university, not to mention to eat, live and buy incidentals such as underwear and lunch (two completely unrelated, yet important, items). Money is also of vital importance to parents, who probably co-signed any student loans you have, or are paying for your tuition. If you don't save some money, they ask, how will you put a down payment on a house, a wedding, your children's future, a piano (because even if you don't play, you need one in your living room), or a million other things you're trying not to think about too much?

It's a good thing that, in general, university students like to work, because people pay you money when you have a real job. That money becomes yours, and you don't need to worry about homework. At university, you pay the school money so you can take notes in class, then you read (unpaid) and do your assignments, and you aren't financially compensated for any of it. When you're done, you've paid the university thousands of dollars, someone hands you a piece of paper, and you never speak again.

This sounds like a good con to me. If I could sell single sheets of paper for thousands of dollars, I wouldn't have to go to university or get a real job.

Can I interest you in some high quality, vintage card stock?

The Kirshner File

# Letter from Israel

Friends in central Tel Aviv invited my wife and me to breakfast, and as we walked to the hip restaurant of their choice around the corner, they raved about its scrumptious bagels and rolls and and its delicious mouth-watering selection of cheeses, smoked salmon, herring, olives and mixed salads.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Tel Aviv*

As we talked in the early morning sunshine of a typical spring day on Israel's temperate coastal plain, I looked forward to this meal.

The restaurant, sleek, airy and spacious, was impressive, as if one of the finest architects in Tel Aviv had designed it.

The menu ran on for several laminated pages, but I did not linger long. Knowing what I wanted, I ordered my usual: café au lait and a toasted sesame bagel with pressed cottage cheese and lox, garnished with thin slices of red onions and complemented by a plate of cracked green olives.

Culinary heaven, as far as I was concerned. But my gustatory dream was immediately shattered.

"Sorry, we don't have pressed cottage cheese," the server said.

My face fell.

"We do have cream cheese," he added tentatively.

I was disappointed, but settled for cream cheese. Still, I could not banish the thought that an important ingredient in my breakfast was sorely missing.

Sensing my mood, Ida, one of our friends who had recently visited Toronto, tried to cushion the blow. "I've shopped everywhere in Tel Aviv, but haven't been able to find pressed cottage cheese."

Ida's comment was mollifying, but the glaring absence of Canadian-style pressed cottage cheese in Israel's coolest, most cosmopolitan city stuck in my throat.

I have no way of vouching for Ida's claim that pressed cottage cheese is an alien commodity in Tel Aviv. For all I know, it can be purchased in, say, the Carmel market. But despite my disappointment on the gastronomic front, Israel has little to be ashamed of in its headlong quest to modernize itself.

From a simple, somewhat austere society prior to 1967, Israel has morphed into a complex, fast-paced consumer country rife with the trappings of 21st-century modernity.

Like other countries, Israel has paid a heavy price for its progress. Far too many Israelis struggle below the poverty line and have not reaped the benefits of Israel's boom. Yet one must not scoff at progress.

Tel Aviv's evolving skyline, bristling with a profusion of skyscrapers, a sight best appreciated as your plane descends for a landing at Ben-Gurion Airport, is but one manifestation of this startling phenomenon.

Once upon a time, not too long ago, the Mayer building in southern Tel Aviv was Israel's sole skyscraper. Built in the mid-1960s, the tower was a landmark that could be seen from almost anywhere in the city. Standing on its rooftop platform in the sky, you had an unobstructed view of one of the liveliest cities in the Mediterranean basin.

Today, the Mayer tower has been eclipsed by a galaxy of taller, bolder buildings, one of which is the stylish tower conceived by Canadian developer and urban visionary David Azrieli, a Polish-born Israeli from Montreal.

In adjacent Ramat Gan, an Iraqi Jewish redoubt hit hard by Iraqi Scud missiles during the 1991Gulf War, several distinctive skyscrapers, including the gleaming Sheraton Hotel, also brighten the skyline.

Gone are the days when Tel Aviv was a low-lying city of only Bauhaus, Arabic and Ottoman buildings.

These skyscrapers have revolutionized Tel Aviv's overall appearance, but if there is one single symbol of Israel's ascent into the ranks of a first-world economy, it is the new and improved Ben-Gurion Airport, just a 20-minute drive from Tel Aviv.

Positively cavernous, and clad in Jerusalem stone, marble and glass, the airport is a marvel of beauty and efficiency, and is Israel's face to the world.

Forty years ago, when relatively few Israelis travelled overseas and were burdened with a punitive departure fee that taxed their tolerance, Israel's national airport in Lod was a small, intimate, smoky affair, a leftover from the British Mandate era.

As tourism boomed and increasing numbers of Israelis went abroad on vacation, not only once or twice in a lifetime, the airport building was supplanted by a bigger, more sumptuous terminal that seemed to signify Israel's coming of age.

The newest incarnation of Ben-Gurion Airport, which opened last year after several delays, represents the last word in architecture and design and is a quantum jump in Israel's self-image as a modern nation attuned to the latest trends.

The second Palestinian uprising, which continues to flare up despite a shaky truce, has partially disrupted the flow of foreign tourists to Israel, and as a result, the airport has not been used to its fullest capacity.

But if the Arab-Israeli conflict can be defused, much less resolved one of these days, the tourist trade will greatly benefit, as will the airport.

The road leading to the airport is wide and smooth and conforms to international standards, like the newest highways cutting across Israel.

**Tel Aviv's new skyscraper skyline**

The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin is best remembered for his efforts to forge an historic rapprochement with the Palestinians under the Oslo peace accords. But who knows that Rabin took the first steps to radically upgrade Israel's web of highways?

Clearly marked by green overhead signs, the roads have rendered Israel still smaller by virtue of the time a driver saves by driving from point A to B.

Tel Aviv's Ayalon expressway, which has been flooded by winter downpours on occasion, has eased congestion to a considerable degree.

The trip from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has been reduced to about 45 minutes, and the ride down to Be'er Sheva from Tel Aviv can be done in just under an hour. From Tel Aviv, you can reach Netanya – a new hub of the high-tech industry - in approximately 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, the old Haifa-to-Tel Aviv road, which bypasses a kibbutz where I lived briefly in 1971, has been widened by several lanes.

All this signifies a remarkable achievement in basic transportation.

Thanks to the revolution in road construction and the rise of a solid middle class in Israel, the ownership of cars has multiplied.

There was a period, before the Six Day War, when a car was generally regarded as an unattainable luxury, but the traffic jams in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, which fray tempers especially in summer, belie that reality.

With the upsurge in automobile sales, pollution has grown incrementally worse and parking spots in major cities are practically worth their weight in gold.

If you leave your car at home, try the intercity commuter train. The trains are clean and comfortable and invariably run on schedule. My wife and I, having no access to a car on this day, boarded the Be'er Sheva-bound train on a Sunday morning.

But true to my sister-in-law's warning, the train was packed, filled to the brim with young soldiers returning to their bases, and a seat was hard to find. The soldiers, dressed casually in loose-fitting olive and blue uniforms, carried assault rifles or submachine-guns.

Their presence reminded me, yet again, that Israel is a nation under siege and cannot take its existence for granted.

Since Palestinian suicide bombers began blowing up themselves and their intended victims in crowded places, armed sentries have been posted at shops, restaurants, train stations and public institutions.

The demand for such personnel has fuelled the growth of a cottage industry. According to an estimate in the Israeli press, 100,000 such guards are employed in Israel today.

Usually, a guard inquires whether you are carrying weapons. If the answer is no, he lets you pass after a cursory inspection of your briefcase or knapsack. In some cases, however, the guard shoos you through without the formality of an inspection.

If you are an Arab, the procedure is far more stringent.

By no stretch of the imagination have Israelis accustomed themselves to the wave of suicide bombings. These attacks started in 1994 following Baruch Goldstein's murderous rampage in Hebron, during which he killed 29 Arabs, and re-erupted in 2001 in the second year of the current intifadah.

Of late, the bombings have subsided, but the spectre of a bomber snuffing out your life in a flash is indeed sobering.

Fortunately, the looming terrorist threat has not quenched the usual joie de vivre of Israelis.

Cafés, restaurants, bars, clubs, theatres and movie houses are usually full.

Israelis try to live life to its fullest, in a country where anything can happen at any time.

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# Walk With Israel seen as strong response to international threats

## *Community urged to support Israel on May 28*

By CARLA LANCIT
UJA Federation

Israel is a "fake regime" that "cannot logically continue to exist," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a televised press conference on April 24.

Ahmadinejad has repeatedly questioned Israel's right to exist, and has threatened to wipe Israel off the map.

The co-chairs of this year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel, which will take place on Sunday, May 28, are calling on the community to show its support for Israel in the wake of these comments, by participating in this year's Walk.

"In light of the current rhetoric from the President of Iran calling for the complete annihilation of Israel, suggesting that Jews leave Israel and return to their European countries of origin, and in light of the fact that Hamas openly declares and justifies its terrorist intentions, now more than ever, it is absolutely critical to stand behind Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, the only homeland for the Jewish people," says Walk co-chair Sara Zagdanski.

Zagdanski and her co-chairs Felicia Posluns and Nelly Zagdanski say that the Walk With Israel is the perfect venue to express support for Israel.

"We have to show the happiness, the joy in our community, the pride we have in Israel," says Posluns. "We have to always remind the world that we are together, and remind Israel that we are there. The more people who continue to come together and are happy with being Jewish, the stronger we will be."

"I'll be coming out to this year's Walk With Israel for sure," says Toronto's Nancy Klein. "Although it's always a fun event, when you hear hateful comments about Jews and Israel like those made by the Iranian president, it makes it even more important to come out and show our support."

The UJA Federation Walk With Israel will be held – rain or shine – on Sunday May 28th, and will take to the streets at 10:30 a.m. from Coronation Park (across from the CNE Princes' Gates) to the RioCan Carnival at Ontario Place. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The annual event raises money for children at risk around the world.

"It's critical that the Jewish community comes out to show our support," says Nelly Zagdanski. "We don't live in Israel; this is our only way to show the people of Israel that the community here in Canada supports them."

*This year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel takes place rain or shine on Sunday, May 28.*

For more information, call the Walk With Israel Hotline at 416.631.5700 or visit www.ujawalkwithisrael.com

# Read all about it: giant Jewish Public Library book sale

Got some extra space on your bookshelves?

The Jewish Public Library is culling its collection, and is offering the community an opportunity to purchase its excess books at a giant book sale.

The sale will feature more than 10,000 books, records and religious texts in both English and Hebrew. The library is preparing for renovations as part of the newly-created Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage. When the renovation is completed, the Latner Centre will house a new and improved Jewish Public Library, and the Media Centre and the pedagogic centre. The library will continue to feature the Anita Ekstein Holocaust Resource Library.

"It's appropriate that the Latner Centre is recognizing that these are books given to the community by the community, and they're going back to the community," says volunteer chair Gaela Mintz.

Mintz says she'll be looking for books by Philip Roth or other Jewish fiction writers, and notes that the sale will include a wide variety of material.

The items chosen for the sale include books removed from the library shelves which are either duplicates, out of date, or no longer used, and surplus items that have been donated to the library by the public.

While some books will be specially marked, most will carry a price tag of $1. The proceeds from the sale will help the library reenergize its collection.

The book sale will take place Sunday, May 14 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Monday, May 15 and Tuesday, May 16, from noon until 8 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street.

*Gaela Mintz readies for the upcoming Jewish Public Library book sale. (Photo by Shari Nepom)*

# Mission to Poland uncovers common Jewish challenges

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

A dozen Torontonians recently traveled 7,000 kilometers to Poland, but despite the distance, they found that young Jews – wherever they may live – share some common issues, including that of living Jewishly.

The Toronto contingent uncovered these similarities during the recent UJA Federation Discovery Mission to Poland and Israel.

"Many of the Polish youngsters we met with at the Jewish Community Centre in Poland only found out that they were Jewish in their adolescence, or even as late as in their adulthood," says mission participant, Gary Siepser, UJA Federation's senior vice president, community planning and engagement. "Many of them are now struggling with what that Judaism means, and how they can live Jewish lives."

Siepser's comments were echoed by fellow mission participant Joseph Lebovic who also spoke with several of the young people.

"While we have an obligation to financially support the Jewish elderly of Poland, the question is how we do we help the younger generations," said Lebovic. "One option is sending them on *birthright israel* programs where they can learn about their background and be proud of Jewish accomplishments. They need to be taught about their heritage and about Israel so that they are not scared and have a sense of security. Once they have this background they can decide whether they are confident enough to remain in Poland as a Jew or leave for other countries which are more hospitable."

*Participants of the UJA Federation Mission of Discovery to Poland and Israel pose in front of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Memorial. (Photo by Elaine Brauer)*

All of those who took part in this unique mission had something in common as well - familial roots in Poland.

According to Susan Fenwick, who, along with her husband Allan, made the sojourn to Poland, the Discovery Mission was appropriately named.

"Discovering our roots in Poland; visiting the death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau; learning from the people in Poland who want to be Jewish; spending time with soldiers and new olim who want to be in Israel; seeing the elderly, talking to the people, it was an eye-opening time for us," says Fenwick, chair of the mission along with George Grossman and Ron Appleby.

Highlights of the mission included a tour of historic sites in Warsaw which tell of the role played by Warsaw's Jewish community in the 19th and early 20th centuries; a visit with the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Shudrich, and a meeting with Jewish students at the Jewish Community Centre.

For participant Donald Carr, the experience of visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau was particularly moving.

"It's not until, with great trepidation, you touch the wooden slats of the 'beds' in the deserted barracks, walk into the cellar torture cells, feel the rubble of the crematoria in between your fingers, stand next to a field covering the ashes of untold thousands, and listen to the first-hand story of an 80 year-old survivor, who was forced to burn the twisted bodies of his own people, that you can even partially begin to imagine the unrecountable horror and degradation that was Birkenau and Auschwitz," said Carr.

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

# Comprehensive study reveals high quality of Jewish life in Greater Toronto

## *UJA Federation releases omnibus report on Toronto's Jewish community*

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

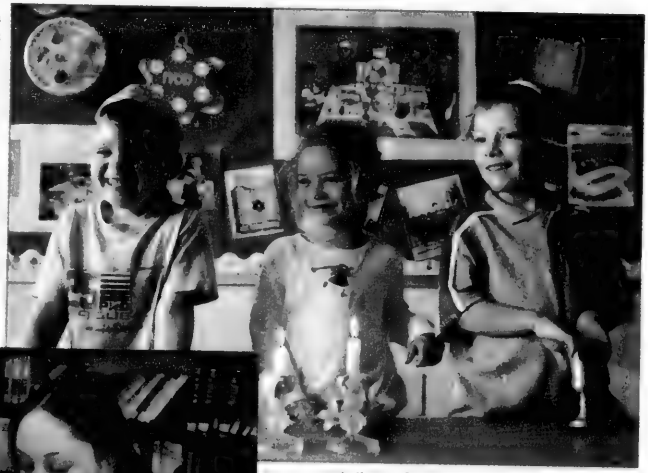
Members of Toronto's Jewish community are strongly committed to Jewish education and they're less inclined to marry outside the faith. Conservative Judaism is the most popular affiliation option and synagogue membership is relatively high. Attending a Passover seder and lighting Chanukah candles are important priorities; however, keeping kosher both inside and outside the home is less stringently observed. Nearly three quarters of survey respondents have visited Israel – almost 80% feel "very close," or "somewhat close" to Israel - and roughly an equal percentage believes that antisemitism exists in Toronto.

This is a portrait of *Jewish Life in Greater Toronto*, a new, all-encompassing UJA Federation study, authored by Charles Shahar and Tina Rosenbaum, about the attitudes of Jewish community members, based on a questionnaire completed by 654 adult respondents.

Here are some of the study's significant findings:

- Nearly 37% of respondents define themselves as Conservative, 18.7% as Reform, 14.2% as Orthodox, 16.4% as "just Jewish," 6.8% as secular and 1.7% as Reconstructionist. The percentage of people who identify themselves as Orthodox is the third largest in North America.
- Nearly 50% of respondents indicate they are paying members of a synagogue but singles, recent immigrants and individuals with low incomes are among the least likely to belong.
- Just over a third of respondents (34.2%) with school age children send their children to Jewish day schools - North America's second highest day school attendance figure behind Montreal. Nearly half (48.3%) of parents whose children were not attending day school are giving their kids a supplementary Jewish education.
- Just over 11% of respondents who are married or living together say their spouse was not Jewish. That figure represents North America's third lowest intermarriage level. However, more than a quarter of respondents (28.6%) say their children married non-Jews, almost 60% of singles say they would consider marrying non-Jews and a little less than 30% of intermarried respondents are providing an exclusively Jewish upbringing for their children. Yet a third of intermarried respondents, whose children do not attend day school are giving their children a supplementary Jewish education.
- Approximately one of every seven respondents reports a member of the household who has special needs.

"Jews residing in Greater Toronto enjoy a very high quality of Jewish life," notes Charles Shahar. "However, the current findings also suggest a number of important challenges facing the community involving segments that seem less involved with the Jewish mainstream."



Among those living on the fringes of Jewish life, he says, are individuals with homes or apartments in non-traditional Jewish areas, who are "least likely to give their children a Jewish education and most likely to have children who intermarry."

Shahar suggests small grassroots organizations that promote community building in these areas and satellite services for Jewish residents.

Look for a detailed report on *Jewish Life in Greater Toronto* in the May 18 edition of *The Canadian Jewish News*.

# UJA Day at the Ballpark

Despite a loss to the Boston Red Sox, the recent UJA Day at the Rogers Centre was a huge hit with the community as more than 2,000 UJA Federation supporters and baseball spectators participated in the special day. (Pictured) Prior to the game Blue Jays' President and CEO Paul Godfrey (second from right), presented a cheque to UJA Federation Campaign 2007, in recognition of UJA Day. Receiving the cheque on behalf of UJA Federation are (l-r) Jeff Springer, UJA Federation campaign director; Fred Waks and Ariella Rohringer, chairs of Campaign 2007; David Engel, chair of the Board; UJA Federation, and Arr-Yeah the Lion, the friendly mascot of UJA Federation's Walk With Israel, taking place on Sunday, May 28.

# Toronto loses devoted volunteer

## *David Stokes was everyone's friend*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

David Stokes, who passed away on April 23 at the age of 85, dedicated almost 40 years of his life to volunteer work for the Toronto Jewish community.

Stokes, a native of Doncaster, England who came to Toronto in 1967, was an active and enthusiastic volunteer with UJA Federation for decades, having started as a door-to-door canvasser until he became a regular fixture at UJA Federation telethons. Even during his supposed vacations down south, Stokes found the time to offer his services at various telethons at the Jewish Federation of Pinellas County in Florida where he and his wife Sylvia were presented with a volunteer of the year award.

A long-time member of Toronto's Beth Tikvah Congregation, Stokes was an active member of the synagogue's Chesed Committee, and he volunteered for the Chaplaincy Service of Jewish Family & Child Service - a UJA Federation partner organization - where he spent countless hours visiting the sick and elderly in hospitals. He also volunteered with the Jewish War Veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital.

"I first met David Stokes at what else – a telethon, and I immediately was drawn to his warm and welcoming smile," recalls David Engel, chair of the Board, UJA Federation. "He was one of those rare people who, even though you may have never met, had the ability to make you feel like you're old friends. He truly epitomized the spirit and generosity of Jewish Toronto. I'll really miss him at the next telethon. He was a great ambassador for Toronto," notes Engel.

*David Stokes*

"David always made the time to help others, without any thought of recognition," says Dodi Weill, a family friend of the Stokes. "He was a truly decent man, a devoted father to two sons, zeda to four grandchildren, and a loving husband of 53 years to Sylvia."

"David epitomized everything that volunteerism stands for," says UJA Federation President and CEO, Ted Sokolsky. "He was our volunteer of volunteers and he will be missed. The joy and passion he brought with him to the Lipa Green Building was truly infectious, and that menshlechkeit (sense of decency) rubbed off on those around him. David Stokes was a true mensch."

"It wasn't just the countless hours that David devoted to us as a volunteer, it was the joy with which he volunteered," says Howard English, vice president, Marketing & Communications, UJA Federation. "He was delighted to contribute his time and, in turn, everyone else was delighted to be around him. We'll miss his selfless, sunny outlook on life."

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# Palliative care fundraiser embraces life

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to the CJN*

Four-year-old Samantha always loved unicorns, even before she developed brain cancer.

"Why do you love unicorns so much?" her mother, Robyn Posen Young, once asked Samantha after she got sick.

"Unicorns mean we never die," Samantha replied. "They mean that we go on forever."

Samantha would be 14 now. She died nine years ago.

But Samantha's unicorns are helping other children through the annual Unicorn Dream Dinner, a fundraiser for the new Max & Beatrice Wolfe Children's Centre for Grief and Palliative Care, to be held this year on May 11 at Spirale Banquet and Convention Centre.

Opened in September 2005 and operating in association with Mount Sinai Hospital's Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care, the Wolfe Centre provides end-of-life care to children and their families – offering active and compassionate therapies, physical, psychological and spiritual, to reduce symptoms and suffering.

"When you lose a child, it's beyond devastating," says Posen Young, who still misses hearing Samantha's footsteps and her chirpy good nature.

"She didn't complain once," Posen Young said, despite treatments that were often worse than the disease itself.

The first operation made Samantha a paraplegic. "Her body was devastated. She couldn't do anything on her own." Blind in one eye, deaf in one ear, catheterized, without the use of her hands, bloated from steroids, Samantha wouldn't look in a mirror anymore, but she "always had a smile on her face."

Samantha finally died, not of cancer, but from her treatments, in a way that will always haunt her mother.

Last-ditch medical interventions left her "convulsing in a semi-conscious state, blood spurting out of her nostrils and her mouth," says Posen Young. "It was a horror. It was not the way somebody should die, especially a child."

Pediatric palliative care is all about how children should die, a subject few of us, even medical professionals, want to face.

"It's hard for pediatricians and other child care workers," says Latner Centre director Dr. Larry Librach. Parents often receive few answers, or even false optimism. "Nobody wants to see a kid die."

Posen Young agrees.

"From the beginning, nobody would tell us exactly what was happening. The attitude was to… not even think of the negative."

But in reality, there was no hope. "[Samantha] had a brain stem brain tumour. She wasn't going to survive."

Palliative care works within the confines of that terrible reality.

"We can accept that a child is going to die," says Librach.

Most of the centre's children have cancer, though he's quick to point out that pediatric cancers often have a fairly good prognosis."About three-quarters will be cured," he notes.

For the other one-quarter, acceptance means providing "comfort and care and family support" – improving the quality of those final weeks and days.

Like adults, children want to be home for as long as they possibly can.

Currently, Librach says, about 80 per cent of child cancer patients "will go on to die in hospital," but if it were up to families, "they'd be able to die at home."

The centre is working with the Hospital for Sick Children to make that a reality.

With the child at home, the family can maintain daily routines, rather than interrupting everything or taking turns staying at the hospital. The centre helps parents in this caregiver role and offers a 24-hour telephone support line that can prevent emergency room visits.

The centre also supports siblings, who are often overlooked, as well as children with a terminally ill parent.

"Kids need the opportunity to be able to speak about death and dying," Librach says. "I'm always surprised… [kids] have incredible feelings around this."

Death is still a taboo topic, he adds, and we certainly don't want to discuss it with our children, even though "kids can help the adults cope with their grief."

Posen Young says Samantha never told her, "I know I'm dying, Mommy," but she began asking questions such as, "How do you become a ghost?"

At the time, Posen Young found few resources to help her cope, but she has since written two children's books, *Samantha's Unicorn* and *Jamie's Rainbow*, to offer kids honest answers.

The Wolfe Centre is urgently needed, Posen Young says, so that other children don't have to die as Samantha did, frightened and in pain.

Although OHIP pays for medical treatments, many other services are not covered.

"We don't have a lot of resources," Librach says. "There's no funding for an art therapist, no funding for specialized counsellors, no funding for a child life specialist…we have to rely on donors."

Despite all this, the Unicorn Dream Dinner is a joyous affair.

"It's about embracing life," Posen Young says. "It's a beautiful evening of energy, positivity and happiness."

From a "little dinner," it has snowballed over its four-year history into an annual gala that has raised more than $300,000.

Tickets for this year's event are $150. Call Faye Librach at 416-651-4419 for details.


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# Reporter takes Shoah documentary to school

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Naomi Parness, a reporter on the Barrie-based A-Channel (formerly the New VR), is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and grew up hearing their stories, but she said there really is no way to prepare for a trip like the one she took last year to Poland with March of the Living.

Her half-hour documentary for the station, *March of the Living*, which first aired last year as a five-part series, recently won the regional Edward R. Murrow award for best news series from the Radio-Television News Directors Association, the Canadian branch of an international electronic media professional organization.

Although Parness travelled to Poland as a journalist, the trip galvanized her on a personal level. Since her return, she has joined the Holocaust Centre of Toronto's Holocaust Education Week committee, and has started taking her documentary to schools.

Last week, she was at United Synagogue Day School's Richmond Hill branch with her documentary as part of a Yom Hashoah service, and she has spoken at Ryerson University, where she studied radio and television arts. Also, a number of schools have used the film as an educational tool.

"You can't sit back," she said.

Parness, 25, told *The CJN* that she sees stories like the one she did about March of the Living as a way to use "journalism to combat the evil of hate."

She pitched the idea for the documentary three months after joining the channel, writing "a pretty long proposal" that detailed why the story was important. Her timing was good: she would be accompanying a group of York Region politicians on the trip and the station was just moving into the area. Also, last year marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"Obviously there was a huge interest worldwide, and there was particular interest in Toronto and York region," said Bob McLaughlin, the station's manager of news and operations.

Naomi Parness

"I thought it was a very unique project," he said. "These are stories that really need to be told, and that really connect with the audience. It was a very ambitious project for us, and an expensive one, but it was going to be too powerful not to do."

For Parness herself, the experience was "an eye-opener."

Walking through the concentration camp at Auschwitz with Holocaust survivor Max Eisen, who showed her where he slept and where he said good-bye to his father for the last time, "really made it very real," she said.

"It was very difficult for me," added Parness, who had never been to Poland. "Going as a journalist, I couldn't cry as much as I would have – you have to separate yourself from the story. I had to compose myself [to be on camera]. I did a lot of crying when I got home."

She is very pleased about receiving the award – it's "fantastic," she said – but what's more important, she said, is the "reason it's an important piece for me.

"I've made it my personal mission not to forget."


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Yom Hashoah 5766

# Survivors, war veterans join trek to Ottawa

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Conducting evening prayers in a Belleville, Ont., parking lot and later singing along to a chorus of *Jerusalem of Gold* on a chartered bus at 10 p.m. felt like nothing out of the ordinary for a group of Holocaust survivors and Jewish war veterans.

"We have to celebrate every day, in every way we can," said Nancy Kleinberg, who took a day-long journey with her husband Howard and grandson Aryeh Samuel, a 15-year-old student at Yeshivat Or Chaim, to attend last week's Canadian Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in Ottawa.

Kleinberg, 77, who came to Canada from Poland in 1947, two years after she was liberated from Bergen-Belsen, said her family journeyed from Toronto to Ottawa on one of two full-to-capacity buses, organized by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, because "we felt compelled. We've lived [all these years since the war]. We have to acknowledge it."

The couple's story is a particularly poignant one, Nancy said. "I saved [Howard's] life. I was out looking for my family after liberation [she didn't know yet that they had all perished] and I saw him lying on the side of the road among a pile of corpses. I could see he was alive – but just barely.

"I had courage then, and I wanted to do a good deed. I [dragged him with me] and nursed him for three weeks until the military took him to the hospital."

They didn't see each other for two years, she says, until Howard came to Toronto and found out that she was also here.

"We've been married now 56 years. We have four children and 11 grandchildren. To save one person is to save a generation," Nancy said.

Howard, a semi-retired businessman, was particularly moved by the Ottawa ceremony, he said, because so many Canadian officials took part.

"My family made application to come to Canada [before the war], and they rejected my father because he had been sick and weighed too little. My mother did not want to leave him."

Joe Shedletzky, 81, a retired butcher, and the *Jerusalem of Gold* soloist on the bus ride, lost his father, mother and younger sister in the Holocaust. "I ran away on Dec. 25, 1941, and I remember hiding out in the cornfields, cooking carrots and potatoes over a fire. I ate so I could survive."

He attended the Ottawa ceremony for the second time, he said, "because we have to show people we are a nation. Wherever Jews congregate, we should all go."

Mitzie Weber took the bus ride with her daughter and son-in-law Debbie and Steven Weiner, and her son and daughter-in-law Geoffrey and Anna Weber, in honour of her husband Jacob, who died this past December.

Jacob Weber was born in Czechoslovakia and although he arrived in Montreal as a young boy, he was actively involved in the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, the Association for the Soldiers for Israel, and Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, Mitzie said.

**Among those who went to Ottawa were Nancy and Howard Kleinberg and their grandson, Aryeh Samuel.**
**[Carolyn Blackman photo]**

"We were invited to lay a wreath in my father's memory, and my heart is breaking," said Debbie.

"This is a bittersweet moment, though, because [with the Holocaust Memorial Day Act] Canada is finally recognizing the Holocaust on the calendar."

As deputy commander of the Jewish War Veterans, Toronto post, Earl Gardner attended the ceremony for the first time.

"[We have to remember that] the soldiers stopped the Holocaust. Without the actions of the military, what would have happened?"

Noting that about 60 Jewish war veterans, some from Russia, made the trip from Toronto, Gardner said, "It is important to unite and never forget what happened."

Lou VanDelman, executive director of the Jewish War Veterans, Toronto post, told *The CJN* that "we gathered here to remember the depth to which man can descend, when hatred and bigotry ruled the day.

"We can't tolerate hatred [no matter who the victim is]. We have the sad experience of knowing what it's like to be targeted. We are the experts," said VanDelman.


The Board of Directors & the Staff of the Kashruth Council of Canada — **COR** & the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth deeply mourn the passing of

**Philip Alter** ז"ל

past honorary legal counsel of the Kashruth Council.

Our condolences go out to the entire family. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

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**Students in Toronto's Jewish day schools paused and remembered victims of the Holocaust in various ways as Yom Hashoah was marked last Tuesday, April 25.**

**RECALLING THE CHILDREN:** Grade 8 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School performed a dramatic play for Yom Hashoah about hidden children who survived the Holocaust with the help of others. Pictured, from left, are Jacob Nemirov, Avi Rush, Jeremy Halpern, Laura Greenfield, Jordana Zinner and Devorah Jacobs. Following the play, survivor Alex Levin shared his personal story with students from grades 4 through 8. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

**A SPECIAL BOND:** Zoe Baron helps her grandmother, Bianca Israeli, a Holocaust survivor, light a candle of remembrance at a Yom Hashoah ceremony led by Grade 7 students at Bialik Hebrew Day School.

**STUDENTS REMEMBER:** Grade 7 and 8 students at Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack Middle School on Finch Avenue memorialized children of the Holocaust in a special candlelighting ceremony on April 25. The presentation, titled "Dear Diary, I Don't Want to Die," included writings, poems and songs from the diaries of Shoah children. Pictured, back row from left, are Jonathan Green, Ari Satok, Howie Freeman, Ari Zagdanski, Ethan Miller and Noah Burshtein; and front row from left, Sarah Silverberg, Michaela Hirsh, Romy Rewald, Maci Levy, Samantha Silver, Noa Golan and Julia Posluns.

**THREE GENERATIONS:** Kyle Goldberger, right, lights a candle with his grandfather Zolton Zimmerman, centre, an Auschwitz survivor at a Grade 8 ceremony for Yom Hashoah at United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tzedec campus. With them, from left, are Kyle's sister Lani Goldberger, grandmother Sara Zimmerman and mother Alice Goldberger.


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Yom Hashoah 5766

# We must do more than remember

**By JONATHAN LASKI and DANNY RICHMOND**

Guest Voice

Last week, we were at Earl Bales Park to bear witness to the Holocaust and remember its victims.

This is something both of us have done for many years as grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, active members of the Jewish community, and concerned citizens of a world that failed the Jewish people 60 years ago.

We were moved by the ceremony to "never forget," but as strong as this year's and past year's events have been, they are simply commemorations of the past.

For us, there was something missing from last week's event, something the Jewish community often fails to emphasize, which could have made the message of Holocaust remembrance all the more relevant.

As thousands of Canadians have come to learn, there is a kind of Shoah occurring right now in the Darfur region of Sudan, in the form of a blatant disregard for humanity that has resulted in the death of more than 400,000 innocent people. And the atrocities continue daily.

In the weeks before Yom Hashoah, we and three dedicated Jewish high school students planned "Scream for Darfur," a rally slated for this past Sunday at Queen's Park to raise awareness about the crisis in Darfur.

Yet our community persists in remembering the Holocaust in isolation. Organizers of last week's Yom Hashoah event did not mention Darfur or the need to act on it, nor did they promote the rally, whose scheduled speakers included MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler and former MP David Kilgour.

This reflects an older generation's way of remembering the Holocaust – revering it as if were a recent death, and caring for it the way we would a recent wound.

With all due respect to the need to "never forget," the Holocaust must be used as a source of inspiration to draw attention to the crises of today.

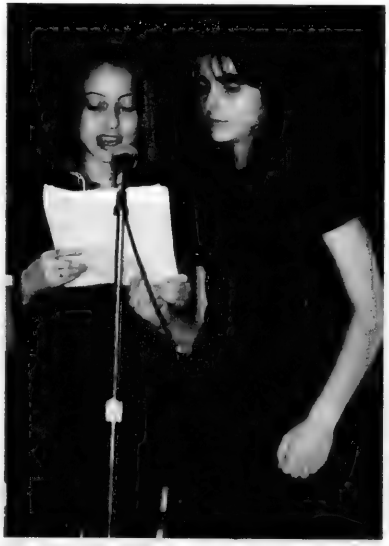
This is the younger generation's approach, one that comes from a desire to connect our heritage to the world we live in today. Our generation is searching for a way to keep the Shoah alive through its lessons, and by doing so, we will also keep the spirit of its victims and survivors alive.

We can sustain the memory of the Holocaust for our grandparents, but unless we sustain its lessons, what reason does the world have to remember? And what greater way to honour and pay tribute to victims and survivors than by using the stories of their tragedies to prevent new ones from being created?

We are offering this critique because we care. And we believe that scores of young Jews are discouraged and will look to apply their talents, energies and enthusiasm elsewhere, because the Jewish community speaks but does not act, and it's not willing to do everything in its power to make "never again" truly mean "never again."

To paraphrase Stephen Lewis, the United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, we feel that those who care about something have an ethical responsibility to point out its failings. The Holocaust can be the memory that we, the generation after the darkness, use to inspire us to change the world. Not doing so destroys our credibility as keepers of the "never again" message, both as Canadians and as the Jewish generation after the darkness.

*Jonathan Laski is communications director for STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) Canada and Danny Richmond is assistant national program director of Canadian Young Judaea.*



**REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST:** York Hill Public School students Carly Haspel, left, and Cassandra Silverberg took part in a Holocaust commemoration program at the school last week. [Rebecca Ansel photo]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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON SCHWARTZ

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Jewish Life

# Some early film pioneers

**By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN**

Roots & Remembrance

Born in the east end of London, leading British cameraman Joe Rosenthal came to Canada about 1900 at the behest of the Canadian Pacific Railway to make Living Canada, a series of film documentaries intended to stimulate immigration. In the process Rosenthal, who also made a dramatized version of *Hiawatha* while here, became enshrined as Canada's first Jewish film industry pioneer.

Another was Bernard Allen, a jeweller from Pennsylvania whose son Jule came north around 1906 to scout out locations for a motion picture theatre. The Allens built their first theatre in Brantford, Ont., and within 15 years had established a vast international movie circuit. Settling in Toronto, they built some of the city's finest movie palaces, including the Tivoli, Parkdale, College, St. Clair, Beach and Hollywood.

N. L. Nathanson was another American who moved to Toronto. He got started in the movie business by purchasing an old theatre, the Regent on Adelaide St., and converting it into a deluxe movie house. That was in 1916. He eventually teamed up with the American mogul Adolph Zukor, with whom he established the Famous Players chain.

All these names appear in *Stars of David*, a superb monograph penned half a century ago by author and historian Hye Bossin. Also cited by Bossin as pioneers are Sam Lester and Harry Alexander – my father's uncles – and their partner Morris Mentel. Beginning in 1909, the trio "ran a little cloak-and-suit manufacturing business" by day and operated some of Toronto's first motion picture houses by night.

As Bossin notes, two more Lesters, George (Angell) and Harry, were also movie pioneers. A generation later, George's sons, Lionel and Robert Lester, both entered the business, and Lionel became a major force in the world of film distribution.

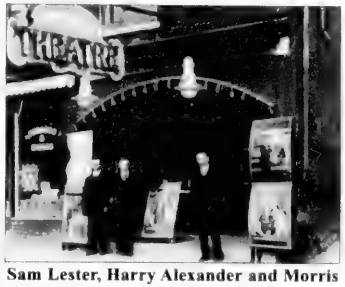
A wonderful old photo, probably dating from the WWI era, shows Mentel, Sam Lester and Alexander outside one of their (and Toronto's) earliest theatres. At various times, they and their various associates and relations operated the Park, Royal, King, U-Kum, Dufferin, Bonita and the Doric (where my great-grandfather, David Alexander, tended the candy counter, to his grandchildren's everlasting delight).

In a memoir written around 1991, Lionel recalled the Royal Theatre, which operated during World War I: "Admission was 10 cents and one cent war tax for adults, and five cents for children… Besides my mother who sold tickets and my dad who collected them at the door, there was the projectionist and the piano player. The piano player watched the picture very carefully in order to play the proper music to fit the scene."

Phyllis Bryce still recalls her father Sam Lester's first theatre, situated in a little store on Dovercourt Road. "I can still picture it. He had a little projector and a white sheet that he used as a screen."

Are there significant pioneers in your family tree? Their stories are as fleeting as flickering lights on a screen, celluloid impressions lasting but a moment.

We owe it to future generations to try to preserve their history.




**Sam Lester, Harry Alexander and Morris Mentel outside one of their theatres.**
**[Photo courtesy of the Vanek family]**

# A divisive way to take a stand

**By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON**

Through A Sephardi Window

The Toronto Board of Rabbis (comprised mainly of Conservative and Reform clergy) has chosen to withdraw its endorsement of (read boycott) the Toronto Jewish community's annual Yom Hashoah commemoration. At issue is a decision by the event's steering committee to include in the programming only the male members of an otherwise mixed children's and youth choir.

The timing of this decision coincided with the public Torah reading of the Shirah, the song. After God's miraculous splitting of the sea for the Israelites, we read, "Then Moses and the children of Israel sang" (Exodus 15:1). In spontaneous and prophetic response, the narrative continues: "And Miriam took the drum in her hand, and all the women followed her with drums and dancing" and they sang to HaShem (Exodus15:20).

There was a men's choir and there was a separate women's choir. This is the Torah way of propriety and reverence for the feminine form. In song and dance, women are not for the entertainment of men.

The crux of this issue, according to the TBR, is that this halachic concern about hearing female vocalists is not one shared by the community and, therefore, is not representative of the community.

I, for one, disagree.

Firstly, I should like to point out that religion in general, and halachah in particular, is in no way meant to mirror the norms of the masses, but rather to present people with an ideal to aspire to.

To do the reverse – constantly adjusting ideals to match societial norms – is not religion, but an exercise in absurdity. Would the rabbis of the TBR consider abolishing prayer in all their synagogues, since the vast majority of their members choose not to participate in Shabbat services (much less in weekday services)? Obviously not, as they, too, wish to offer their members an ideal to aspire to and hope that they will participate.

Some of the TBR rabbis choose not to abide by the laws of kashrut. Nevertheless, all of their gatherings and events do adhere to the laws of kashrut. Would these rabbis not agree that a community event should be similarly structured according to halachah, and that this would in no way be an affront to anyone?

Everyone (including the TBR) believes that a communal service should be inclusive. It pains me that the TBR has taken this stance, and that the community is essentially witness to a group of rabbis protesting halachah.

It is also painful that they should choose (unanimously, yet!) to make this protest over a Holocaust commemoration. One would have hoped that the enormity of the Holocaust, the sacred memory of six million martyrs, the honour of the survivors, and our responsibility to remember the past and educate our children, would override partisan politics.

That the president of the TBR would draw a parallel between the prohibition of *kol ishah* (hearing a woman sing) and the murder of children by the Nazis is incomprehensible, if not outright reprehensible.

The Sephardi community of Toronto could serve as an example to the TBR.

Our community, too, is in no way homogenous, and by that I mean fully observant. And yet, within a broad spectrum of observance, this same community demands of its congregations the highest common denominator. In their private lives and in their homes, Sephardim will do what they believe is right for themselves, but in their communal life, nothing but tradition will do.

Jewish Life

# How can we measure our lives?

**Books**
*Bernard Baskin*

*Faust*, Goethe's famous drama, concerns a jaded and disaffected man who makes a pact with the devil. The unhappy and bored Faust agrees that if the devil ever provided him with an experience so profound that he wished it would endure, then he would cease to be.

The devil tempted him with manifold wonders, but Faust remained dissatisfied and unyielding. The years pass, and now an old man, he tends a small parcel of swampy land, pushing back the sea by building dikes. In time, the unsightly bog is transformed. Fresh green fields appear, farmers oversee crops and cattle pasture.

Faust loses the contest, but for the first time in his life, he savours the joy of accomplishment – yes, life can be worth living. "Ah, still delay – thou art so fair/ The traces cannot, of my earthly being./ In aeons perish – they are there!/ In proud forefeeling of such lofty bliss,/ I now enjoy the highest moment – this!"

This dramatic episode challenges us: how are we to find that pattern or aspect of life to which we can turn and say, "Ah, still delay – thou art so fair"?

Some of the answers that come to mind appear shallow and wanting. Longevity fails as a measure of life's meaning. Actually, the days of our years are really very few when measured by the long past and the longer future. The Psalmist knew this wisdom when he said, "A thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when they are past."

If merely living long is not a proper measure of life, certainly the accumulation and treasuring of things is vain. Wealth has been likened to a disease. One does not have to advocate the ascetic life of denial to recognize this. Often things soon begin to possess us. We become slaves to them, wasting our lives getting and spending.

If a man got possession of all the gold in the world, he could not buy a friend, character, peace of mind, clear conscience or a sense of eternity.

How can we best measure life? The proper answer flows from spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth.

Scientists teach us that nothing in the universe is finished. We live in a creative universe wherein planets grow, worlds grow, life grows. When anything stops growing, death occurs.

If a seed in its dark, restless journey under ground is not content until it breaks through the mountain of soil and strains ever higher toward the sunlight, shall we human beings be content to remain in the original state of nature?"

Whatever our age, it is a time for us to grow – to become more capable of forgiveness, more sensitive to another's pain, more receptive to criticism, more open to a new idea.

Growth means acceptance of the reality of pain and the implacability with which death looms over life. We always know it is there, but suddenly we wake up and something is wrong; suddenly the doctor calls to talk about our tests. Life swings on a hinge.

Growth means the ability to receive and offer loving kindness.

A chassidic teacher confessed that he learned the meaning of love from overhearing a conversation between two villagers. One asked the other, "Do you love me?"

The other replied, "I love you deeply."

The first asked, "Do you know my friend, what gives me pain?"

The second protested that he could not possibly know.

"If you do not know what gives me pain," lamented the first, "how can you say you love me?"

Growth, then, as a measure of life includes compassion, acceptance, awareness and the successful tilling with energy and joy that small "parcel of ground" that fate has ordained for us. Only then can we perceive the fleeting moment and cry out, "Ah, still delay thou art so fair."

# Jewish names, Part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.
Arik, Itzik, Yarkon.
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah.
Sarele, Revital, Raykhke, Lilach.

Your Jewish name says a great deal about you. It hints at when and where you were born, how traditional your parents were when they chose your name – and according to Jewish tradition, it reveals aspects of your personality.

Today, I am going to tell you about some sites where you can learn more about the significance of Jewish names – and next week, we'll visit some great online resources for Jewish baby names.

I had always thought of genealogists being solely preoccupied with family names, but I learned that was not necessarily the case at the always marvellous genealogical site JewishGen.org. The introduction to the Given Names Data Base traces Jewish history and significance of Jewish given names from the biblical period through the 20th century. Prof. G.L. Esterson writes that Jewish tradition has always placed a higher value on someone's first name than on the family name. For example, only the person's first name and father's name have always been key when being called up to the Torah. Similarly, it is a person's first name and nicknames that are crucial to the validity of the divorce document, the *get*. **[http://tinyurl.com/ftg9t]**

And a given name can yield vital clues when researching your family tree. That where the database can be quite valuable If you enter an ancestor's given name for his European country of origin, you will find many possible Hebrew, Yiddish and secular names he might have adopted. And that may help give you leads to documentation you may never have considered. For example, if you are working on your family tree and trying to guess what Great-Aunt Fannie's Jewish name was back in Europe, the database suggests it might have been: • Franya, Frumka, Vromot (in Poland); • Feyge, Foygl, Froma (in Hungary); • Fanni, Freydele, Fanya (in Galicia). **[http://tinyurl.com/jre42]**

The Given Names Data Base focuses on Jews of European origin, so if you have a question about the origin of a Sephardi name, you can join the Sefard Forum E-mail Discussion List. **[http:// tinyurl.com/qdapo]**

The connection between a name and one's soul has deep kabbalistic roots. Rabbi Paysach Krohn points out that the Hebrew word for soul – *neshama* – is spelled with the four Hebrew letters nun, shin, mem and hay. Remarkably, the Hebrew word for name, *shem* – spelled shin, mem – is contained within the word *neshama*, indicating yet again the strong connection between one's name and one's soul, or essence. **[http://tinyurl.com/ndy9e]**

Your Jewish name is yours for life and tradition rarely allows it to be changed. One exception is in the case of serious illness. Rabbi Simkha Weintraub quotes the Babylonian Talmud that says that one of the things that "may cause an evil decree passed on a person to be cancelled [is a] change of name." For example, a man who is ill may be given an additional name such as Raphael (God heals), while a woman may be named Brachah (blessing). **[http://tinyurl.com/zhw3c]**

There is a belief that after death, an angel asks each soul for its Hebrew name. In order to train their soul not to forget, there is a tradition for people to insert a verse that alludes to their name each time they recite the *Shmoneh Esrei* prayer. For example, if your name is Sarah (spelled "Sin-Raysh-Hay"), you look for the verse that begin with the Hebrew letter "Sin" and ends with the letter "Hay": "Se'oo yedaychem kodesh, u'varcha et HaShem." "Lift your hands in the Sanctuary and bless God." (Psalms 134:2) You can find the traditional verses that correspond to most Hebrew names at the following page. **[www.hanefesh.com/edu/name.htm]**

Next week, we'll look at some sites that try to help you choose the right Jewish name for a newborn boy or girl, or maybe for yourself if you were never given a Jewish name. Until then, you might want to try out Jacob Richman's My Hebrew Name website. If you are looking for a Hebrew equivalent to a secular name, type yours in and see what you get. When I typed in "Mark," I got back the following suggestions: Makabi, Medan and Mordechai. Not bad (but for the record, my parents went with Moshe.) **[www.my-hebrew-name.com/]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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בס"ד

MIZRACHI

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**Tuesday**
**21 Av 5766 – August 15, 2006**

**Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue**

For further information contact
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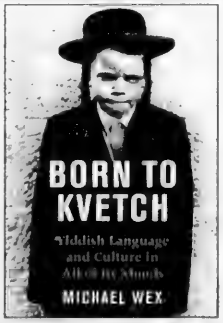


**Wednesday, May 24, 8 p.m.**

**Temple Sinai**, 210 Wilson Avenue

Admission Free • Refreshments • **416-636-5425**

On Campus

# Photo exhibit raises funds to aid Katrina victims

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Although she spent more than a week in January repairing the roofs of Mississippi homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina last summer, Ninat Friedland decided that she wanted to do more to help the victims who are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

Friedland, a 21-year-old visual arts and psychology student at York University, helped organize a photo exhibit and a silent auction of the pictures to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The exhibit of photographs taken by student volunteers last summer, titled "Reconstructing Mississippi: A Photo Documentary of Interfaith Relief Work," was put together in the hope of raising money for a community still in desperate need of aid, Friedland said.

She said she was inspired to organize this event after she took part in a hurricane relief effort sponsored by Hillel of Greater Toronto that took a group of Canadian students to repair homes in Gulfport, Miss.

"It was a wonderful experience," Friedland said about the trip in January. "We met with other Jewish students across North America. While we were working in Gulfport, we were getting to know the community and it was a great experience connecting with other people.

"We saw how devastated the area was and how badly they needed funds. The trip was so short, and I wanted to do more."

In total, Friedland said that 24 colour, commercial prints that chronicle the Jewish students' experience in Mississippi will be on display at the Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts in downtown Toronto until May 7.

The exhibit and silent auction will continue when it is moved to the Miles Nadal JCC in June.

Friedland said that each photo will start at $50 – but she hopes the pictures will sell for more – with the goal of raising $1,000 for The Interfaith Alliance, an organization that works to promote interfaith co-operation, and creates awareness to encourage a relief effort after each major storm in the United States.

For more information, visit www.hilleltoronto.org or call 416-913-2424.

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*Flag* by Ninat Friedland is one of the photos on exhibit to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

## CONDOLENCES:

To Rabbi Shlomo Hochler, Mrs. Chava Sara Baron, Mrs. Lillian Bobrowsky, and Mrs. Frances Gluckowsky on the passing of their wife, mother and sister, Mrs. Edith Hochler. The professional connection that the entire family has had with Eitz Chaim has spanned over four decades and includes the fact that Mrs. Hochler ז"ע was for many years a first grade teacher of General Studies at both Viewmount and Spring Farm.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

To Mrs. Ruth Alter and her sons on the passing of their husband and father Mr. Phil Alter. Mr. Alter was Eitz Chaim's Chairman of the Executive Board and its former president. Menachem and Rephoel are Eitz Chaim Graduates. Shiva is at 84 Baycrest Avenue until Friday. Shacharis is at 7:00 a.m.and Mincha at 8:05 p.m.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

To Rabbi Pliner on the passing of his father, Mr. Yitzchak Pliner. The funeral and beginning of Shiva took place in Atlanta.Rabbi Pliner will be returning to Toronto and sitting shiva from Thursday at 6:00 p.m. through Monday morning at his home: 148 Faywood Boulevard.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Davening Times are as follows:
Shacharis 7:00 AM (Sunday 8:00 AM)
Mincha 8:00 PM (Friday 2:00 PM)

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Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish News

## Mazel Tov to...

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!**

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4 **or email them to:** cblackman@cjnews.com

**Mazel tov to Sara Cohen & Toly Dvorkin who were married Sept. 5, 2005, at Copper Creek. Parents Abe & Dale Cohen and Alex & Berta Dvorkin.**

**Zev Simon Bergman, LLB. You did it! Mazel tov on your graduation from the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. Your proud and loving family.**

**Mazel tov to Matthew David & Gayle Claener on your engagement from parents Janet & Raphael David, Alydia & Irwin Claener. An August, 2007 wedding is planned in Nova Scotia.**

**Welcome Zachary Nathan Cornberg born March 15. Proud grandparents Sharon & Ivor Schneider, Aunty Lisa, great-grandparents Sunny & Anne Schatz.**

**Mazel tov to Daniela Laski & Jordan Milchman on their engagement. Parents, Ann & Sol Laski, Susan & Mark Milchman. Grandparents, Elsie & Norman Freedman.**

**Mazel tov to Max and Sierra Lerner on your b'nai mitzvah. Love from Bubbie Sandra & Zaide Reuben Lerner and all your aunts, uncles and cousins.**

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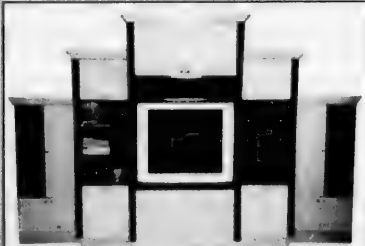

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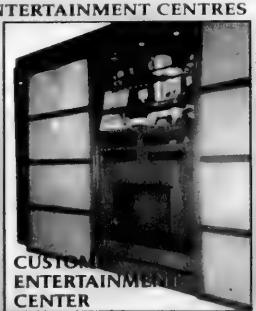

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

Coming Soon...
The CJN Survey
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
2 nights for 2 at the Marriott
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**What's New deadlines: Monday, May 8, is the deadline for the May 18 issue and Monday, May 15, is the deadline for the May 25 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, May 4

**MUSSAR AND GROWTH**

Join Mekorot for a four-week course with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** on "The Mussar Path to Personal Growth" beginning today, 9:30-10:30 a.m. 3768 Bathurst St. # 308. $45. To register, call 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**David Abramowitz** speaks about the life of **Sholom Aleichem** and reads some of his short stories at the Yiddish Vinkl meeting at the Free Times Café, 320 College St. 12:15 p.m. RSVP to yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca or **Bess**, 416-630-7222.

**BAD THINGS/GOOD PEOPLE**

**Rabbi Yossi Jacobson** speaks on "When Bad Things Happen To Good People," at the Rabbi Levi Bialo memorial and lecture. 8 p.m. at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham. $10. 905-886-0420

## Sunday, May 7

**SUNDAY SOFTBALL**

Join Jewish adults, 20s-50s, at 9 a.m. beginning today, for a recreational game of softball in a relaxed environment in Thornhill, near DVP. 416-782-4165, 416-703-8161 or danfeld@hotmail.com

**SKORECKI ON GENETICS**

**Dr. Karl Skorecki**, of the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa and co-discoverer of the Cohen genetic signature, speaks on "A Genetic Glimpse into Jewish History and Health." 9 a.m. at BAYT. 905-886-3810

**JEWISH 'ROADSHOW'**

If you have Judaica you would like to know more about, come to the Toronto Jewish "Roadshow" at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Includes a keynote address and workshops. $45/day, $18/lunch. 416-781-3514, ext. 32, or museum@beth-tzedec.org

**SINGLES WALKING GROUP**

Join Walk and Talk Etc. to explore High Park. Bring a picnic lunch. Meet outside the Grenadier Restaurant at West Rd. and Colborne Lodge Dr. at 9:30 a.m. Register, walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

**ARYEH BARAF BRUNCH**

Aryeh Baraf Chesed Network for Jewish Singles hosts a brunch, 10:30 a.m., at Adath Israel Congregation. $5. 416-221-0459

**A HEALING SERVICE**

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Rabbi Tobias Gabriel** and **Judy Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359

**LEO BAECK'S MAIN EVENT**

The Leo Baeck Parents' Association presents "The Main Event," their first fundraiser. 6 p.m. at WEGZ Stadium Bar 2601 in Vaughan. For tickets, call 905-709-3636, ext. 222, or visit www.leobaeck.ca.

**TORONTO'S ORPHANAGES**

**Jack Lipinsky** speaks on "What Did They Do To My Orphans? The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Children's Home" at Darchei Noam Congregation. 15 Hove St. 7:30 p.m. 416-638-4783

**SINGLES GAME NIGHT**

Beth Torah Synagogue offers an evening of board games for singles 21-39 and 40-69. 7:30 p.m. $8. 416-733-3634

**GUELPH LECTURE**

Beth Isaiah Congregation in Guelph hosts the Richard C. Youngman Memorial Lecture with **John Thompson** of the Mackenzie Institute. 8 p.m. 47 Surrey St. Free.

**Continued on page 25**

Advising Your Aging Client:
End-of-life decision making

Breakfast Seminar
Wednesday, May 10, 2006
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Presented by
Baycrest — Enriching Care, Enhancing Knowledge, Enlightening Minds
Baycrest Foundation

Guest Speakers:
Arthur Fish, LL.B., B.C.L.
Laura Hawryluck, MSc., M.D., FRCPC

$20.00 per person
(Breakfast and Parking included)

Registration:
Nicole Goldstone
416-785-2500, ext. 2015

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Beth Tikvah Synagogue
is pleased to present

Rabbi Emeritus Avraham Feder
in a series of three outstanding programs.

Wed., May 17, 8:00 pm — "A New Era for Israel with Old Hopes and Anxieties"
With changes in political leadership there are uncertainties mixed with expectations. In today's world, normal unpredictability is compounded by national and international intrigue. As Jews in Israel and the Diaspora, what should we look for in the coming year vis-à-vis our enemies, our friends, and our own communities?

Thurs., May 18, 8:00 pm — "Hamlet and Moses: Two Dimensions of Being Human"
A detailed exploration of two of the most famous literary figures in history, and how they deal with aspects of the human predicament. For believing Jews, Moses was and is a real person, whereas Hamlet is a creation of William Shakespeare's imagination. But both men have much to say regarding the struggle to be human.

Mon., May 22, 8:00 pm — "Tears and Laughter of Jewish Life through Song"
Hazzan Tibor Kovari and Linda Segal, with Brahm Goldhamer on piano, will accompany Rabbi Feder on a musical journey of Israel, featuring folk songs highlighting the joys and triumphs and the pathos and yearnings in the face of trial and tragedy, determination and victory.

The Community is invited to attend. There is no charge.

The Rabbi Emeritus Lecture Series
is proudly sponsored by The Beth Tikvah Jewish Education Centre

Beth Tikvah Synagogue – 3080 Bayview Avenue – Toronto – 416-221-3433

What's New

**Continued from page 24**

## Tuesday, May 9

**LUNCH AND LEARN,**

**Hank Greenberg**'s life as a Jewish sports hero in the bitter anti-Semitic 1930s is the subject of a movie at Beth Tikvah's Lunch and Learn. 12:15 p.m. By pre-paid reservation only. $10. 416-221-343 ext. 352

**ROMANIAN CINEMA**

**Thereza Bartha** speaks on "Old and New in Romanian Cinema" at the Dr. W. Filderman Lodge. 6 p.m. at 15 Hove St. For info, call **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634.

**TORONTO'S JEWISH ROOTS**

Holy Blossom Temple presents a slide show by **Bill Gladstone** on "The Roots of Toronto's Jewish Community, 1900-1914." 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 235

**SIMCHOVITCH FETED**

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation pays a tribute to **Simcha Simchovitch**, poet, author, teacher and curator, with readings and discussion. 7:30 p.m. at 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Guests $5. www.pjhftoronto.ca

**MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY**

Beth David Sisterhood invite the community to their "Mothers' Day Mad Hatter's Tea Party" at which **Karen Loomer** and her hatter, **Gail Osaduke**, talk about the history of women's hats and how they are made. 7:30 p.m. $5. 416-633-5500

**ETHICS OF THE FOUNDERS**

Beth Tzedec Congregation begins a four-part series, Sayings of the Sages from the Point of View of Four Practitioners on Ethics of the Founders, with **Judy Shier Weisberg** on "The Literature of Healing." 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 34

**STARS OF JEWISH HISTORY**

Temple Har Zion presents a three-part series with **Prof. Eric Lawee** on early European Jewish thinkers and philosophers. Tonight "Rashi: The European Ashkenazi Tradition and Rashi's Influence." 8 p.m. 905-889-2252

## Wednesday, May 10

**SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS**

"Raising a Child with Special Needs," a panel with psychiatrist **Sol Goldstein**, psychologist **Howard Marcovitch**, and social worker **Maura Cooperberg**, deals with strategies for coping with day-to-day challenges and improving the quality of family life. 7:30 p.m. BJCC, 4588 Bathurst St. For info, Tikun Chaim 416-631-5835.

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Yael Seliger**, of the Toronto Board of Jewish Education, reviews *Apples from the Desert* by **Savyon Liebrecht**. 7:30 p.m. at Temple Sinai. 416-487-3281

**FATHERS AND SONS**

Darchei Noam Congregation presents the first of two sessions on "Images of Fathers and Sons in the Tanach" with **Rabbi Tina Grimberg**. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 416-638-4783

## Other news

**RELATIONSHIPS WEEKEND**

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation presents Relationships in Jewish Life, a weekend with **Rabbi Reuven Bulka**, May 5-7. He speaks during services Friday night and Saturday and at a Saturday luncheon on "Discussion/Questions and Answers on Relationships." On Sunday he will particpate in a day of study that includes a session with **Sara Chana Radcliffe** on "Raising Your Children Without Raising Your Voice," a panel discussion on "Raising Children in a Secular World" and a luncheon at which Rabbi Bulka speaks on "Does Marriage Have to be Exciting?" Discussions for singles include "Challenges and Opportunities in the Jewish Dating World" with **Rabbi Joshua Joseph**. There are also sessions on domestic violence in the Jewish community, long-term care for the elderly and ethical divorce. Special tables available by reservation at Sunday lunch for singles 20-40 and 40-60. To register for meals or Sunday program, call 416-789-3213 or visit www.shomayim.org.

**TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL**

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs May 6-14 at the Bloor Cinema and the Al Green Theatre with 27 feature films, 43 documentaries, 16 shorts and animated films, and nine free events/screenings. For screening and tickets, visit www.tjff.com or call 416-324-9121.

**HUMAN COST OF TERROR**

One Family Fund presents "The Human Cost of Terror," an exhibit of portraits by photographer **Jason Schwartz** at the Miles Nadal JCC until May 31. Join One Family on Monday, May 15, for a reception and an opportunity to meet with and hear the personal stories of victims of terror. 7:30 p.m. 416-644-4955

**WINDSOR FILM FESTIVAL**

The Windsor Jewish Film Festival takes place May 9-11 at the Cineplex Odeon in Devonshire Mall. Tuesday, May 9: *Go For Zucker* 2 p.m., *Perlasca* 5 p.m. and *Live and Become* 8 p.m.; Wednesday, May 10: *The Ritchie Boys* 2 p.m., *The Syrian Bride* 5 p.m. and *Protocols of Zion* 8 p.m.; Thursday, May 11: *The King of the Corner* 2 p.m., *Campfire* 5 p.m. and *Rosehill* 8 p.m. Tickets $10. 519-973-1772

**KABBALAH OF LOVE**

The House invites parents and educators to hear **Rabbi David Aaron**, founder of Isralight, on "Kabbalah of Love: Raising our Children to Great Heights and Happiness." 8 p.m. 469 Eglinton Ave. W. #3. 416-482-9025 or thehouse@bellnet.ca

**GEORGE JONAS WEEKEND**

Beth Sholom Synagogue presents a weekend with **George Jonas**, author of *Vengeance*, May 12-13. Reserve for Friday dinner, $35, and Saturday lunch, $25, at 416-783-6103.

**LAG B'OMER IN BARRIE**

Individuals looking to celebrate Lag b'Omer at a bonfire in Barrie on Saturday, May 13, call 705-734-9794.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800, ext. 215, or register online at www.jfandcs.com.

Surviving Separation and Looking Forward: Six sessions for newly separated or divorced individuals who are dealing with the feelings of loss, anger, loneliness and who want to move forward. Begins Thursday, May 4, 7:30-9 p.m. 4600 Bathurst St.

Successful Stepparenting: Six sessions for couples living in blended families who want to discuss building solid couple relationships. Begins Thursday, May 4, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Teens and Depression: A lecture by child and adolescent psychiatrist **Amy Cheung** on how to recognize and treat teen depression. Thurday, May 4, 7-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St. Registration required.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell The Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. Tuesday, May 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

## FOR SENIORS

**Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim Program** and **Holy Blossom Lunch 'n' learn Seniors** offers an "Afternoon of Classical Contemporary Music" with **Raisa Orshansky**, tsimbali, **Victor Orshansky**, piano, and **Zelda Fonariov**, violin, Monday, May 8, 1:30 p.m. $2. 416-781-3511

**Darchei Noam Congregation Lunch and Learn** presents "When Love Meets Tradition, What Happens to the Grandchildren?" with **Marcia Gilbert**. Wednesday, May 10, 12-2 p.m. 15 Hove St. 416-638-4783

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, May 7, Casino Rama, Wednesday, May 10. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 4, movie. 905-731-7748

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Spring session of computer courses begins in May. Call ext. 2275 for information.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112

"Inter-generational Family Histories," Wednesday, May 10, 1 p.m. Sign-up required.

Reiki therapy.lecture with **Anne Kay**, Thursday, May 11, 1 p.m.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Lunch 'n' Learn with **Rabbi Stern**, Friday, May 5, 12-1 p.m.

Luncheon with **Rhonda Silver**, Tuesday, May 9. $5. Call ext. 259.

Learning Experience: "Changes are a Necessary Evil" with **Anne Balaban**, Tuesday, May 16, 1-2:30 p.m.

The Koffler Centre presents *Stars of the 21st Century* on May 7 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. For tickets, call ext. 271.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or wwwmilesnadaljcc.ca

**David Ferry** and **Jordan Pettle** perform two radio plays by **Yehuda Amichai**, *Bells and Trains* and *Killing Him*, Wednesday, May 17, 8 p.m. $12 advance, $15 at the door. Call ext. 606.

Sisters of Sheynville, Thursday, May 25, 8:30 p.m. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Call ext. 606.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Kosher Meals on Wheels program needs captains to assigning routes and support the volunteers who are delivering meals. Time commitment is either Monday or Tuesday, 8-10 a.m. Call Circle of Care, 416-373-4099.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27*

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

## BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Joel Harris | Apr 15/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Jonas Marcovitz | Apr 16/06 | 9 Brockington Crescent |
| Lily Segar | Apr 17/06 | 2 Neptune Dr |
| Reuben Frankel | Apr 17/06 | 1 Clark Avenue West |
| Joseph H. Fraidenraich | Apr 18/06 | 3815 Corey Road |
| Susan Lakatos | Apr 18/06 | 535 Sheppard Ave. West |
| Sally Dzialoszynski | Apr 19/06 | 170 Red Maple Road |
| Bessie Marks | Apr 19/06 | 306 Finch Avenue, East |
| Marie Halporn | Apr 19/06 | 2785 Bucklepost Crescent |
| Irving Goldstein | Apr 19/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Mollie Isaacson | Apr 20/06 | 645 Castlefield Avenue |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ARTHUR BERNARD KONVISER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, May 7th, 10:30 a.m.**
**Beth Tzedec Memorial Park**
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**SIMON KOROLNEK** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Stashover Society Section #48
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**HELEN REDLICK** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Stopnitzer Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

## Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kestenbaum, Bella | April 11, 2006 | 145 Codsell Ave. |
| Kalev, Haim | April 13, 2006 | Private |
| Kurtz, Dorothy | April 13, 2006 | 90 Fisherville Rd. |
| Belkin, Yeta Leah | April 13, 2006 | 80 Antibes Dr. |
| Horowitz, Irene | April 14, 2006 | 1101 Steeles Ave. W. |
| Berger, Bella | April 14, 2006 | 15 Breda Court |
| Olfman, Maurice | April 14, 2006 | 2075 Bayview Ave. |
| Hoflezer, Sam | April 15, 2006 | 3560 Bathurst St. |
| Sadlov, John | April 16, 2006 | 136 Bedford Rd. |
| Snitman, Florence | April 17, 2006 | 6200 Bathurst St. |
| Aber, Thelma | April 17, 2006 | 80 Antibes Dr. |
| Hochler, Edith | April 17, 2006 | 7 Lonny Court |
| Dacosta, Goldie | April 18, 2006 | 25 Laurelcrest Ave. |
| Krashinsky, Gail | April 20, 2006 | 12 Tova Place |
| Moss, Alan | April 20, 2006 | 28 Glenmanor Way |
| Singer, Paula | April 20, 2006 | 156 Cactus Ave. |
| Finkelman, Asia | April 20, 2006 | Private |
| Green, Katherine | April 20, 2006 | 7601 Bathurst St. |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**LEYSOR (LARRY) HOCHMAN** ז"ל
beloved husband, father, grandfather & great-grandfather
will take place
**Sunday, May 7th at 10:30 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Clanton Park Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

## Ronald, Goldie ז"ל

Peacefully at her home in Owen Sound after a lengthy battle with cancer and with her family by her side, on Tuesday April 18, 2006. In her 54th year, Goldie Ronald (nee Rabovsky), the loving wife and friend of Bruce Ronald. The loving mother of Kayla and Seth. Loved daughter of (Meyer) Mike Rabovsky and his wife Miriam. Dear niece of Bertha Rabovsky. Goldie was a tireless supporter of the Owen Sound Kiwanis Club, the Hospital Auxiliary, The Georgian Bay Children's Choir and the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue.

**In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Owen Sound Kiwanis Music Festival would be appreciated by the family.**

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**BETTY GOLDSTEIN** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, May 7th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Community Phase I - Section 'D'
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Coast to Coast

# JNF set to honour Manitoba premier

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Rami Kleinmann, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) shaliach for Canada, recalls a Negev Gala here a couple of years ago where he learned of a terror attack in Israel that had killed 19 people.

"I was standing backstage with [Manitoba Premier] Gary Doer," Kleinmann recalled. "I passed on the sad news to him just before he went on stage. What we heard from him that evening was a strong message of commitment to Israel and the Jewish People. In Israel, we value our friends. And we appreciate friends like Gary Doer."

JNF Prairie region president Graham Dixon agrees that Doer, this year's Negev Gala honoree, never hesitates to speak out on behalf of Israel.

Doer was introduced to the JNF Negev Gala campaign team at a kick-off reception on April 25. The gala, scheduled for June 13, is expected to draw more than 1,700 people, Dixon said.

In introducing Doer at the reception, Bob Silver, a gala co-chair, noted that the premier has shown a dedication to all the citizens of Manitoba.

"As a member of the premier's Economic Advisory Council, I have seen first hand Gary Doer's dedication to the betterment of our society and humanity as a whole," said Silver, an owner of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and president of Western Glove Works, a leading Canadian manufacturer of denim.

Doer, a former labour leader, was elected leader of the NDP in 1987 during an election campaign held just after the highly unpopular NDP government was defeated in the legislature. Although the party took a substantial thrashing at the polls then, the new leader worked hard to rebuild the party's credibility over the next few years. With each election, the NDP's seat totals increased until the party was finally elected to government again in September 1999. Now in his third term as premier, Doer is one of the most popular provincial leaders in Canada.

## *'We appreciate friends like Gary Doer'*

In his address to the Negev Gala campaign team, Doer spoke about the Yom Hashoah ceremony earlier in the day at the Holocaust Memorial on the legislature grounds. He recalled that one of his government's first official acts in 1999 was to establish a Holocaust Memorial Day in Manitoba.

He also spoke of his visit to Israel compliments of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and referred to his moving visit to Yad Vashem.

"On that visit, I gained a greater understanding of Israel's geographic liabilities and the threat facing the country," he recalled. "I saw the Golan Heights and was made aware of the danger from Syria and Hezbollah. It makes my blood boil when I hear about our federal government giving tax credits to Canadians who support Hezbollah or when I see the media trying to provide 'balanced' news coverage where Israel is concerned."

Doer was in Israel just before the American-led invasion of Iraq. He remembered asking some Israeli teens if they were worried about the impending conflict.

"They told me they weren't worried about what was going to happen in two weeks time," he said. "They were more concerned about taking a bus on Saturday night to get pizza and being blown up."

He described being the Negev Gala honoree as a "huge honour," adding, "I am humbled by this honour."

Cobie Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto, also addressed the gathering. He commented on the Holocaust memorial ceremony earlier, praising in particular the participation of so many school children.

"Ceremonies like these show the next generation that racism and discrimination are no longer acceptable," he said.

Brosh also cited examples of the JNF's work in Israel, emphasizing the the organization's contribution to the development and well-being of the Jewish State.

This year's gala co-chair with Silver is Israeli businessman Nathan Jacobson, a former Winnipegger.

The entertainment will be provided by The Voices of Israel – five of Israel's leading female vocalists accompanied by five Israeli musicians.

Funds raised from the gala will be directed to development projects in the Negev.


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# Some people find Hamas hard to believe

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

When Hamas called the April 17 terrorist attack in Tel Aviv by Islamic Jihad a justifiable act of "self defence," the group was widely condemned in the West. Praising the attack served only to further isolate Hamas from the West.

Canada, the United States and the European Union had already cut off funds and diplomatic ties to the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority. Hamas' defence of the suicide attack, and its ongoing refusal to prevent rocket firings from Gaza into Israel, made this concerted international reaction to Hamas all the more justified in the eyes of most western observers.

But some journalists and analysts still portray Hamas as a potentially pragmatic organization that's willing to compromise and negotiate with Israel.

In "Bombing deepens Hamas rift with Israel" (*Globe and Mail*, April 18), Orly Halpern interviewed Shaul Mishal, a professor of political science at Tel Aviv University, whom she described as a "Hamas expert."

Mishal said: "Hamas is the most politically schizophrenic situation one could imagine; one must be careful to differentiate now between Hamas the government and Hamas the Islamic movement. They have completely different identities…

"On the one hand, they cannot denounce their official commitment to the military strategy against Israel taken by the Islamic Jihad and the al-Aqsa Brigades. On the other, as government leaders, they have to deal with the problems faced by Palestinian society, by conducting a different, more flexible policy that is ready to negotiate with Israel, and can get financial aid from the European Union, not to mention the U.S."

Mishal added: "[T]he new Israeli government needs to start thinking of Hamas as a government – not only as an enemy, but as a potential partner."

According to most Israeli analysts, however, there is no real distinction between Hamas as a governing authority and as a rigidly ideological Islamic movement. In fact, Hamas spokesmen have recently adopted a uniformly hard-line position. This should leave no doubt that when Hamas claims it will never recognize the "Zionist entity" or prevent attacks on Israel, it's telling the absolute truth.

Nevertheless, there is also a theory that Hamas' uncompromising position is only a reaction to growing international isolation. In "Isolated in its violent corner" (April 22), the *Economist* promoted this view: "In the early days after coming to power, Hamas had seemed to be reaching out. It tried to form a national unity government with other Palestinian parties, and sent out a series of moderate-sounding messages hinting that under the right conditions, it might abandon its stated goal of destroying Israel. But since this elicited no international response, Hamas reacted by turning ever more belligerent."

In "Hamas: The Last Chance for Peace?" (*New York Review of Books*, April 26) Henry Siegman wrote in a similar vein. Despite all evidence to the contrary, he argued that Hamas may be a force for moderation, may even respect the rule of law, and could be a negotiating partner for Israel – as long as Palestinian "rights" are respected, though Siegman never questioned what these "rights" are.

Siegman is among the "progressive" voices that apparently refuse to take Hamas at its word: that it cannot abide Jewish sovereignty on "Islamic soil."

A few in Hamas have reportedly said they might accept a long-term ceasefire, as long as Israel returns to the 1967 borders and accepts "right of return" of millions of refugees. But this, of course, would mean the end of Israel's existence as a Jewish state. Most significantly, Hamas has never indicated that it's prepared to accept the three conditions set out by the Quartet: renounce violence, recognize Israel's right to exist, and accept previous Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements.

In the meantime, Hamas' defiance and belligerence has been growing, with important regional implications.

Most Canadian media outlets did not report about Jordan's arrest late last month of several Hamas members who had smuggled weapons in from Syria, reportedly with Syrian involvement and under the guidance of the Syrian-based Hamas leadership of (former Jordanian) Khaled Meshal. The purpose was apparently to carry out attacks in Jordan and destabilize Hashemite rule there.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*


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**ZAREINU PEOPLE PLAYERS THEATRE: Rabbi Sean Gorman of Beth Tzedec Congregation recently paid a visit to the Zareinu Educational Centre for children with special needs, to meet with the actors starring in a sensory presentation of *Noah's Ark*. Zareinu students wrote, produced, manufactured the sets and acted in the blacklight production. Rabbi Gorman was present as part of the congregation's Clergy On The Move program, part of this year's community-wide Moveathon, which raises funds for the school. The Moveathon will be held June 18 at Earl Bales Park. Seen from left are Levi Sherman, Leba Juroviesky, Alex Warren, Marty Leaf, Rabbi Gorman, Ofek Lalkin (smaller child in front), Emmanuel Nayman and Tuvi Rockove.**

## Correction

In the photo collage "Art and Soul" (*CJN*, April 21), one of the the men in the picture montage should have been identified as Arthur Gottlieb, a resident of Baycrest. The *CJN* regrets the error.

# Canada urged to learn from Israel's high-tech success

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Rob Warren, the director of the University of Manitoba's Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship, said Canada can learn from Israel's success in the high-tech field.

As Israel has done in the high-tech field, Canada needs to develop home-grown venture capital – which is in short supply here – as well as get more government support and forge closer ties between universities and industry, he said.

Warren was the guest speaker at the Winnipeg chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's eighth annual Passover luncheon held at Hotel Fort Garry.

He noted that he was in Israel for the first time last summer and will be returning this month.

"Israel used to be known economically mainly for its oranges and shirts," he said. "But today it is technology that is driving Israel's economy."

That economy, he says, is worth $100 billion (all figures US), more than all of Israel's Arab neighbours put together. Yearly exports, he reported, are about $6.5 billion – with most exports technological products. It was Israelis, Warren pointed out, who invented the cellphone and the first ingestible video camera for doctors looking into patients' gastro-intestinal tract.

"Most Windows systems have been developed in Israeli plants," he said. "The Pentium chip came from Israel, as did the first PC anti-virus software."

The change in Israel's economic focus goes back to the early 1990s. In 1990, agriculture and software each accounted for about $190 million in Israeli exports. Today, agriculture makes up just three per cent of exports, while software exports are in the range of $4 billion a year. Exports have grown by $500 million a year over the past seven years, Warren said.

The change in Israel's economic focus was brought about by an explosive growth of venture capital firms there. In 1990, Israel had one venture capital firm. Today, there are 80. Investment in technology today is 10 times what it was 10 years ago, he said.

He noted that there are currently more than 150 Israeli companies trading on NASDAQ – a figure exceeded only by the United States and Canada – and 38 Israeli companies listed on the European exchange.

The Israeli military is the driving force behind most new technological breakthroughs, Warren said. He also noted that international high-tech companies – including Motorola, Samsung, Sony, IBM, Sysco, Hewlett Packard, GE, British Telecom and Siemens – are either opening plants in Israel or increasingly buying Israeli startup companies.

Israel's high-tech industry has benefited tremendously from the large-scale immigration from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s, he said. Israel has one of the best-educated work forces in the world thanks in part to that immigration, with 140 of every 10,000 Israelis either a scientist or engineer – a figure three times that of Canada and twice that of the United States.

## *Home-grown venture capital needed*

"Twenty-five per cent of Israel's population has a university degree and 12 per cent have advanced degrees," he said. "Only the United States and Holland have higher percentages," Warren said.

And only the United States and Hong Kong have more entrepreneurial startups, he said. "Israel leads the world in new businesses started by people over 55 and by women," he added.

Further supporting Israel's high-tech growth are 19 industrial incubators. The focus today is more and more on biotechnology, Warren said.

Israel's government encourages new business startups through measures such as a 10-year tax holiday for new companies and government-supported training programs for skilled labour.

Warren cautioned that one risk facing Israel's high-tech industry is too much of a reliance on the United States for its exports. He also noted that there is a shortage of experienced managers in Israel.

Brent Schacter, president of the local Hebrew University chapter, said Hebrew U has played an important role in fostering the growth of Israel's high-tech boom.

The funds raised by the luncheon are going toward modernizing the Hebrew U's libraries.


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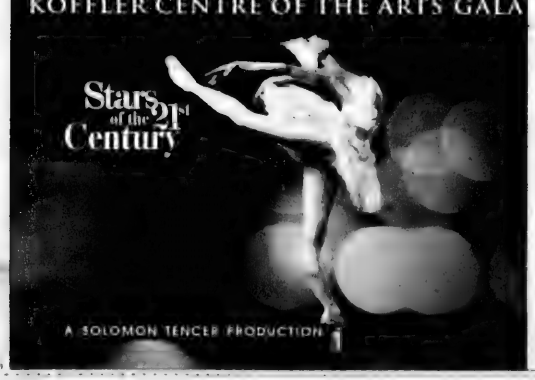


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# 'We did not learn the lesson from the Holocaust'

**Continued from page 3**

Among the speakers were Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, Senator Barack Obama and actor George Clooney.

The Queen's Park rally, organized by Project Equity, an effort of five young Jewish students, came a few days after Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Legislators in Toronto, Ottawa and Victoria donned green ribbons to link the mass murder of Jews in Europe 60 years ago to today's genocide against the people of Darfur.

A project of Canadian Jewish Congress, which has created a committee to lobby for government action on Darfur, the green ribbon campaign is part of an effort to create awareness of the situation in Darfur, said Bernie Farber, CEO of Congress.

Yahia Mohamed, vice-president of the Darfur Association of Canada, pointed to the parallels between the Holocaust suffered by Jews and the genocide now underway in Darfur. In both cases, he said, "people stood by and did nothing… I think we did not learn the lesson from the Holocaust until now."

Canada, he noted, is dedicated to opposing crimes against humanity, and it should now use its influence to create "a coalition of the willing" to intervene militarily in Darfur to protect people from wholesale slaughter.

Mohamed rejected a statement attributed to Islamic terrorist Osama bin Laden that suggested the Darfur conflict is a religious one. "It was a war against marginalization and underdevelopment by the governments of the north," Mohamed said, adding that the victims, like the janjaweed militia, are also Muslims.

* * *

A few days prior to the rally, members of Temple Emanu-El gathered to hear Epstein and Acol Dor, a survivor of an earlier genocide in southern Sudan, describe the conflict in Darfur. Dor later repeated her story at the rally at Queen's Park.

In southern Sudan, as in Darfur, innocent villagers were murdered and tortured by their countrymen at the behest of the central government in Khartoum, she said.

Dor's personal horror story began when Muslim tribesmen, incited against the south's Christian population, roused her family and began abusing her father. A proud and gentle man, her father had his ears cut off in front of his family and then was forced to watch as one of his daughters was gang raped. He was stabbed multiple times until he died, his corpse left to be eaten by scavenging birds. His family was forced to watch helplessly in horror.

* * *

The Jewish community has a particular role to play in putting the Darfur situation on politicians' radar, Farber told *The CJN*.

"The Jewish community is the canary in the mine – the early warning system," he said. "We understand the pain of victimization and genocide, and it's up to us to throw a fence of protection around other communities."

The Washington rally was organized by the Save Darfur Coalition, a collection of 150 faith-based advocacy and humanitarian aid organizations initiated by two Jewish agencies,

The Jewish community was widely represented in Washington as well as at the Queen's Park rally. Many of those in Toronto wore kippot and there were signs indicating the presence of Ve'ahavta, a Jewish humanitarian organization; Canadian Young Judaea; and the Lodzer Congregation.

The rally was addressed by organizer David Berkal, former MP David Kilgour, NDP leader Jack Layton, MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler, representatives of three federal parties, Mohamed Haroun, president of the Darfur Association of Canada, and Elfadil Elsharief, president of the Sudanese Canadian Human Rights Association.

Epstein told the rally that the world community has been paralyzed into inaction during the three years of the Darfur crisis. Efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement have proven fruitless

Associated Press reported Darfur rebels had rejected a peace proposal advanced by the government in Khartoum, which many suspect the government had crafted in order to be rejected – and the UN and the African Union forces have proven unable to stop the human rights abuses.

He suggested three ways Canadians can make a difference:

- the media must cover the story more frequently – at least as much as it did natural disasters like the tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.
- MPs have a moral duty to use their powers to stop the carnage in Africa. "Intervening in Darfur is not a question of right versus left. It is a question of right versus wrong," he said.
- Canadians must not be complacent. "If we are complacent, then we too will be complicit in another genocide."

* * *

In the days before the rally, the congregation at Temple Emanu-El gathered to hear Epstein and other speakers describe the situation in western Sudan.

Epstein said the clique in power in Khartoum had earlier used religion to foment a war against blacks in south Sudan (two million were killed) and are now encouraging ethnic hatred to spur Arab tribesmen to attack the black people of Darfur.

Villagers in Darfur have experienced indiscriminate bombing and killings, their wells have been poisoned and their lands destroyed. Ninety per cent of the area's villages have been wiped out.

Displaced Darfuris are living in camps and are afraid to leave. Women are gang raped, men are murdered if they do try to leave.

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# שיעור בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

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בצד היפה-מאמץ הילד על ידי משפחה של עולים מצרפת, והם מראים לו את היפה והנשגב שבישראליות. האם המאמצת-יעל אבקסיס, עושה תפקיד נפלא, רגיש ורב עוצמה. רק בשבילה שווה ללכת.

בצד המכער, שלא נדע, מראים איך הממסד הדתי מנסה בעודמה לבצע ברית מילה לעולי אתיופיה שכבר עברו מילה, קטע היסטורי מביש ומבאיש.

את הילד מגלמים שני שחקנים בגילאים שונים, ושניהם עושים תפקידים מרגשים.

הסרט עצמו הוא הפקה צרפתית-בלגית, מה שמסביר את הרמה המקצועית הגבוהה.

בהחלט קטע חשוב בחוויה הישראלית. שמחה בסולם קורן.

### The Rocket

רבים מאיתנו הכירו את הוקי הקרח דרך ילדינו שהחליקו על סכיני הגילוח האלה כשהם רדפים אחרי חתיכת הגומי העגולה והשבטים בה במקלות. אבל יד על הלב-להבין את קנדה זה גם להבין את תרבות ההוקי. וכאן מגיע סיפורו האגדי של הנער ממנטריאול, מוריס רישארד, או כפי שנקרא בפי כל-The Rocket. בן למשפחה עניה שעלה לתהילה כנגד כל הסיכויים והפך לשחקן ההוקי החשוב בתולדות קנדה, חוץ אולי מוין גרצקי. לראות את קוויבק כולה עומדת על הרגליים נאה, או עוצרת את נשימתה כשהוא נפצע אנושות- בהחלט חוויה מרשימה. הסרט מעלה בתריפותה את האפליה הקשה ששררה בקנדה בשנות הארבעים והחמישים, ומסביר את הרקע לעימות העמוקה שיש לקוויבקאים כלפי הממסד האנגלופוני. רישאר נתרם להילחם באפליה הזו, וכמעט שילם על כך בקריירה שלו.

אני אישית חוֹוה את ההוקי בעיקר דרך שני בני שגדלו כאן. אך הסרט הזה עזר לי להיכנס לעומק הנשמה של חוויית ההוקי. מה אומר לכם-כמו שהיו עושים בארץ סרט על שייע גלזר של שנות החמישים... כשהיתני בן ארבע עשרה ראיינתי את שייע גלזר לעיתון ילדים, נסעתי לפגוש אותו בתל אביב, ואפילו עכשיו, מקץ ארבעים וחמש שנה אני זוכר את זה כאילו זה היה אתמול. זהו סרט הספורט הטוב ביותר שראיתי מזה שנים. תשע בסולם קורן.

### יום העצמאות

אני רוצה להקדיש מילה חמה לכל בני טורונטו וקנדה שמשרתים עכשיו בצבא בישראל, ברוב המקרים כחיילים בודדים הרחק ממשפחותיהם. וכך כתבה לפני כחצי שנה חסידה דוד, אמא של חייל:

"כל שיחת חוץ מקפיצה אותנו. הדאגה לו, לאחיו...מה עלי לאמר לסרן שלי שרובץ בחולות הנגב כבר שבועות ושן כשעתיים ביממה...בר מצווה היה כשהבאנו אותו לכאן לגולת כבר אז הודיע לי שהוא חוזר איש לא יכריח אותו להישאר..."

שמרו על עצמכם, ילדים, וחזרו בשלום.

Coast to Coast

# CJC distributes green ribbons

**Continued from page 1**

Interim Liberal Leader Bill Graham, Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe and NDP Leader Jack Layton also addressed the event on behalf of their parties.

"I salute those who have produced these green ribbons for us to wear," said Layton, referring to ribbons provided by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) for MPs and provincial legislators to show support for the people of Sudan's Darfur region, where hundreds of thousands of people have been killed or displaced, and where an Arab militia, the Janjaweed, has attacked ethnic black Africans, raped women and pillaged villages. The group is accused of widespread atrocities, with government support.

CJC distributed the ribbons to members of the House of Commons, Quebec's National Assembly and the legislatures of British Columbia and Ontario to wear on Yom Hashoah to draw a connection between the Holocaust and the current Darfur crisis.

The keynote address was given by Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella, who told the story of her own parents, Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives in this country.

"Canada is where they started all over again," Abella said. "None of [the survivors] will ever forget how lucky they were to be able to come to Canada, but neither will they forget why they came. Neither should we."

As their names were called by master of ceremonies Herb Gray, a former deputy prime minister and longtime MP, Holocaust survivors or their representatives were accompanied by representatives of the Canadian government as they laid wreaths at the Eternal Flame.

Hundreds of people, including many who had come from Montreal and Toronto for the ceremony, braved cold temperatures to honour the memories of those who died in the Shoah.

Many joined in reciting the communal *Kaddish* together with Cantor Moshe Kraus, following his recitation of the prayer *K'el Maleh Rachamim*.

Cantor David Aptowitzer sang *Zog Nit Keinmol*, which was followed by the blowing of the shofar by Rabbi Charles Popky and Rabbi Arnold Fine. Cantor Pinchas Levinson led the singing of *Hatikvah*.

The ceremony concluded with the march of the colours by the Ottawa Jewish War Veterans.

The event was sponsored by Beit Halochem Canada, the Asper Foundation, B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), Canadian Jewish Congress, the Israeli Embassy, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, Temple Sinai Congregation, the Wierzbniker Society and Zaglembier Society of Toronto, with the support of the Canadian government and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

**LUNCH WITH FRIENDS: Residents of the recently opened Constantia Retirement Residence in Thornhill enjoying lunch in the facility's elegant dining room. Pictured, foreground from left, are Jack Shatz, Joseph Lachovitsky and Leonard Atkins.**


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Qualifications should include a post secondary degree and several years leadership experience in arts and cultural organizations and/or activities.

Please apply, in confidence, by May 19, 2006 to:

**Judy Wolfe, President**
**Ashkenaz Foundation**
**c/o Human Resources Dept**
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Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
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The Ashkenaz Foundation, producer of the internationally renowned Festival, seeks an individual with an artistic vision, who can best express our mandate to promote and preserve Yiddish and Jewish culture in the Diaspora. We are seeking qualified candidates who have experience creating, producing and curating performances and productions related to our culture. The individual should have a broad understanding of the arts, ranging from music, theatre and literature to film, dance and visual art. The ideal candidate will have an awareness of current trends in New Yiddish and Jewish culture and will have relationships with key artists and presenters around the world, as well as links to relevant Jewish community organizations.

Candidates should submit with their resume a 250-word essay explaining and presenting their vision for the future of the Ashkenaz Festival and ideas they may have for ongoing programming and partnerships in the community.

Please apply, in confidence, by May 19, 2006 to:
**Judy Wolfe, President**
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Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
For information: **www.ashkenazfestival.com**

# 3 generations mark Yom Hashoah

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — As Quebec Lt.-Gov. Lise Thibault looked on, Holocaust survivors and their children and grandchildren rose from their seats and silently pledged to forever remember the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust and "the depths to which humanity can sink."

That promise was delivered by Selena Sporn Garellek, a member of the "second generation," and by survivor Ann Zoltak and Adam Barza, a member of the "third generation," as more than 2,000 people filled the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Congregation on a rainy evening, for the annual community-wide Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration.

Thibault was clearly moved by the hour-long ceremony, telling Shoah survivors in the crowd that nobody in the future "should have to live the suffering you live every day of your life."

She and others underscored the vital importance of transmitting the lessons of the Holocaust from one generation to the next and of recognizing the ultimate "immortality" of the victims whose memories will be cherished forever.

As in the past, students in the hallways read aloud names of victims as people entered the sanctuary and lit yahrzeit candles. The event was also attended once again by a large number of politicians, community leaders and dignitaries, ranging from the German and Russian consuls-general Hartmut Scheer and Igor Golubyovsky, to municipal opposition leader Pierre Bourque, Public Works Minister Michael Fortier and MP Irwin Cotler.

But unlike in previous ceremonies, a new emphasis – 61 years after the end of the war – was placed this year on passing the torch of memory within families. Using the theme of "Generations Remember," three generations of six survivor families lit the Holocaust memorial candles.

Yom Hashoah committee co-chair and survivor Sidney Zoltak called it a duty for the generations to "remember and remind."

Co-chair Sara Weinberg, who as a child resisted asking her survivor parents about the Holocaust for fear of causing them pain, said she eventually came to realize the cathartic and therapeutic value in survivors recounting what they experienced to their families.

Also for the first time, brief personal testimonies of survivors were shown on screens during the candlelightings – three in English, one in French, one in Yiddish and one in Italian.

Audience members gasped at the horrors they heard as Enzo Camerino described how 72 members of his family were murdered, and Ann Kazimirski, choking back tears on screen, said her husband was the only survivor from thousands of Jews in his town.

Israel's consul general in Montreal, Marc Attali, described Israel and the Zionist movement as the ultimate victors over the Nazis' quest to annihilate the Jewish people.

The evening, organized by the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, also included readings about the Shoah; a "recitation of names" by FEDERATION CJA's Danyael Cantor and Rosa Finestone of the David Weismann Institute; musical interludes by the Jewish People's Schools and Peretz Schools Choir and the Shaar Hashomayim Singers and Synagogue Choir; and recitations of *K'El Maleh Rachamim*, psalms and *Kaddish*.

Yom Hashoah was also commemorated at Jewish day schools, at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors and at Montreal City Hall, where B'nai Brith arranged to have students read the names of child Holocaust victims from its steps.

A third "Seder Shoah" was also planned for last Sunday at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, organized by Child Survivors/Hidden Children of the Holocaust and by Montreal Second Generation.

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**SHOAH ART: Maya Ben-David, left, and Arielle Mayer, Grade 8 students at the Toronto Heschel School, display their painting of American paratrooper Marcus Orr looking at Dachau around the time U.S. troops liberated the camp in April 1945. The painting was a project for their Holocaust study unit, which included a Yom Hashoah commemoration with student presentations and a candlelighting ceremony.**

Coast to Coast

# Atlantic communities hold solemn ceremonies

By JOEL JACOBSON
*Atlantic Correspondent*

**HALIFAX** — Candles flickered in the background as Sally Wasserman urged her listeners to "protect the rights of others. If not, our rights could vanish."

The Toronto woman, a hidden child of the Holocaust, was speaking to a full house at a Yom Hashoah ceremony at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax.

Short but feisty, Wasserman's clear voice resonated throughout the hall as she asked people to remember the heroes and the righteous.

**Susan Sandager, director of community relations for Bridges For Peace USA**

"Remember the courage, strength and resilience of the survivors, who went to strange lands with broken spirit and bodies, facing a new language, and became successful," she urged.

"Survivors can be proud of their achievements," she continued. "They came out of hell to create a homeland, to become respected citizens in their adopted countries."

Wasserman also praised the courageous men and women in Europe who took Jews into their homes in the face of threat of death.

"I was lucky to experience humanity in the midst of inhumanity [in Dadrowa, Poland, from where her entire family was sent to the death camps].

"A 62-year-old woman, a devout Catholic, and her 64-year-old husband, risked their lives to save me, an eight-year-old child. They received no money, no reward. They were moral, compassionate people."

Wasserman also spoke in Sydney, N.S., under the auspices of the Atlantic Jewish Council's Holocaust education program, which is funded through a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany

In Sydney, Wasserman decried how 1.5 million of the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust were children.

"Young children were the first to be murdered because they could not contribute to the German economy. One-and-a-half million innocent children," she said, her voice breaking.

"Their only crime? They were Jews. I was one of the lucky children to have survived."

Eight communities in Atlantic Canada presented Holocaust Remembrance Day programs.

Izzy Unger, a Fredericton resident and Holocaust survivor, spoke in his hometown, and Saint John, N.B., survivor Philip Riteman of Halifax addressed a Charlottetown, P.E.I., audience.

Sylvia Thomas read and discussed poetry by her father, Irving Fogwill, editor of the *Labour Herald*, at an event in St. John's, Nfld.

Susan Sandager, director of community relations for Bridges of Peace USA, a Christian group that supports Israel, was brought to the region by the AJC to present a one-woman dramatic re-creation of the life of a Dutch Christian woman, Corrie ten Boom, who hid Jews in her family's home.

Sandager appeared before three Halifax church groups, and one each in Charlottetown and Antigonish, N.S., plus the Holocaust memorial event in Moncton, N.B.

The Albuquerque, N.M. resident – a 50-year-old Christian who has been a member of, worked with, and been honoured by Hadassah – portrayed ten Boom as an 80-year-old woman recounting her efforts in Haarlem in Holland.

Sandager dressed in ten Boom's garb and spoke with a Dutch accent in a performance she has given hundreds of times, including at the Jerusalem Convention Centre.

At the conclusion of the narrative, Sandager, as ten Boom, said, "Much has changed in the 61 years [since the Holocaust]. But one thing hasn't. We must still be vigilant against anti-Semitism. Jews have been persecuted for more than 2,000 years, much of it in the name of Christ. You [addressing her Christian audiences] need to learn of our Christian heritage and [Christians'] persecution of Jews."

Later, Sandager said there was another group to be remembered in addition to the Holocaust's murderers, victims and bystanders.

"That group is those who had the courage to do what Corrie ten Boom, he: father and sister did in hiding up to 800 Jews during a three-year period. Yes, they were in danger, and finally taken away by the Germans [her father and sister died in captivity, and Corrie was freed], but we can't stand by, even today, and watch hate exist.

"As Christians we have a biblical mandate to help the Jews. We have to stand up against those who speak against Israel."

At each Yom Hashoah ceremony, candles to commemorate the six million Jews who were killed were lit by community representatives, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Non-Jews made up much of the audiences at several sites. At a noon-hour event in downtown Halifax, names of victims were read aloud. Similar readings of names were held at each community event.

**ETERNAL FLAMES: Grade 2 students at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School observed Yom Hashoah last week by reading thematic stories, taking part in a candlelighting service and learning how each of them is a blessing that honours the memory of those who died. Pictured from left are Miles Gilbert, Sam Brooks, Nomi Walsh, Cooper Godel, Jamie Sarick-Whiteside, Gavi Swayze, Rafi Kay, teacher Brenda Enchin, Eliana Train (lighting candle), Jedediah Kliger, Max Most Ackerman, Maddie Leranbaum, Hannah Freedman and Nathaniel Kohn.**

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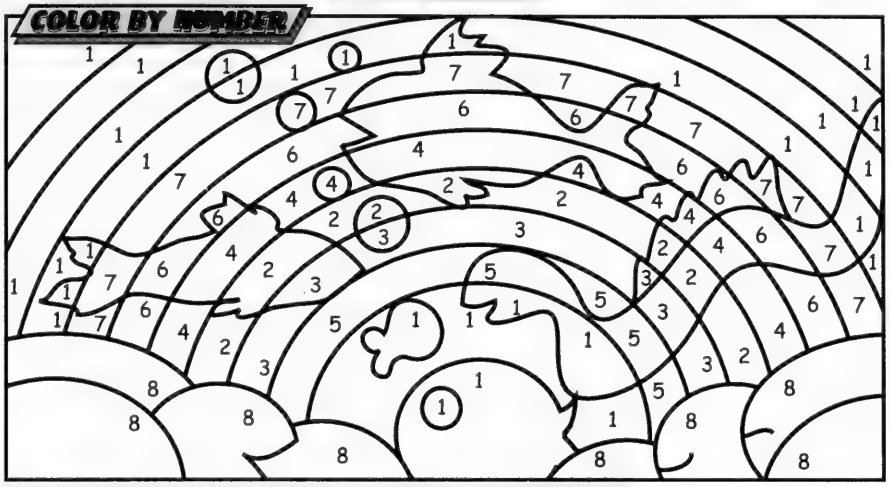
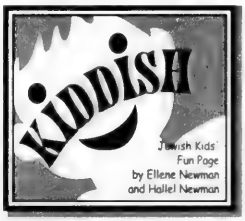


**After the great flood, God promised Noah that He would never destroy the Earth again through water, and gave Noah a sign *(see Genesis 8:12 -17)*. Jewish tradition teaches us that during the life of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, this sign never appeared, because during his lifetime, no sign or promise was needed. It is said that Rabbi Shimon was so great that he shielded the world from punishment. To find out what this sign is, just do the colour by number.**

1. light blue
2. green
3. dark blue
4. yellow
5. purple
6. orange
7. red
8. gray




## Shimon Bar Yochai

"Elazar, wake up. Elazar!" Elazar stirred, and opened his eyes. In the dim candlelight, he could make out the troubled expression on the face of his father, Rabbi Shimon.

"What's wrong, Father?"

"The Romans are after me. I spoke out against the Roman government and there is a warrant out for my arrest - and execution."

Elazar breathed in sharply. "So what are you going to do?"

"I am going into hiding. Immediately. I just wanted to say goodbye before I leave."

Elazar sat up in bed. "I'm coming with you."

"You'll be putting yourself in danger, Elazar. Not just getting arrested. Hunger, cold..."

Elazar stood up.

"I need you, Father. Who else will teach me to be a man? Let's not waste any precious time arguing. We have to go now."

The two of them vanished into the night.

* * * * *

"This cave looks as if it will work short term. It's definitely far enough from the main roads to keep us out of danger. But there's no food here, and I can't find a water source either. Tomorrow, we'll have to keep looking for somewhere to hide."

Rabbi Shimon sighed. "I hope we'll find a place."

"I'm going to look around some more," declared Elazar.

"May God help you. Elazar, I already checked over there. Try looking on the other side of the cave."

"Father, are you sure you checked here already? There's a tree here, and there's some type of fruit on the branches. They're carobs! We can live on those."

Rabbi Shimon regarded the tree, awestruck. "It wasn't here before, my son."

"And look!" continued Elazar. "The ground here is muddy. If we follow the trail there, under the boulder!"

He pushed the rock aside. "There's a spring of water!" he shouted triumphantly.

Rabbi Shimon gazed at the bubbling spring. "I looked here before. There was no tree. There was no water. It's a miracle. God truly is watching over us."

Rabbi Shimon and Elazar hid in the cave for many years, studying Torah and the Kabbalah. Finally, 12 long years later, a radiant figure appeared in the entrance to the cave.

"Who will tell the son of Yochai that the Caesar has died?" he asked, as if speaking to himself. "Who will tell him that the death order is no longer in effect?" Then he vanished.

"That must have been Elijah the Prophet," exclaimed Rabbi Shimon. "Finally, we can go home."

**Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai lived in Israel about 2,000 years ago. He was the author of the great Kabbalistic work known as the Zohar. He passed away on Lag b'Omer, the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, which usually occurs in May. He was buried in the village of Meiron. In Israel, Lag b'Omer has become a day of rejoicing, celebrating the culmination of his illustrious life. Tens of thousands of people flock to Meiron on Lag b'Omer to celebrate and pray around bonfires lit in honour of Rabbi Shimon.**

**In North America many people celebrate Lag b'Omer with hikes, picnics, and barbecues, and sometimes a kumzitz — an evening of song around a bonfire. Archery is also a traditional Lag b'Omer pastime.**

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# U.S. pushes for UN action on Iran

By NATHAN GUTTMAN
*Jerusalem Post*

**NEW YORK** — The United Nations Security Council was to convene this week to begin discussions on a new resolution on Iran's nuclear program, with the possibility of imposing future sanctions if President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's administration does not comply with the demand to stop the program.

The United States and Britain are behind the move to get the Security Council more actively involved in the issue, following Friday's submission of a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that concluded that Iran did not meet the requirements regarding halting its nuclear program and did not co-operate with the inspection teams of the agency.

U.S. President George W. Bush said, following the submission of the report, that the world is united in concern over Iran's nuclear ambitions, yet he stressed the diplomatic channel as the way to deal with this concern. "I think the diplomatic options are just beginning," Bush said.

The United States has already begun work on a draft resolution that was to presented this week to the Security Council. The resolution calls on the international body to demand that Iran live up to its obligations as a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said the resolution will be under Chapter 7 of the UN charter, which paves the way to imposing sanctions against Iran if it does not comply. As a last resort, Chapter 7 also allows the use of military measures as a way to enforce the UN decisions.

"That really puts the ball back in Iran's court, and it's up to them whether they will honour their obligations," Bolton said.

The United States still faces an uphill battle to force Iran to accept the demands of the international community. Out of the five permanent members of the Security Council that hold a veto power, only three – the United States, Britain and France – agree on a Chapter 7 resolution. The other two – China and Russia – prefer moving forward without a binding resolution and are expected to oppose such a resolution when brought to the Security Council. Foreign ministers of the five permanent members and of Germany will meet in New York on May 9 to discuss the issue.

Yevgeny Primakov, former Russian prime minister and foreign minister, said last weekend that he believed a deal on Iranian uranium enrichment on Russian soil might still be salvageable, despite Tehran's refusal to accept it until now.

The IAEA report determines that Iran did not act on the UN Security Council resolution calling for a halt of its nuclear activity within a 30-day time period. Tehran, according to the report, did not co-operate with the IAEA team and refused to provide information regarding the uranium enrichment plans and the use of a centrifuge cascade to enable the enrichment process.

"After more than three years of agency efforts to seek clarity about all aspects of Iran's nuclear program, the existing gaps in knowledge continue to be a matter of concern," the report said. It also stressed that Iran did not provide the full transparency that the international community demanded. The report could not determine whether Iran is still actively enriching uranium.

The 30-day period given by the Security Council to Iran was part of a non-binding resolution. Now that the IAEA inspectors have determined that Iran did nothing during this grace period to comply with the requirements, it is easier for the international community to pursue other ways to coerce Iran into co-operation, including the use of sanctions.

Even after the release of the IAEA report, Iran remained defiant and declared it would co-operate only if its nuclear program would be dealt with by the IAEA exclusively, without involving the Security Council. In a letter to the agency, Iran said that if this condition was met, it would be willing to provide a timetable within three weeks for resuming the talks with the IAEA.

Last weekend Iran seemed to be on course of deepening the conflict with the international community, with a series of confrontational statements.

Ahmadinejad said that the UN cannot make Iran give up their nuclear program and added that "the Iranian nation won't give a damn about such useless resolutions."

*With files from Ksenia Svetlova.*

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For more information about the JCC of Greater Vancouver, go to: www.jccgv.com.

# Foiled attack was funded by Hamas, Shin Bet says

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Senior Hamas leaders in Gaza funded and trained Palestinian terrorists who last week launched a thwarted terror strike on the Karni Crossing into the Gaza Strip, the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) revealed on Sunday.

This was the first time since winning the Palestinian elections in January that Hamas was directly connected to anti-Israel terror activity.

A cell consisting of operatives from the Popular Resistance Committee (PRC) arrived at the Palestinian side of Karni last Wednesday in three cars, one filled with explosives, the Shin Bet said. The plan was to blow a hole in a wall dividing the PA side of the terminal from the Israeli side, which the gunmen would then use to infiltrate the crossing. But the attack was thwarted by PA police who stopped the cars at a roadblock leading into the crossing.

Security officials said that while Hamas has been putting on appearances that it had ceased its terror activity, in reality the group was funding and training PRC cells, which regularly fired Qassam rockets at Israeli targets from northern Gaza. The head of PRC in Gaza, Mumtaz Dugmash, officials said, regularly participated in Hamas meetings during which terror attacks were planned. Hamas, the officials said, not only funded PRC activities but also supplied the group with weaponry and additional professional assistance.

"At no point since agreeing to a *hudna* [ceasefire] with Israel in 2005, has Hamas ceased its terror activity," a Shin Bet official said Sunday. "They provide money and training to PRC operatives who perpetrate the attacks like the attempt on Karni last week."

The Shin Bet said it received intelligence implicating four senior Hamas officials in the attempted attack on Karni last week, including Ahmed Andor, head of Hamas in northern Gaza and Ahmed Jabri, head of the Hamas military wing in Gaza. The same Hamas officials, the Shin Bet said, also directed and gave logistical support to a PRC cell that assassinated Musa Arafat – the late PA president Yasser Arafat's nephew and a security advisor to current PA President Mahmoud Abbas – in September.

Israeli officials noted the irony that while Hamas was warning of a humanitarian disaster inside Gaza and while the Palestinian Authority was lobbying the world to pressure Israel to keep the Karni crossing open, Hamas was involved in an attack aimed at blowing it up. Due to numerous terror warnings, Karni has been repeatedly opened and closed by Israel since the Gaza pullout last year. The closures are often depicted by the PA as collective punishment on Palestinians, who rely on the goods transferred through the crossing.

"Hamas spokespeople who have continuously complained to the western media of a so-called Israeli policy to starve the Palestinian people are now exposed as cynical hypocrites whose real agenda is nihilism. They have no scruples about bringing suffering on their own people to advance their own extreme political agenda," an Israeli official said.

A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office said he was not surprised that Hamas' fingerprints were all over the attempted attack on Karni because Hamas has been using the Poplar Resistance Committees in Gaza as fronts for involvement in terror. "Hamas has never ceased its involvement," the official said. "They just did not take credit."

Israeli officials have said continuously since Hamas won the Palestinian Legislative elections in January that Israel would continue to target Hamas officials if they were found to be involved in terrorist activities.

In related matters, asked to sum up the achievements of his cabinet one month after entering office, embattled Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said he was confident the Hamas cabinet would complete its four-year term in office.

"We're always optimistic," Haniyeh said. "Our optimism stems from our belief and determination that we must continue the process until the liberation of our lands."

Ismail Haniyeh

But his optimism doesn't seem to be shared by a growing number of Palestinians, who believe they are now closer than ever to civil war and bankruptcy.

Boycotted by the international community, Haniyeh's cabinet is still trying to raise funds to pay salaries to some 140,000 PA civil servants. They haven't been paid for March and many say they can't even afford to travel to work.

Hamas has thus far failed to raise enough funds in the Arab and Islamic world. Its leaders have been promised tens of millions of dollars by Iran, Libya and a few Arab countries, but the money has still not been transferred to Ramallah and Gaza. A drive by Hamas to collect donations from Arabs and Muslims has also failed because of the failure of Arab banks to co-operate.

Even if the promised money does arrive, Hamas officials note, it would hardly cover the amount required to pay March's salaries.

In addition to the financial crisis, the Hamas cabinet is also facing a political and diplomatic boycott by most of the world. Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar, who has just wrapped up a tour of a number of Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya, is returning with promises and little cash.

But challenges facing the cabinet at home appear to be worse. Some ministers living in the West Bank are forced to use public transportation to get to work in Ramallah. Unlike their Fatah predecessors, the Hamas ministers are not equipped with Israeli-issued VIP passes enabling them to drive through Israeli checkpoints without delay.

One minister was forced last week to walk through wadis and hills to avoid Israel Defence Forces checkpoints. His journey from Nablus to Ramallah lasted more than seven hours.

In the month it's been in power, the Hamas cabinet has not been able to meet in its entirety around one table. More than half its ministers live in the West Bank, while the rest, including Haniyeh, live in Gaza. Many Palestinians jokingly refer to the cabinet as the "video-conference government," as that is how it conducts its weekly meetings.

Hamas officials are openly accusing PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and his senior aides of conspiring with the US and Israel to bring down the Hamas cabinet. The allegations have resulted in increased tensions between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah, with both sides spreading rumours about the other.

While Fatah leaders have accused Hamas of hypocrisy and incompetence, Hamas spokesmen say they are the victims of a US-led conspiracy to oust their democratically elected government.

Meanwhile, Hamas' decision to establish its own security force in Gaza has worried Abbas. Although Abbas has vetoed the decision by Interior Minister Said Siam, the force, consisting mostly of Hamas militiamen, has already begun operating as another police force. Its members are believed to have shot and seriously wounded a PA police officer who dared to block Haniyeh's motorcade in Gaza this month.

Some Arab and Muslim countries, which have been acting as mediators between Hamas and Fatah, are exerting heavy pressure on both sides to establish a national unity cabinet. Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar are said to have persuaded the two sides to seriously consider this possibility. Fatah and Hamas leaders are scheduled to meet in Gaza in mid-May for crisis talks aimed at forming a joint government. Until then, the two parties are likely to continue hanging their dirty laundry in public through street leaflets and websites.

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## Israel Briefs

***We will block Iran: Olmert***

Israel will never allow Iran to acquire the power to wipe out the Jewish state, Ehud Olmert said. "When we hear a dictator say that he is prepared to wipe out the Jewish people, we don't take it lightly," the Israeli prime minister said in a videolink address to the Anti-Defamation League's leadership conference in Washington. "We are capable, and I promise we'll do everything in our power to make sure that no one, including those who are saying it these days, will ever have the power to carry out these statements." The UN nuclear watchdog says Iran probably has a nuclear weapons program, despite its denials.

***Bomb victim out of coma***

An American student critically injured in the April 17 Tel Aviv bombing emerged from a coma after nine days. A spokesperson for Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv said Daniel Wultz is likely to recover. *Associated Press* reported. Though Wultz isn't yet able to speak, the hospital said he is conscious and can communicate with his eyes. Wultz, 16, a student at David Posnack Hebrew Day School in Weston, Fla., was in Israel visiting relatives for Passover.

***Israelis undeterred in Sinai***

Hundreds of Israeli tourists remained in the Sinai despite last week's terror attacks there. According to Foreign Ministry figures, just a few dozen of some 1,700 Israelis vacationing at Red Sea resorts returned home after last Monday's triple bombing in Dahab, which killed 24 people and was followed by two explosions Wednesday that caused no deaths. An estimated 17,000 Israelis visited Sinai over the recent Passover holiday. Three Israelis were wounded in the Dahab bombings.

***Holocaust day attack foiled***

Israeli security forces foiled a Palestinian terrorist attack planned for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Troops captured three would-be suicide bombers near the West Bank city of Nablus as they tried to circumvent military checkpoints. The detainees, from Fatah, said under interrogation that they were headed to an attack on Israel.

***Zarqawi threatens Israel***

The leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq threatened a holy war on Israel. Appearing unmasked for the first time in a video statement released this week, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi decried a supposed "Zionist and Crusader" plot against the Muslim world. "Holy Jerusalem will be liberated only through jihad," he said. "To the U.S. administration, to Bush the commander of the Crusader assault, to his Jewish personnel, to the Crusaders and to the traitorous Muslims, we say: They will not enjoy one moment of quiet as long as there is blood in our veins."

***Spy satellite launched***

Israel launched a new satellite that will heighten its ability to monitor Iran. The Eros-B was launched last week from a Russian missile base in Siberia and was expected to be in working orbit by last weekend. It's designed to give the Israeli military an extra eye on the Middle East, especially arch-foe Iran. The Eros-B offers an all-weather camera with enhanced resolution that can pick up items on the ground as small as two feet in diameter. Israeli efforts to monitor Iran suffered a setback last year when a rocket taking the Ofek-6 spy satellite into orbit crashed on takeoff.

***Shoah survivors in poverty***

More than 25 per cent of Holocaust survivors in Israel live below the poverty line, a lobby group says. According to figures released last week by the Holocaust Survivors' Welfare Fund, some 80,000 of 280,000 survivors get by on a few hundred dollars a month, with limited access to health care. Israel's Finance Ministry said it allocates $330 million (US) for survivors, who generally get more in state benefits than other senior citizens. Part of the problem is that many survivors are recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union and don't get reparation payments from abroad like their counterparts from western Europe.

- *JTA*

# Spiegel, head of German Jewish council, dies

*JTA*

Paul Spiegel

**BERLIN** — The leader of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Paul Spiegel, died Sunday.

Spiegel, who was 68, had been hospitalized in Dusseldorf with cancer. As chair of the council since January 2000, Spiegel represented one of Europe's largest Jewish populations, numbering more than 100,000 members.

Born in Warendorf, Germany, in 1937, Spiegel was hidden from the Nazis by Belgian Catholic farmers. In 1945, he returned to his home in Germany and said he decided to stay because of the actions of some of his neighbours, who had helped a local synagogue by concealing texts from the Nazis.

Spiegel signed an agreement with then-chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in 2003 that gave the Jewish community equal legal standing with the country's main churches and annual government support of three million euros, or $3.8 million (US).

In a statement, German Chancellor Angela Merkel remembered Spiegel as "an impressive personality who campaigned with great passion and all his energy for a good future for the Jewish community in Germany."

August 15, 2006 be a part of history

In preparation for this summer's Canadian Nefesh B'Nefesh Aliyah Flight (Aug. 15th) NBN will be hosting several Pre-Aliyah events in Toronto in the month of May.

**Shabbat, May 12-13th**
Special Shabbat program in Toronto
Please see website for details.

**One-on-One Meetings:***
Employment/Pre-Aliyah Counseling
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LOCATIONS & TIMES

**Sunday, May 14th**
**10:00am-12:00pm & 4:30-6:00pm**
At the BAYT - 613 Clark Avenue West

**Mon, May 15th & Tues, May 16th**
**9:00-11:00am & 3:00-5:00pm**
At the Lipa Green Building

* By appointment only. Please visit our website to schedule an appointment

**Sunday, May 14th**
**Nefesh B'Nefesh will be presenting at the IMP Israel Property Expo**
BAYT 10:00am-6:00pm
613 Clark Avenue West

**NBN presentation schedule at Expo:**
**12:00pm** Retirement as a viable option in Israel
**1:30pm** Community options. finding the right community
**3:30pm** Retirement as a viable option in Israel

**Monday, May 15th**
**"Lunch with NBN" 12:00-2:00pm***
Location: Jerusalem 1 Restaurant
Join the staff of Nefesh B'Nefesh for an informal lunch and conversation
*pre-register

**Cafe Oleh: "Meat & Move" 7:00pm**
An informal BBQ for 18-30 year olds to meet other future Olim and get tips and advice on Aryah. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Michal Kaye at (416) 638-8824

**Tuesday, May 16th**
**"Lunch with NBN" 12:00-2:00pm***
Location: The Lipa Green Building
Join the staff of Nefesh B'Nefesh for an informal lunch and conversation. *pre-register

**NBN Pre-Aliyah Seminar**
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For more information or to register for an event, please visit:
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# Proud of Canadian grocery stores

By LISA WEINBERG

Patients frequently come to see me after returning from a trip to the United States where they visited a grocery store and returned home raving about new groceries they bought that are low fat, low cal, low carb, etc. This often makes many of us proud Canadians feel that our grocery selection is substandard and maybe even less healthy than that of our neighbors to the south.

Well, I have to admit that I have not necessarily had the same experience. While I do vacation in some different parts of the United States each year, I have been a loyal shopper at one large, healthy grocery store chain there.

But on a vacation in Florida this winter with my husband and our children, age five and seven, I did go to a regular grocery store to pick up a few things to keep in the hotel, and I was shocked.

First, the produce section in this large store was a quarter the size of the one in any grocery store I shop at in Toronto – and this in a state where they grow fresh produce all year long.

Next, I visited the cookie and cracker aisle, where I was looking to buy one package of each. I was searching for cookies and crackers that met my regular criteria when shopping at home – no trans fat, a limited amount of saturated fat, and preferable no MSG or colouring. I found only *one* type of cracker that fit this criteria and *no* cookies.

Every cracker or cookie I picked up contained trans fat, and many also had high fructose corn syrup, another artery clogging ingredient found much less frequently in Canada (although always in pop). I even spotted high fructose corn syrup on the mini-packets of jam in restaurants.

I did, however, find one item that we do not usually have in Canada, although I wish we did, and that is organic, lactose-free milk, which I buy for my husband who is lactose intolerant. This, in my opinion, is long overdue on our shelves in an organic version.

Overall, though, if you are under the impression that our food selection is inferior to that in the United States, I disagree. I think our groceries –while many still contain a myriad of ingredients and chemicals that I am opposed to – are generally far cleaner and healthier than those in the United States.

And while I did go back to shop in my healthy grocery store for the remainder of the trip and happily chose from among a great selection of healthy, delicious foods, and I enjoyed the warm weather and scenery, I returned home more proud than ever to be Canadian.

*Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to* The CJN.

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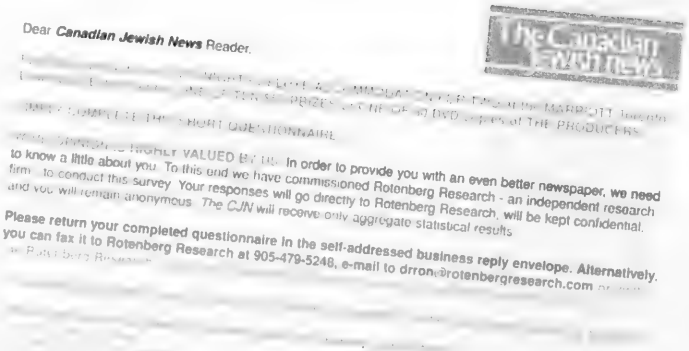
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Please return your completed questionnaire in the self-addressed business reply envelope. Alternatively,
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Watch for our survey questionnaire in next week's issue.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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| **Fee:** | $10.00 for CCFC members<br>$15.00 for non-members<br>(fee includes lectures, hand-outs, lunch and refreshments) |
| **Contact:** | Sheila Debly |
| **Telephone:** | 416-920-5035 or<br>1-800-387-1479 ext. 219 |
| **E-mail:** | sdebly@ccfc.ca |
| **Website:** | www.ccfc.ca |

# Diverse themes animate Toronto Jewish Film Festival

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Members of a Vietnamese refugee family struggle to accustom themselves to Israel. An iconic Israeli personality is profiled. A woman in Israel finds her long lost father in Siberia. A death camp in Poland is excavated. A Jewish lawyer defends a vicious neo-Nazi skinhead.

These are the themes of five of the movies scheduled to be screened at the 14th annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which runs from May 6 to 14. For tickets and info call 416-324-9121 or visit www. tiff.com

A female survivor recounts the horrors of the camps in Guillaume Moscovitz's *Belzec*.

In 1979, Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, a survivor of Soviet gulags who had lost part of his family in the Holocaust, admitted a small number of Vietnamese boat people to the Jewish state. It was a humane gesture designed to win public relations points for Israel in the world arena and to reaffirm Israel's sensitivity to the suffering of the less fortunate.

In *The Journey of Vaan Nguyen*, (May 9, noon, Al Green Theatre) by Duki Dror, the focus is on a Vietnamese family in Jaffa that still grapples with the feelings of displacement and a lack of acceptance.

Hoiami Nguyen, a gaunt restaurant worker, and his comely twentysomething daughter, Vaan, embark on a sentimental journey to their homeland. Having decided to return to Vietnam, Hoiami wants to reclaim ancestral land.

Though fairly poor, the Nguyens are much better off than they probably would have been in Vietnam. Yet they feel the pull of the motherland.

Hoiami and his wife speak barely passable Hebrew, but their daughters are fairly integrated. They speak fluent, idiomatic Hebrew, just like any Sabra, and one of them, Viet, has been inducted into the Israeli army.

When Vaan and her dad go back to the old country and explain that they have come from "the land of the Jews," they discover that their land has been purchased by a farmer, who has no intention of giving it up. Meanwhile, Vaan realizes that she feels more at home in Israel than in Vietnam.

*The Journey of Vaan Nguyen*, which turns on dislocation and the promise of hope, is a fine film.

* * *

*Abe Nathan: As the Sun Sets* (May 9, 1 p.m., Bloor Cinema) profiles one of Israel's best known peaceniks.

Born in Iran and raised in Bombay, India, Nathan was a pilot in the Israeli Air Force during the War of Independence. Then, as the proprietor of the California restaurant in Tel Aviv, he was a high-profile playboy.

When the war in Biafra raged, he dispatched food aid to its starving population. On Feb. 28, 1966, he made headlines by flying a plane to Port Said, Egypt, on a peace mission. Returning to Israel without having been granted a meeting with Egypt's president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Nathan was summarily arrested and promptly released.

On May 19, 1973, less than four months before the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, he founded the Voice of Peace radio station, which broadcast from a dilapidated ship off Israel's coast and was immortalized in John Lennon's song *Give Peace A Chance*. Its last broadcast was on Oct. 10, 1993, when the Oslo peace process was in full flight.

*Abe Nathan*, ably directed by Eytan Harris, focuses on these milestones in his career, but also presents the man as he appears today.

Having succumbed to a stroke in 1996, Nathan is but a pale shadow of himself, barely able to utter a word or show flashes of emotion. In the opening scenes, when he is filmed in a wheelchair on his way to a seniors' home, he is uncharacteristically quiet and remote. Only when he visits India does a smile crease his face.

As the film unreels, Nathan receives his daughter, Sharona, whom he has not seen in about a year. The long absence makes him cry, but Sharona says that he was not much of an affectionate father. Nor did Nathan keep in touch with his parents after he became a celebrity.

This revealing, full-bodied documentary shows Nathan at his height and at his nadir.

* * *

*Melting Siberia*, (May 9, 7 p.m., Bloor Cinema) by Ido Haar, is a tearjerker set in Tel Aviv and Novosibirsk, a city deep in Russia's Siberian wilderness, or, as Haar puts it, "at the end of the world."

Haar, having decided to contact his grandfather Tuvia Berkovich in Novosibirsk, tracks down his telephone number. A Red Army veteran who was briefly married to Haar's grandmother, Riva, Berkovich abandoned her when she was pregnant and broke off all contact with her and her daughter, Marina, Haar's mother, some 30 years ago.

Buoyed by the prospect of connecting with the father she has never laid eyes on, Marina phones her half-sister, Ludmilla, and learns that Berkovich and his second wife, Maria, are alive and well. She converses with Berkovich and the conversation is emotional.

Marina, though still incensed by her father's decision to leave her mother high and dry and remarry, starts a correspondence with Ludmilla. This leads to Marina's decision to visit Novosibirsk, a trip sanctioned by Riva. Marina's encounter with Berkovich and his family is a sight to behold.

*Melting Siberia* is a film of considerable poignancy and depth.

* * *

*Belzec*, (May 10, 5 p.m., Bloor Cinema) directed by Guillaume Moscovitz, recounts the horrific story of a Nazi death camp in Poland. Although Belzec was in operation for less than a year, in 1942, it consumed the lives of 600,000 people, mostly Jews.

Belzec was razed by the Nazis to cover up their crimes, but evidence concerning its pivotal role in Hitler's plot to exterminate European Jewry continues to turn up. Polish archeologists have excavated the site and found 31 mass graves. Efforts are now underway to build a memorial to the victims.

The film derives its power from testimonies delivered by both Jews and Poles. "No one came out alive," says an old Polish man, recalling the columns of smoke and the stench from the camp. In fact, a handful of Jews escaped from Belzec. One Jewish survivor, who subsequently lived in Toronto, is quoted as saying that brutal Ukrainian guards forced women and children at bayonet-point into the gas chambers. There was terrible screaming for 15 minutes, then deafening silence. *Belzec* does not leave a viewer unmoved.

* * *

In David Gow's *Steel Toes*, (may 10, 9:30 p.m., Bloor Cinema) a Canadian production, a liberal Jewish legal aid lawyer, David Dunkelman (David Strathairn), is called upon to defend Michael Downey (Andrew Walker), a hateful, spiteful neo-Nazi skinhead accused of murdering an Indian immigrant. Downey grates on Dunkelman's nerves and sensibilities, but he agrees to act as his counsel. The performances are first-rate, but the film, its intense subject matter notwithstanding, generally fails to engage a viewer.

*More Festival coverage on page 42*


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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## DOCUMENTARY FILM BY TORONTONIAN WINS UNITED NATIONS AWARD

*The Making of a Martyr*, a film by ex-Torontonian **Brooke Goldstein** that focuses on the tragic phenomenon of Palestinian children suicide bombers, won the Best Film Audience Choice Award at the United Nations Documentary Film Festival in April.

"It was an honour to participate in the second annual UN Film Festival, and to be in the company of other socially relevant and important films," said Goldstein, a former Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto student and now a human rights lawyer when she isn't making films.

"The fact that the audience bestowed an award upon our film shows that they are equally troubled by this phenomenon. I hope that public awareness of this tragedy continues to spread and that the film will inspire fruitful public debate and pressure on political authorities to help bring about the cessation of the ongoing and openly practised incitement and recruitment of innocent Palestinian children to kill themselves as human bombs."

We wish Goldstein much continued success in her law and film careers. The festival website is www.mcainy.org/unfilm.

* * *

**Yom Yerushalayim Concert:** Israeli singer **Shuly Nathan**, **Aaron Bensoussan**, the **Dafina Band**, Israeli singer **Mickey Lewin** and the **Ultimate Sound Band** perform a concert in honour of Yom Yerushalayim, under the auspices of the Israeli Consulate in Toronto. $72, $40, $20. Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Congregation, 100 Elder St., North York. May 22, 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at Aleph-Bet Judaica or Matana Judaica, or by calling 416-633-3838.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• **Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi**, founder and spiritual leader of Jewish Renewal, is the focus of an upcoming instalment of the TV series *The Heretics*, presented by the Vision TV show 360 Vision, focusing on persons whose interpretation of their faith inspires action that often places them at odds with those in power. The program airs on Thursday, May 4, 10 p.m. and Monday, May 8, 10 p.m.

• *Freshly Squeezed*, the latest one-man show by legendary standup comic **Jackie Mason**, features his characteristic tart mix of pungent political satire and insightful observations on the foibles of modern life. $39.50 to $79.50. Roy Thomson Hall. Saturday, May 6, 8 p.m. 416-872-4255, www.roythomson.com

• The Koffler Centre presents dance stars in *Stars of the 21st Century*, a gala performance featuring performers from leading international ballet companies. $65 to $165. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. Sunday, May 7, 5:30 p.m. 416-872-1111, www.ticketmaster.ca

• *Raquy and the Cavemen*, a New York band known for its Arabic-Jewish fusion music, perform with guests **David Buchbinder**, **John Johnson**, **Levon Ichkhanian** and **Roula Said**. Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W. $12 in advance. Wednesday, May 10, 8:30 p.m. 416-588-0307, www.lula.ca

•The Winchevsky Centre presents *Wal-Mart, the High Cost of Low Price*, a feature documentary that exposes a long list of injustices blamed on the retail giant. Screening $6, includes refreshments and post-film discussion led by a union activist. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Thursday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

* * *

**At the Galleries:** *Gotta Dance, The Exotic Language of the Body* is a live dance performance in celebration of the opening of **Beverley Abramson**'s photography exhibition. Included is recent work on Brazil's pre-Carnaval splendour. Opening reception, May 4, 6 to 9 p.m. Blue Dot Gallery, Distillery District, 55 Mill St., Building 45, Suite 101. Runs May 2 to 22. 416-487-1500, www.thebluedotgallery.com

• The Drabinsky Gallery hosts the first Canadian exhibition of the photographs of **Michal Ronnen Safdie** as part of the Contact Festival of Photography. Safdie's "Anthropomorphic Tree" series features cropped and close-up images of trees that seem to convey human gestures; her Charles River ice images show water in solid and geometrical formation, and in tracery. According to *The New Yorker*, the "careful composition and weightless character" of Safdie's images make them "the visual equivalent of light verse" that "cheer the viewer as effectively as they must the artist." 122 Scollard St. Opens May 6, with the artist (wife of architect **Moshe Safdie**) in attendance. Until May 29.

**Beverley Abramson's exhibition *Gotta Dance***

• Thornhill Visual Artists' 10th annual studio tour and sale provides an opportunity to view and purchase works by 14 fine artists in locations throughout Thornhill over the coming Mother's Day weekend. The artists are **Annette Blady**, **Jeremy Bortz**, **Sandra Crozier**, **Heather Cullity**, **Ruth Devor**, **Rick Gee**, **Ronit Kushnir**, **Ita Pechenick**, **Iska Preter**, **Margaret Roseman**, **Esther Silver**, **Sveta Shvedenkova**, **Maxine Tyndall** and **Lezlie Winemaker**. Runs Friday, May 12 to Sunday, May 14. Free admission at all sites. Details at www.thornhillva.com.


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Arts & Travel

# Show about a troubled marriage dripping with comedy

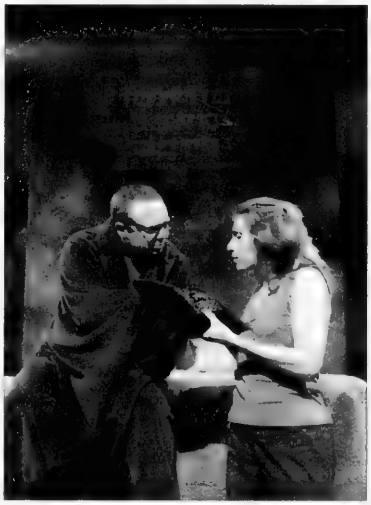
By DAVID SILVERBERG
*Special to The CJN*

A broken relationship has never been so fun to watch.

In *Care*, running at the Tarragon Theatre until May 28, a Jewish marriage faces all the hurdles that look easy to jump but are much harder to get past. Along the way, humour salts the fear and loneliness of trying to live another heavy day in wedlock.

Ellie (Diane Flacks) is crippled with the kind of tension familiar to new mothers: she's paranoid her one-year-old son isn't sleeping well; she doesn't feel sexy enough to make love to her husband; and she feels alone as a stay-at-home mom. To add to her anxiety, her cancer-stricken father has just asked her to kill him.

A different kind of pain afflicts Steve (Richard Greenblatt). His super-charged libido frustrates his indifferent wife, and a female client at work introduces to him the idea of an affair. He spends more time away from his newborn than he would prefer, which envelops him in a fog of guilt.



**Richard Greenblatt and Diane Flacks star in *Care*, a play about a Jewish marriage that "faces all the hurdles that look easy to jump but are much harder to get past."**

**[Cylla von Tiedemann photo]**

The common thread weaving through the play is a single question: how do you love someone when your priorities pull you elsewhere? Ellie tells Steve she needs to care for her son and father first. And Steve admits his big contract at work supersedes his parenting duties. The couple endures the frustration of miscommunication and awkward conversation, while still hoping they can overcome every obstacle thrown in their path.

Written by Flacks and Greenblatt, the play has the tone of experience, as if the two performers had actually faced this problem together. In fact, they worked together in the Tarragon show *Sibs*, so they're familiar with each other and convey that chemistry on the stage. The dialogue crackles with intensity during arguments, but softens delicately when intimate moments slip between conflicts. Flacks and Greenblatt are also adept physical actors, even blending interpretive dance into a trippy dream sequence.

Surprisingly, *Care* is peppered with humour you wouldn't expect from a drama fraught with tension. The two actors play other roles – some better than others – that spice the play with much-needed laughs. As Ellie's father, Greenblatt becomes a cantankerous old man who is so pessimistic he wants to pass on his tallit and yarmulke to his grandson, even though he's still alive. He pines for bagels with cream cheese and lox as if this final meal would satisfy him before death.

Flacks also dives into other skins quite adeptly, playing a lesbian personal trainer, a teenage volunteer, a blabbering yente, a seducing temptress, a compassionate nurse and God. As comedic breaks, these characters work wonders. But they also draw attention away from the conflict between Ellie and Steve, which makes the play feel more watered down than it should.

Packed into *Care*, though, are enough Jewish references to last Tarragon a year. The most engrossing discussion centres on how the couple plans to raise their child – with a bar mitzvah or without? Believing in God or believing in nothing? It's a familiar discussion to anyone who's argued their beliefs against another, and some lines will ring eerily true. Flacks is especially convincing during this scene, making certain to look exasperated at every contrary statement her husband utters.

The play's direction, under the eye of Eda Holmes, moves the actors around the stage enough to keep the audience guessing. Inventive uses of a simple bed prop and a projection screen allow scenes to flow into each other seamlessly. The music could have been more Jewish.

*Care*'s main themes are not fodder for humour, but somehow the play is dripping with the kind of comedy that can only be described as Woody Allen meets John Irving. The characters are fleshed out so humanely it's hard not to care about them. If only to see how our lives mirror the daily routines of Ellie and Steve, Care is worth the price of admission.

*Care* runs until May 28 at the Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgeman Ave. Tickets range from $15 to $28, with a pay-what-you-can show on Sunday. For tickets, call 416-531-1827.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# Festival features Jewish films from around the world

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

This year's edition of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which runs from May 6 to 14, yet again offers viewers an eclectic selection of documentaries and feature films.

The films reviewed here range from a glimpse of the ever-changing kibbutz to an examination of the deportation of Dutch Jews during the Holocaust. For tickets and info call 416-324-9121 or visit www.tiff.com

Doug Block's documentary, *51 Birch Street*, (May 7, 9:30 p.m., Bloor Cinema) a retrospective look at his parents' 54-year marriage, unfolds in intriguing fashion. Mike and Minna Block were, as their son intones, "an inseparable unit." But three months after Minna's sudden death, Mike re-established contact with Kitty, his former secretary, and married her in Florida. This prompted Block and his sisters to ask themselves painful questions about the nature of his parents' relationship.

For the filmmaker, the quest to shed light on that sensitive issue was a difficult one, since he and his father, a rather emotionally remote man, had never been close. But because he and his siblings considered their father's second marriage indecently hasty, and thus insulting to the memory of their beloved mother, he proceeded with his investigation.

As Block moves forward, he is shocked by video clips of Mike kissing his new bride passionately.

"We just sort of blend," Kitty coos. "It's sex," he says wolfishly. Disturbed by these disclosures, Block remembers that Kitty was a guest at his bar mitzvah in 1966, and he wonders whether she and his father were in fact lovers.

Delving deeper into the evolving mystery, Block watches a video in which Minna admits that she was unhappy in her marriage. Going one step further, he reads Minna's revealing and heretofore secret diaries, replete with revelations about an affair she had with her therapist. Finally, he discusses the matter with his father, who clinically describes his marriage with Minna as "a functioning association."

By turns bland and explosive, Block's unusual film is a bracing demonstration of the uncanny ability of some people to lead double lives.

**Lena Lauzemis in a scene from Jutta Bruckner's *Hitler Cantata***

* * *

Racheli Schwartz's *Kibbutz* (May 7, 1 p.m., Bloor Cinema, with *The Children's House*) is a portrait of what is probably Israel's most inimitable and enduring institution.

Like many kibbutzim, Hulata, founded in 1939, was privatized in the name of economic efficiency. But privatization has spiritually gutted Hulata and driven its inhabitants inward.

"What you had was very special," the kibbutz's financial advisor says with a touch of awe. He adds in a note of finality: "It's over."

Kibbutzniks now pay for all services and meals in what was the communal dining hall. "The spirit of the times has changed," a man observes sadly. As members have withdrawn into themselves, they have demanded privacy and their own little corner. "Now it's every man for himself," laments a kibbutznik who toils in the laundry room.

These sombre developments are juxtaposed against nostalgic file footage showing the happy faces of kibbutzniks working fields in the early 1960s and of pioneer members dancing merrily around a stockade.

"Once a kibbutz was a big family," a young man muses. "No more!" Today, kibbutzniks are money mad. "We have lost our future," another one adds.

Some can't adjust to the bitter realities. A man whose job in the citrus orchard was terminated commits suicide in a grand gesture of utter despair. *Kibbutz* charts these developments dispassionately.

* * *

*Something Sweet*, (May 8, 9:30 p.m., Bloor Cinema) an Israeli confection by Dan Turgeman, revolves around a love triangle between Tamar, a Moroccan Jewish pastry chef and caterer, her younger sister, Maya, and Alon, a high-tech entrepreneur based in London, England.

Maya, a sweet young thing, and her considerably older fiance, Alon, intend to get married in the summer. But all bets are off once they arrive in Israel to attend a wedding. After a flour fight in a bakery, Alon and Tamar find themselves immensely attracted to each other. Meanwhile, a young-and-upcoming writer falls for Maya.

Sparks fly, tempers flare and romance blooms in this frothy film.

* * *

The title of *A Synagogue on Broome Street: The Greek Jews of the Lower East Side*, (May 10, 6 p.m., Al Green Theatre, with *Cuba: Beyond the Pearl of the Antilles*) by Ed Askinazi, refers to the one and only Romaniot shul in the Western hemisphere.

Romaniot Jews settled in Greece in the pre-Christian era, were citizens of the Byzantine Empire and spoke Greek Judeo, a mixture of Greek, Hebrew and Turkish. Prior to World War I, these Hellenized Jews came to the United States, settling in the crowded tenements of Manhattan.

In the film, Askinazi and his father, Calvin, visit the Broome Street synagogue and chat with old friends and acquaintances to relive fond memories. The Romaniot Jews were close-knit, but drifted apart in the wake of World War II, their neighbourhood taken over by Chinese immigrants. As a result, the shul, which has not had a rabbi for 35 years, is in danger of closing.

Nevertheless, the Romaniots preserve their unique Diaspora culture and meet at regular reunions known as "pashas." This relatively brief documentary pays homage to them.

* * *

Willy Lindwer, in *Goodbye Holland*, (May 8, 1 p.m., Bloor Cinema) demolishes, once and for all, the cherished myth that the Dutch behaved honourably under Nazi occupation.

True, some Dutch people risked their lives to help Jews, including Lindwer's parents. But all too often, the Dutch were indifferent to their fate. Indeed, 80 per cent of Holland's 100,000 Jews were murdered by the Nazis, the highest rate in western Europe.

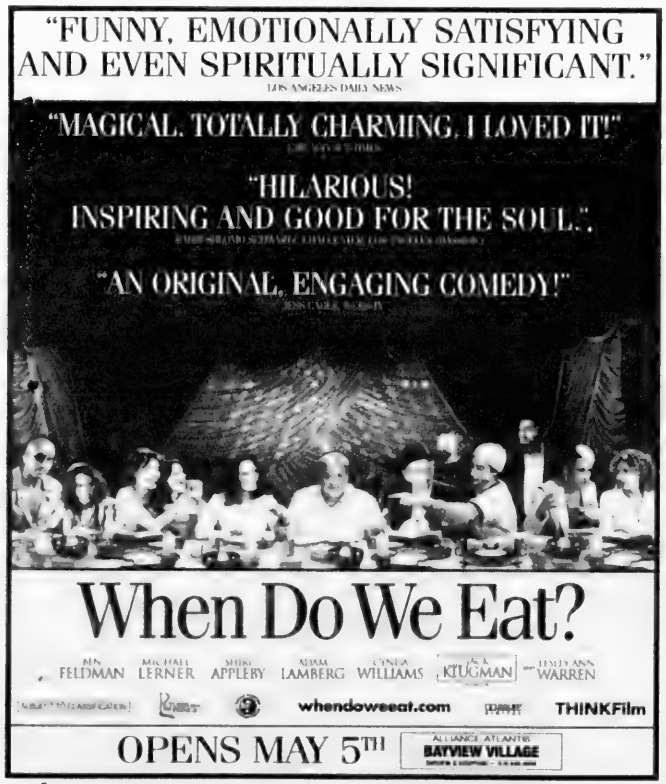
In this hard-hitting movie, Lindwer claims that anti-Semitism was deeply rooted in Holland and that the Dutch regarded Jews as a separate group.

"Dutch society was not really willing to save us," claims the Jewish mayor of a major town. "The system generated a catastrophe."

According to Lindwer, the Dutch bureaucracy was at the disposal of the German occupiers, and the Nazis acted accordingly.

* * *

*Hitler Cantata*, (May 7, 8:30 p.m., Al Green Theatre) a German picture written and directed by Jutta Bruckner and set in the late 1930s, pits an anti-Nazi composer against his pro-Nazi assistant, a woman of Aryan appearance who attempts to seduce him as he struggles to write a symphony for Hitler's 50th birthday. The film is fragmentary, formless and ultimately aimless.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# Wartime novel unfinished because author died in Auschwitz

***Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky, Knopf Canada (hardcover), High Bridge Audio (audio book).**

**By JOSEPH SERGE**
*Arts Editor*

Irene Nemirovsky was the daughter of a wealthy Jewish banker who fled Russia in 1918 after the Revolution and immigrated with her family to France.

She established herself as a popular writer, and when she escaped from Paris to the countryside with her husband and two daughters in 1941 during the Nazi invasion, she immersed herself in writing what she planned would be a five-part novel about the lives of different families caught up in the chaos of wartime France.

She only wrote two parts of what would become *Suite Francaise* before she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz in 1942 where she quickly succumbed to typhus.

Her two daughters went into hiding and took the manuscript with them, treasuring it all these years. It was only published in France a couple of years ago where it became a bestseller, and is now available here in hardback and as an audio book.

The two parts are "Storm In June," which tells of the panic that struck French residents upon the German invasion, and "Dolce," a portrait of Nazi occupation in the sleepy, idyllic village of Bussy.

It is telling from Nemirovsky's notes that as she was writing, history in the making, she didn't know how it would finish.

The titles of the three unwritten parts are "Captivity;" "Battles?"; "Peace?" The question marks for the final two installments tell of her uncertainty of the book's, and her own, outcome.

"Storm in June" opens as the Germans approach Paris and shelling is heard in the distance. Nemirovsky's excellence at descriptive narrative shines from the outset:

"The sun came up, fiery red, in a cloudless sky. A shell was fired, now so close to Paris that from the top of every monument birds rose into the sky. Great black birds, rarely seen at other times, stretched out their pink-tinged wings. Beautiful fat pigeons cooed; swallows wheeled; sparrows hopped peacefully in the deserted streets."

The Péricands, a proud, upper-class family that includes Charlotte, her husband, a museum director, five children and an invalid grandfather, come to the stark realization that they have to abandon Paris and move to the countryside (not unlike the author herself). Packing what they can and taking a handful of their servants, they flee as the sound of German artillery echoes behind them.

Also escaping is Gabriel Corte, a rich and successful novelist who feels personally insulted by the war. His mistress packs a suitcase as tight as she can, preferring to save her makeup kit rather than Gabriel's manuscripts.

The Michauds, Maurice and Jeanne, are a young couple who work in a bank. They are told that all the staff are being evacuated to a countryside branch the next day. The bank manager promises the Michauds that he would drive them to the countryside himself.

When they show up the next day, suitcase in hands, they are told flatly that there is no room for them in his car, as he has to transport his mistress and her dog instead. Their boss, instead of apologizing, tells them they have to be in Tours the next day or they will be fired.

With the train station closed, the Michauds have no choice but to join hundreds of refugees on foot.

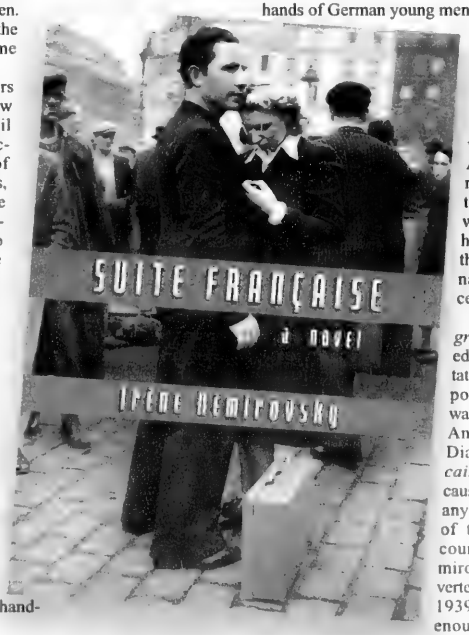
With these three families, Nemirovsky expertly intertwines the lives of members of different classes in society to represent the thousands of people who, like herself, found themselves in a great state of upheaval.

Another group of refugees is a truckload of young orphan boys being escorted by a priest, the oldest of the Péricands' children. His fate is brutally described in one of the book's most disturbing chapters.

Nemirovsky's narrative is simply beautiful and descriptive. Consider this paragraph written, remember, *before* France's wartime history had been written. Nemirovsky almost seemed to predict the myth of resistance that would become popular lore:

"He recalled the cars full of officers running away with their beautiful yellow trunks and their painted women, civil servants abandoning their posts, panic-stricken politicians dropping files of secret papers along the road, young girls, who had diligently wept the day the armistice was being signed, being comforted in the arms of Germans. 'And to think that no one will know, that there will be such a conspiracy of lies that all this will be transformed into yet another glorious page in the history of France.'"

"Dolce" begins after the armistice is signed. Instead of the powerful, hard-hitting narrative of the first part, we now find ourselves in a more tranquil setting. With the war lost, the French must now deal with their new situation in Nazi-occupied France. Again, dealing with different classes of people, it deals specifically with one German regiment in Bussy and the little town's inhabitants and deftly tackles the subject of collaboration when Lucile Angellier finds herself attracted to Bruno von Falk, a handsome German officer.




The German soldiers are not portrayed in the brutal fashion we are accustomed to, but rather as normal, kindly young men forced under the circumstances to wear military uniforms. Considering what happened to Nemirovsky at the hands of German young men in uniform, this is full of irony.

Considering this novel is not even half finished, it is a remarkable addition to wartime fiction. And had Nemirovsky survived the war, her name would undoubtedly have become one of the most recognized names in 20th century literature.

The *Daily Telegraph* said, "Regarded by some commentators as the most important descriptive wartime writing since Anne Frank's Diaries." *Suite Francaise* is not a Holocaust novel, and [redacted] any mention is made of the plight of the country's Jews. Nemirovsky herself converted to Catholicism in 1939, but this was not enough to save her in the end.

The book is just under 400 pages, and the audio version clocks in at just over 13 hours. The first part is read by Daniel Oreskes and the second by Barbara Rosenblat.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CJN Profile

# Film distribution mogul opens doors for young people

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
*Special to The CJN*

For one week this winter, some 1,600 students had the opportunity to see *Paperclips*, a documentary about tolerance, at free screenings throughout the Toronto area.

These special presentations were made possible through the organizing skills of Helen Zukerman, executive director of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, and the generosity of Ellis Jacob, president and chief executive officer of Cineplex Entertainment LP.

This was not Jacob's first foray into ventures in support of children and young people.

Jacob, who came to Canada from Calcutta, India, as a student in 1969, has become a prominent member of the Jewish community in Canada and a leader in the film business in North America.

He has had a successful career in the entertainment industry, first working in various positions with Cineplex Odeon Corporation, Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc., and then becoming CEO and co-founder of Galaxy Entertainment Inc.

He later merged Galaxy with Cineplex and recently led Cineplex in a complicated and successful takeover of Famous Players. The result is that Jacob is head of the largest film distribution company in Canada, with 130 locations and 1,270 screens.

But it was his interest in young people and in teaching tolerance that led Jacob to donate the use of his theatres for the free screenings of *Paperclips*, a film about a group of middle school students in Whitwell, Tenn., who decided to do a project on tolerance, tried to collect six million paper clips in an effort to understand the Holocaust, and wound up building a moving memorial to the victims of the Shoah.

When Jacob first arrived in Canada, he enrolled at a college in Montreal and then continued his education at McGill University and received his accounting certification in Quebec.

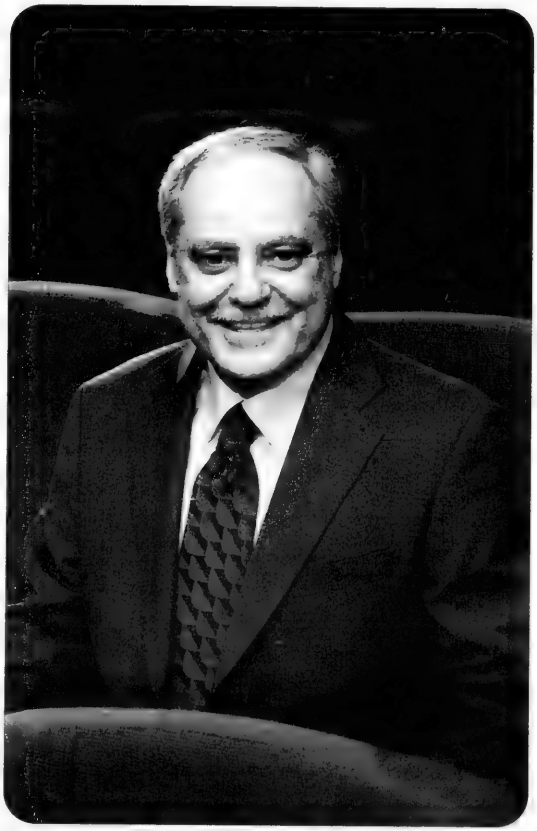
Later, he attended York University's business school where he received his MBA, and decided to stay in Toronto when he found work here. He quickly moved into the financial area of Cineplex, where he worked until 1998 when he moved on to Alliance Atlantis.

When he helped found Galaxy Entertainment in 1999, people in the industry were skeptical about his idea. Galaxy was created to provide state-of-the-art entertainment facilities in mid-size Canadian cities, which were under-served at the time and usually had older, out-of-date cinemas.

From two theatres, the company grew to 19 locations with 154 screens in six provinces – in only five years.

This spirit of adventure has driven Jacob and his team to the point where Cineplex now owns or controls a large part of the film distribution industry in Canada, with some of the newest and most-up-to-date theatres in North America.

And he has won the respect and admiration of business leaders around the world in doing all this. Michael MacMillan, chair and CEO of Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc. described him this way: "Ellis is an exceptional business leader. He has that rare combination of vision, passion, hard work, dogged determination and the ability to work well with people and inspire a team. He has demonstrated this throughout his career, and the recent successes of Galaxy and Cineplex Galaxy are testament to his leadership."



Ellis Jacob

Victor J. Loewy, CEO of Motion Picture Distribution Inc. has said that "his acumen to make essential forward-thinking business decisions, coupled with his personal integrity and dedication, have always provided Ellis the fundamentals to achieve what most would have never been wise enough to envision. He truly has effected tremendous change in the landscape of the Canadian film business."

With Jacob's success in the film theatre business, he has become better able to indulge in his true love – giving something back to the community. As a result, he has done volunteer work with the United Jewish Appeal, sits on the board of directors and the finance committee of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), has worked with the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT), is a member of the board of directors of the Youth Technology & Mentor Program (YTMP), has been on the board of the Toronto International Film Festival, Sprockets International Film Festival for Children and the Motion Picture Association of Canada, and is on the board of directors of Mount Sinai Hospital. He has also worked for other charitable organizations.

When asked about the future of the film distribution industry, Jacob said that while technology will keep changing, in his opinion, you can't beat the experience of watching a film on a big screen with hundreds of other people, and he has dedicated himself to providing the best theatres and best film experience possible at the lowest prices feasible.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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**3000 Bathurst,** 2 bdrm + den, 1500 sq. ft., newly renov'd, near Synagogue, $559,000. Please call 416-787-4455.

**7601 Bathurst Street,** 2 bdrm. + sun, 2 full baths, 1250 sq. ft., $220K. Call 905-709-4017.

**Bathurst/Eglinton,** large, bright, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat-in kitchen, solarium, parking, Shabbas elevator, must sell at under market price. $279,500. Call Zidner Realty, 416-249-3356.

**333 Clark Ave. West,** 1348 sf, close to BAYT. Best buy in the bldg. right now! 416-486-5200 or 416-347-9243. Steve Nagy, HomeLife Cimerman.

**2 bed, Bathurst/Antibes area.** 1400 sq. ft. Spacious, sunny exposure. $225,500. Maureen/Flying Fingers 905-761-6306.

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*Priced to sell! Must be seen!*
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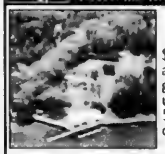

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# Satmar feuds over succession after grand rebbe's death

**ADAM DICKTER**
*New York Jewish Week*

**NEW YORK** — As the world's largest chassidic sect mourns the death this week of the Satmar Grand Rebbe Moses Teitelbaum, the bitter, litigious – and sometimes violent – feud between two of his sons shows no sign of cooling.

In a flurry of courtroom motions, rabbinic rulings and shoving matches last week, the dispute rapidly shifted from designated succession toward a struggle between two men, each claiming he is now the new rebbe.

Fighting erupted at a predawn funeral service in upstate Kiryas Joel over the inclusion of a grandson of the rebbe among the speakers. There were conflicting accounts of what caused the unrest, which was calmed by state troopers and left two men injured.

Later in the day, both sides pointed to events they say designated either Aaron Teitelbaum or his younger brother, Zalman Lieb, the new rebbe. The rabbi's will named Zalman, 54, who lives in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, his successor, but supporters of Aaron, 57, who lives in Kiryas Joel, insist the designation is invalid. Some say the rabbi was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and not competent to make the decision, while insisting the board of directors of the central synagogue, Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar are the only ones entitled to make the determination.

In court last week, in both Brooklyn and Orange County, lawyers for both sides argued over a wide range of issues, including ownership of the rebbe's property and the definition of membership in the Satmar synagogue. A key issue was whether a supporter of Aaron, Berl Friedman, should have administrative powers on the Satmar board of directors, which Zalman supporters took as favouring Aaron in the dispute.

An appellate judge in Brooklyn overturned a ruling by an Orange County judge, Stewart Rosenwasser, who has long presided over Satmar litigation, and thus effectively nullified the powers granted to Friedman. Aaron's supporters are trying to reinstate the ruling.

The tension may continue to escalate if Aaron moves from Kiryas Joel, where he has presided as chief rabbi, to Williamsburg in a bid to take control of the entire Satmar movement, as the *Times Herald Record of Orange County* reported, citing unnamed sources. Zalman has long controlled the main Williamsburg synagogue.

At stake is control of some $500 million in assets and the leadership of an estimated 50,000 chassidic Jews here and several thousand more worldwide. Most likely, the two sons will each continue to lead separate factions, chassidic insiders say.

"Satmar is growing so fast that it is impossible for one person [to lead] and more than enough for two," said Isaac Abraham, an activist in Williamsburg.

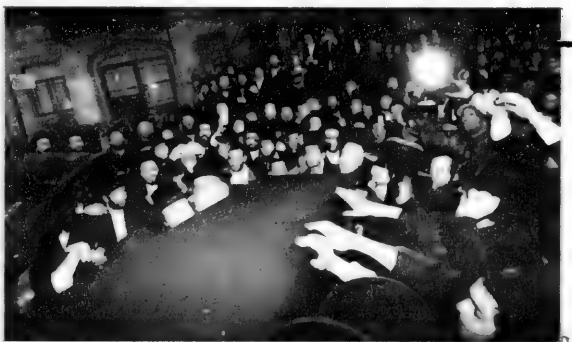
Rabbi Teitelbaum designated Zalman, his third son, in 1999, to lead the main congregation in Williamsburg, to the chagrin of Aaron's supporters in Kiryas Joel, a suburban satellite community established by the first rebbe, Joel Teitelbaum. There are also Satmar communities in Monsey, Borough Park, and Lakewood, N.J., as well as in Israel and other parts of the world.

Dissent has occasionally deteriorated into fisticuffs, most recently last November at the Williamsburg shul when a supporter of Aaron defiantly entered the shul from which he had been barred by the rebbe. Pending rulings by an appellate court could stir more passions.

"Emotions are very high right now," said David Pollock of the Jewish Community Relations Council. "Many people believe all three court actions are surrogates for the contest for succession. I would suspect the court battles will continue for some time."

Pollock was referring to two lawsuits over leadership of the Yetev Lev D'Satmar shuls in Williamsburg and Kiryas Joel, on which the federal appellate panel will soon rule, and a third action regarding guardianship of the grand rebbe, now moot.

At the rebbe's Williamsburg funeral, which preceded the service in Kiryas Joel, there were few signs of tensions or passions. Both rival sons, along with their brothers and other relatives, offered tearful eulogies of the rebbe, in pre-arranged age order so as not to indicate favouritism.



**The casket carrying the remains of Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum is carried through a crush of followers from his home to a hearse for his funeral last week in Brooklyn. [RNS/REUTERS photo]**

As word spread of the rebbe's passing, Orthodox Jews outside Williamsburg who felt a connection to him flocked to the area. The street was packed from end to end with men and boys who pushed their way through to get closer to the synagogue. Across Lee Avenue, a section was set up for a smaller number of women.

Police helicopters hovered overhead and officers sealed off Williamsburgh Avenue behind the synagogue to allow dignitaries such as Mayor Michael Bloomberg to enter.

Outside the funeral, a man who identified himself as Rabbi Lieberman, declining to give his first name, said the rebbe's greatest accomplishment was not in fuelling the movement's growth, which was well underway when he took the reins in 1979, but in guiding it. "Once he took over, there was natural growth," said the rabbi. "There were already 25 to 30 classes in every grade [in Satmar schools]. He had to catch up and keep a little bit of control of the growth. That was a very big task."

Another mourner, Rabbi Hertz Frankel, an administrator in the chassidic school system in Williamsburg, agreed, saying the rebbe's considerable accomplishments should, at least for now, obfuscate the questions about succession.

"Why should we talk about factions?" said Rabbi Frankel. "That should be for another day. The rebbe's legacy is that he continued the footsteps of the [first] grand rebbe and strengthened the community he led for 27 years."

He continued, "This is not a community where people move to the Five Towns or to Flatbush. You have four generations davening together in the same shul. There are very few dropouts. This is the great strength of Satmar and Chassidism in general."

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# Golfer to be inducted into Bobby Orr Hall of Fame

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Anne Gluckstein was a liberated woman at a time when most women didn't even think about being liberated.

Back in the 1930s, '40s and '50s when most of her contemporaries were at home raising families, Gluckstein was out hunting, fishing, playing golf, tooling around in her powerboat and running a business.

She was a success at all her endeavours and on the evening of June 10 her old hometown of Parry Sound will honour her with a posthumous induction into the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame.

One of only a handful of women athletes so honoured, "Aunt Babe" will be remembered for her excellence as a golfer, her niece, Sandra Birenbaum, said.

"When she played golf, she won almost every time," Birenbaum said.

She was so successful at the annual tournament in French River, winning the championship cup almost every year, "they just gave it to her," she added.

Ray Pavlove, a spokesperson for the hall of fame, said Gluckstein started her golf career in 1938 at the age of 22. Over the course of her career, she won the ladies club championship at the Parry Sound Golf and Country Club 37 times from 1939 to '84, earning her the title of "First Lady of Golf in Parry Sound." She was a two-time winner of the Northern Ontario Golf Association Championship (1956, '58) and was a multiple winner of the French River Invitational. She won the Port Carling Invitational Tournament "at least 25 times," he added.

Gluckstein is also being honoured for her role in promoting golf in the community, Pavlove continued. She was a pioneer in bringing the sport to young women in northern Ontario, and gave lessons at the local high school and at the golf club. Her program of free lessons eventually became the Junior Development club. She served as chair of the Junior Golf Program for northern Ontario and as Ambassador for Women's Golf.

Birenbaum, who visited her aunt and grandfather, Jacob Gluckstein, in Parry Sound often during the summers, recalls Aunt Babe as an excellent athlete.

"She was the kind of person who would try anything. She was very independent, very determined and very competitive, competitive, competitive.

"She flew a plane, hunted, fished, played golf and baseball."

Birenbaum recalled her aunt leaving often for a round of golf after closing the shop and on almost every Wednesday afternoon, when all businesses in Parry Sound seemed to close.

Anne Gluckstein

The youngest of five children, Aunt Babe took over her father's business, Gluckstein's Ladies' Wear. Not only did she sell women's clothing and coats, she bought fur pelts from trappers, sold them to furriers and then retailed the coats to a broad range of clientele. People visited her shop from as far as the United States, Birenbaum said.

A successful businesswoman, Gluckstein was a prominent member of the Parry Sound community, serving on a number of charitable boards. She helped found the town's chamber of commerce in 1953. A year later, she started a women's business group, Pavlove noted.

Gluckstein closed the store in 1979 and died in 1991 at the age of 75.

"Whatever she did, she did well," Pavlove stated. Her golfing contemporaries recall that she competed well in matches against men and she even played a round with legendary ball striker Moe Norman, a game in which "she held her own."

Birenbaum believes her aunt's sense of independence stemmed from the fact all her brothers and sisters moved away and she was left to run the business.

"I think she knew from a young age she couldn't rely on anyone. The rest of the family were in Toronto, Sudbury, Stratford and Hamilton."

Aunt Babe's sister, Mary, who died at 99, along with her husband, Joe, ran Greenberg's Ladies Wear in Stratford. Their shop was a landmark on the city's main street, Birenbaum said.

The family patriarch, Jacob, moved to Canada from Russia and first settled in Montreal. He got a job as a tailor travelling to the lumber camps in northern Ontario doing an assortment of jobs. He settled down in Parry Sound and eventually married his sister-in-law's sister. They had five children – four girls and one boy. Anne was the youngest, hence "Aunt Babe."

They were one of only two Jewish families in the town and the other, which ran Adams Furniture Store, departed many years ago.

Anne lived in the apartment above the store in a building owned by her father. "Her claim to fame was that she slept in the bedroom she was born in," Birenbaum recalled.

One of Aunt Babe's favourite pastimes was cruising Georgian Bay in a cutter, *Shalom*, and later travelling to Sarasota, Fla., in the winters, where she kept up her golf game well into her later years.

She always returned to her home as "she loved Parry Sound," Birenbaum said.

As many as 25 of Aunt Babe's nieces and nephews will drive up to Parry Sound for the induction ceremony, in which Bobby Orr, the legendary hockey player, will make the formal hall of fame presentation.

Aunt Babe "will be the first [Parry Sound] Jew to be honoured and for sure the last," Birenbaum said.

# Israel hammered at IIHF tourney

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Coach Jean Perron's prediction that Israel faces a hockey "Mount Everest" at the IIHF's Division I championship is proving true. Through three games in Amiens, France, the Israelis have amassed an 0-3 record, while being badly outscored and outshot even worse.

In their opener against Germany, Israel was pummelled 11-2, while allowing 80 shots on goal. Boston Bruin forward Marco Sturm got one of the German goals, while Oren Eizenman and Alon Eizenman notched the two Israeli markers.

In game two, Hungary shut out Israel 8-0, outshooting their opponents 37-12.

Japan beat Israel 7-1 in game three, outshooting Israel 59-7. Alon Eizenman scored Israel's lone goal. Israel closed out the tournament with weekend games against France and Britain.

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# The billion-dollar question

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

As I write, it's election day for Jewish Canada. Across the country, Jews are voting on who will represent Canada at the World Zionist Congress in Israel next month. Delegates from Israel, North and South America, Europe, Australia and South Africa will come together to form the 35th Congress. Their mandate: figuring out how to spend the more than $1 billion earmarked for Zionist and Jewish education and outreach around the world.

At least that's the idea.

Here's what's really happening: the Congress, which is held every five years in Israel and which has historically included all kinds of Jews with the mandate of strengthening Israel and Zionism, has become a highly politicized event, with a handful of factions vying to get their hands on as much of the funding pool as possible.

The run-up to this year's Congress has seen aggressive ad campaigns urging members of various Jewish social, political and religious groups to vote with their own, thereby ensuring as big a slice of the billion-dollar pie as possible for their movements' constituencies.

And what's wrong with that? After all this is an election, an opportunity for every Jew to have his or her say. That's what democracy is all about.

You might say, then, that the aggressive campaigning that has, in at least a few cases, included ugly scare tactics and smear jobs is all part of the process. After all, what election in recent memory hasn't included parties that attack each other as often as they tell us what they actually plan to do?

At least one of these campaigns seems to have worked quite well. The Orthodox slate has so far seen some tremendous success, receiving 24 per cent of U.S. delegate voting, which translates into 35 delegates heading to the Congress, up from the 29 Orthodox delegates the last time around. Orthodox delegate numbers are also up in Australia and Israel.

And you can be sure the new delegates will be siding with their own crew. The Religious Zionist Slate even operated a website, votetorah.org, that urges potential voters to "ensure that Torah values prevail by sending the right delegates to the Congress." The message is clear: the Torah says you better vote Orthodox.

I don't particularly go for that "we're right" (and, by implication, they're wrong) stuff (and the Orthodox aren't alone in using these kinds of tactics – they just seem to be the most successful). But the real problem is not the platform. It's that voting along the lines of religious affiliation will, ultimately, skew funding for all communities. As the Orthodox slate gains delegates – and a bigger chunk of cash – other groups that outnumber the Orthodox worldwide lose out.

See the problem now?

That's why this voting system just doesn't work. Some groups will very likely emerge from all of this with more funding than they deserve relative to their size in the worldwide Jewish community, while others will end up with less than they need to manage their educational priorities. I think increased funding for Orthodox youth groups is great, but I'd feel awfully guilty if that extra money came at the expense of similar Reform or Conservative initiatives.

It's not as though we don't know the religious makeup of our community worldwide – there is a wealth of Jewish census information out there. The simple and fair way to divide the money would be to gather the actual demographic facts and divide the money in a way that accurately represents how we all decide to define our Judaism.

This is our money. We all equally deserve the funding. Making this vote a question of right versus wrong means a lot of people will lose out. In the end, there's no reason to have winners and losers when we should all be gratefully accepting what we deserve.


## Homemade Mac & Cheese

1 1/2 tblsp. butter
2 tblsp. flour
1 1/2 cups milk
2 tblsps. milk
1 packed cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/4 cup crushed canned tomatoes
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. sugar
dash cayenne pepper
dash white pepper
1/2 lb. small elbow macaroni cooked until barely done

In small saucepan, melt butter over low heat, blend in flour and cook about 2 mins. Beat in milk and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a slow boil and thickens. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese until melted, then crushed tomatoes, sugar and 2 peppers. Stir in macaroni. Pour into shallow, buttered baking dish and bake in preheated 400°F oven until brown, 25-30 mins.

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# Poor man, rich man: a short story

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I sat in the corner of a room in my home listening to a conversation between two people I knew, one who was poor, the other, rich.

The poor man asked the rich man, "Do you really worry about money? I mean really worry? And if so, just sell the business and build a house, 'with one long staircase just going up... and one even longer coming down...' and fill your yard 'with chicks and turkeys and geese and ducks for the town to see and hear.'"

The rich man laughed. "Yours is a complex question. You know, I have more money than I need. My great-grandchildren will spend their days learning, or writing poetry if they so choose.

"But for your information, I wasn't always rich. In fact, I am like the Jews born in the dessert who later crossed into Israel. I found my 'milk and honey' only after I had a very intimate relationship with scarcity. I therefore regularly remind myself of my mazel and that I am deserving of my riches, by carrying a note in my wallet which reads: 'Moses described Israel to the Jewish people saying that it is rich and fertile, blessed with many streams and springs and a wide variety of flourishing food crops... You shall eat and be satisfied.' (Deuteronomy 8:10).

"My friend, a mortgage is of no concern to me as it was to my parents who lived on Oxford Street. I give 10 per cent of my earnings to tzedakah, but know, this is not always a pleasure. Trust me" – he smirked – "the joke about the impossibility of a rich Jew remaining deserted on an island is true. The charities that help Israel and people in need will always find you.

"Yes, I do worry about money. But I am a rich man – this is my lot – and watching geese in my yard is not my calling. I am on this earth to create prosperity and I would not change that."

The rich man paused, smiled politely and asked the poor man, "What is it like for you to be poor?"

The modestly dressed fellow replied, "What you ask is complex. I am comforted by the fact that poverty is not a Jewish value, and not a disgrace. After all, the great Hillel was a woodcutter, and his resume is quite impressive.

"Many years ago, I accepted that I was not born into a rich family and my dream to ride on a 100-year-old turtle on the Galapagos Island, will forever be only that. My children have a Jewish education and, in part, I am thankful to generous gentlemen like you. For this I am also ill at ease, because man needs to grow his own garden. The complaints of the well-protected Jews in the desert were evidence of this.

"Mostly, I agree that God determines our purpose on earth. I therefore see your assistance as His gift and am sorry to tell you" – he chuckled – "I am more thankful to God for my children's education, than I am to you.

"And like you, I carry a simple note in my wallet, reminding me we are all created in the image of God – rich, poor, royalty and peasantry."

The poor man made his way to the door. He looked back at the rich man and asked, "Tell me, do you ever feel guilty about having so much money, when so many others have so little?"

The rich man's touched the Magen David around his neck and quietly replied, "I do." He looked deeply into the eyes of the poor man and asked, "Do you ever resent the affluent?"

The poor man nodded his head ever so sadly and whispered, "Yes, I'm afraid I do."

avrum@vedhavio.org

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The Canadian Jewish news

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In order to meet the demands of this growing marketplace, we have produced several Israel Real Estate Supplements and Exhibitions in North America and the UK, all of which have been a resounding success. With positive feedback emanating from both exhibitors (i.e. real estate companies, mortgage banks etc.) and potential investors, we have once again produced an informative newspaper supplement as well as an exciting Israel real estate exhibition in your area. There are several new and important projects that have been highlighted in this edition. Representatives from all of the projects will be on hand in Toronto and Montreal to answer all of your questions. *B'hatzlacha!*

Cordially,
The Editor

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Nefesh B'Nefesh, since its founding in 2002, has committed itself to revitalising North American Aliyah (immigration to Israel) by removing or minimising the professional, logistical, financial and social obstacles that potential Olim face. Nefesh B'Nefesh has succeeded in assisting over 7,000 newcomers to Israel - with 15 Aliyah flights - and has dedicated itself to ensure the long term successful absorption of each and every oleh.

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Aliyah: Live the dream

# PRIME-TIME PROPERTIES FOR CANADIAN INVESTORS

## Israel Is No Longer A Real Estate Market For "Apprentices"

By Ken Stephens

The Israeli real estate market is on the cusp of an amazing transformation. After local real estate industry statistics showed that foreign Jewish investors from the UK, N. America and Europe purchased nearly $1.8 billion dollars of properties throughout Israel in 2005, two of New York's most maverick building magnates-Donald Trump and Shaya Boymelgreen- ascertained that Israeli real estate developers weren't "apprentices" after all.

During the past month, Mr. Trump announced plans to build an upscale apartment tower in downtown Ramat Gan opposite the Diamond Bourse (i.e. Exchange) and develop a mega hotel and residential complex along Netanya's picturesque seacoast. Mr. Boymelgreen has taken his ambitions one step further. Last month, he purchased a controlling interest in Azorim, one of Israel's largest business and residential construction firms.

*Donald Trump and Netanya Mayor Miriam Fierberg-Ikar are all smiles as the real estate and hotel entrepreneur agrees to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in developing Netanya's "Ir Yamim-Ocean City" project.*

Nothing can shake Israel's current real estate juggernaut, not even the shaky "ceasefire" with the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority. According to several industry experts, the heated real estate market is being fueled by three factors-local confidence in the growing economy, European anti-Semitism and an unprecedented aliyah spurt from the USA & Canada..

"In places like Netanya and Jerusalem, there are no more so-called 'pioneers.' There are growing and well organized expatriate Anglo (i.e. English speaking) communities in Netanya, Jerusalem and Modiin. In fact, in some places like Nitza Boulevard in Netanya or Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, the English language is so prevalent you'd think you're in the middle of Trafalgar Square or downtown Manhattan," a prominent real estate developer told CJN.

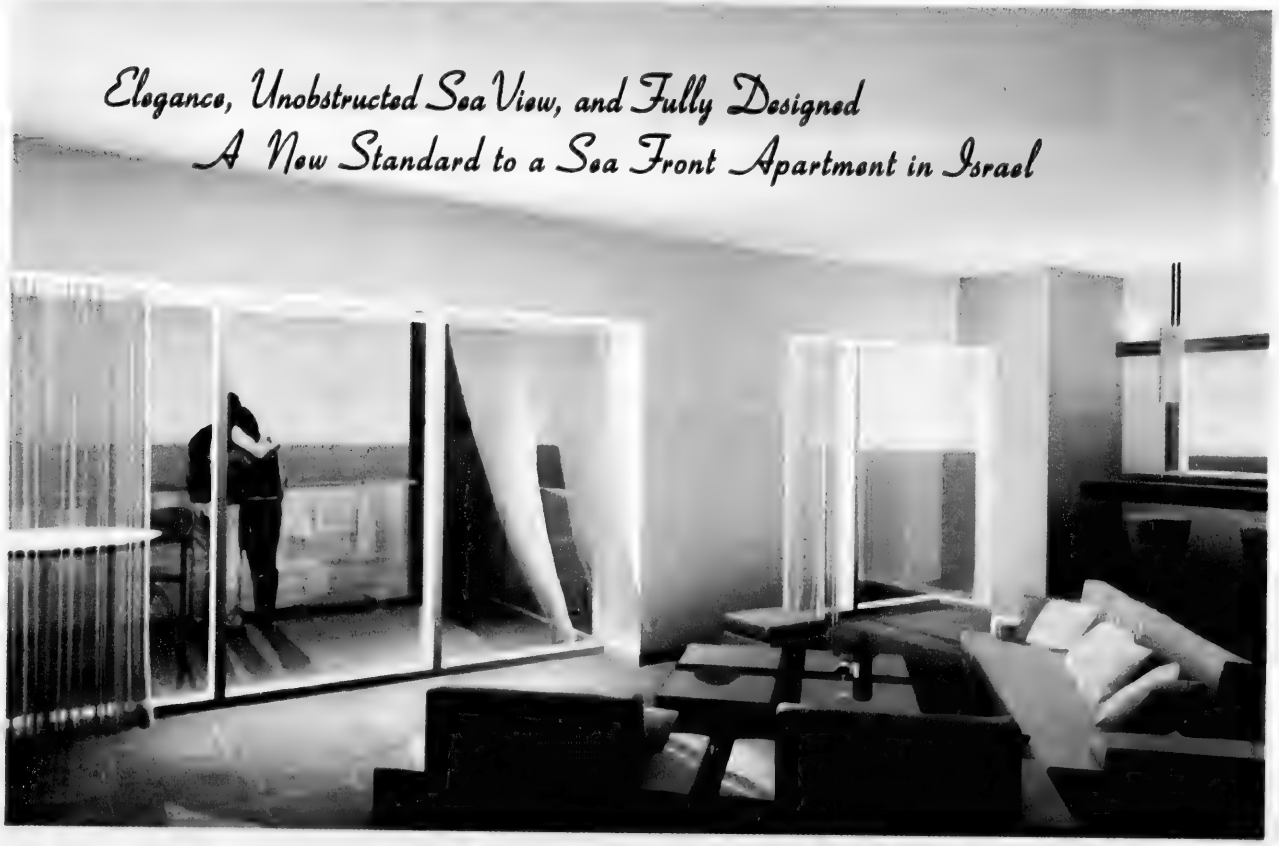
THE HOT MARKETS

So where can a potential buyer or investor find the best properties? Indeed, in Israel's three fastest growing cities-Jerusalem, Netanya and Modiin.

Israel's capital city has consistently been a magnet for both foreign tourists and investors, who not only want to reach out and touch Jewish history; they actually want to "own" a piece of the Holy City.

Recognizing that wealthy foreign tourists and real estate purchasers are pumping large sums of money into the local economy, Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski is trying to loosen the bureaucratic reigns and offer more plots of land (large and small) for real estate development.

Several local and foreign hotel and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residential developers such as Alfred Akirov (David Citadel Hotel) and the renowned Reichmann family of Canada are in the midst of creating five-star hotel-apartment complexes just outside the entrance to the Old City. Mr. Akirov's company-Alrov (Israel) Ltd. is constructing the second portion of his spectacular Mamilla Project, which will also boast another hotel and a shopping promenade. The Reichmann family is on the verge of restoring the landmark Palace Hotel to its former lavish beauty. The Palace in its new incarnation, will also feature a select number of upscale apartments.

A Jerusalem real estate developer added, "The truth is, with increased immigration from the UK and N. America, families are no longer looking to purchase a simple flat. They are thinking about the future-their children, the local community, integrating into society etc. Some people start out by purchasing an apartment and use it for business trips. Then, once they feel comfortable enough making a living in Israel, the entire family makes aliyah."

Netanya, which is located less than 30 minutes from downtown Tel Aviv already boasts many attractive properties that are being built along or near the seaside promenade. The most spectacular project that is attracting interest from both business moguls and overseas investors is the "Ir Yamim" (Ocean City) real estate initiative. Surrounded by nature reserves and the pristine Mediterranean Sea, "Ir Yamim" will feature some of the most exclusive residential towers and upscale hotels, ever to be constructed in the Jewish State. "Several people, including tourists and businessmen have told me that the Ir Yamim project has the potential to transform Netanya into an Israeli version of Miami Beach," Netanya's maverick Mayor, Miriam Fierberg-Ikar told CJN. "Netanya features the longest beach in Israel, nearly 8 miles long, and with our close proximity to both the center of the country (Tel Aviv is less than 30 minutes away) and the north (Haifa is about 45 minutes away), our city has many distinct advantages. The best part about a project such as Ir Yamim is that you won't feel like you're living in a city with over 200,000 people. Netanya was always designed to be an attractive city that depended on tourism. With Ir Yamim and other local developments, residents will be able to walk to the nearby beaches and promenade and enjoy a high-quality of life." Of course, it doesn't hurt to have Donald Trump lending his name to an upscale hotel and residential complex that will be a critical component of "Ir Yamim's" real estate bonanza.

According to statistics, Modiin, which is equidistant to both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, is the fastest growing Jewish city on the planet. Nearly two-dozen construction companies are in various phases of developing this "city in the country", which by the end of 2010 will boast a population approaching 100,000 residents. New immigrants from the UK, N. America, South Africa and Australia are moving to Modiin in droves due to its easy proximity to Israel's two largest cities, the airport (12 minutes away by car), affordable real estate prices and quality of life. Within 18 months, Modiin will also feature a direct rail link to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the airport, as well as a mega shopping mall.

Due to the increased numbers of Anglos who are looking to purchase flats or cottages in Modiin, real estate prices have jumped nearly 20% in the past year alone!

Recognizing this trend, both the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund are now actively encouraging potential new immigrants to steer away from living in the center of the country. The Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund have been given a government mandate to develop both the Galilee and Negev regions in order to increase the Jewish population in these under-populated areas. To wit, the Jewish Agency and the Nefesh B'Nefesh organization are now offering attractive incentive plans to potential English speaking immigrants who wish to live in the Galilee or Negev regions, including discounted land rights and easy-term mortgages. Caveat Emptor!

## Project Guide

### Nof Zion

How Much Would You Pay For A Seemingly "Priceless" View of Jerusalem?

Unique "Nof Zion" Real Estate Project Offers Buyers A Stunningly Affordable Opportunity

While there are a variety of real estate opportunities in Israel's capital city, none of them can be compared to what is taking place at "Nof Zion", a unique project that is offering buyers perhaps one of the last unobstructed views of the Temple Mount, Old City & the Judean Desert at affordable prices.

When the "Nof Zion" project was initially unveiled to the real estate market last year, sales representatives were overwhelmed with inquiries from all over the world, including the USA. Since that time, construction has begun in earnest on "Nof Zion". The key to this project is the fact that new neighborhoods such as "Nof Zion" haven't been built within Jerusalem in a long time. And in "Nof Zion's" case, this will most probably be the first & last opportunity to purchase a piece of property that guarantees a priceless view of Jewish destiny.

It is a recurring dream for many Jews to reside in a home overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. "Nof Zion" has turned this recurring dream into a stark reality-a self-contained private neighborhood of nearly 400 apartments, built on 115 dunams of private land. This uniquely designed project will also blend into the natural terraces of the Jerusalem Promenade slope, providing every resident with a private terrace overlooking the Old City.

The exacting standards that have been set by the developer of this one-of-a-kind project – the Digal Investment Company – are of the highest quality. More importantly, the price of a 125 square meter "luxury apartment" (4 rooms) starts at only $320,000 dollars (5 rooms=150 sq. meter-$400,000). Suffice it to say, that residents of "Nof Zion" will marvel at the attention to detail that has been invested in the project.

In addition, "Nof Zion" is showcasing various types of apartments, some of which feature private gardens and penthouses. Aside from enjoying the spectacular view of Jerusalem, the "Nof Zion" neighborhood will include a commercial center, kindergartens, educational institutions, synagogues, health club, and will be conveniently integrated into Jerusalem's new public transportation system. Major public and government institutions are also slated to be built nearby.

Sales of "Nof Zion's" luxurious apartments are being handled exclusively in Israel by Anglo-Saxon Jerusalem. Sales of the "Nof Zion" project in the USA are being conducted by the company's American representative-Mrs. Gita Galbut.

For further information in Israel please call 1-700-700 476 or 03-560-1149

or Mrs. Gita Galbut,
Nof Zion representative in USA:
305-761-8744
www.nofzion.co.il

### Pearl Skolnik

Pearl Skolnik Realty is managed by Efraim Weiss, CEO and nephew of Pearl Skolnik. Our main office is situated in Modiin and from here we service Modiin and much of the surrounding areas including Chashmonaim, Yad Binyamin, Jerusalem and Ramat Beit Shemesh. Pearl Skolnik Realty offers a wide range of services and as well as successfully marketing property and new projects all over Israel. We also deal with commercial and residential investments and property management.

All the real estate agents at Pearl Skolnik Realty are veteran Anglo immigrants who understand the needs of Western olim and strive to find just the right community for each family. They are very aware of the importance of securing the right home and neighbors for their clients, knowing that this is a critical part of successful integration into their chosen communities in Israel.

Some of the interesting projects Pearl Skolnik Realty is currently representing include those in Yad Binyamin. The "Torani" religious community with all its diversity will be at home here. No other religious settlement in Israel can boast such convenience of location with the quiet and pastoral setting of Yad Binyamin. One example of the projects which we are marketing here is the Chazon & Galili project Carmei Soreq. Pearl Skolnik Realty, as the EXCLUSIVE marketing agents, has successfully sold almost all the units in the first stage of this project and marketing of the second stage **of this exciting project is in full swing!**

Pearl Skolnik Realty is also EXCLUSIVE marketing agents for another Chazon & Galili project in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Ramat Kramim. The desirable location on the park, the exciting design, the high-level specifications and Chazon & Galili's proven track record combine to make Ramat Kramim "Simply the best in Ramat Beit Shemesh". Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity!

Chashmonaim is a beautiful religious Yishuv set at the foothills of the Judean Mountains and is approximately a five minute drive from Modiin. Building possibilities here are extensive. Semi-detached properties are being built on 300m plots and single family properties on 600m plots. The sky is the limit when it comes to design and building decision making in Chashmonaim!

Pearl Skolnik agents are also available for private or parlor meetings during their stay. Efraim Weiss can also be contacted personally on his cellphone: (347) 579-9098.

Pearl Skolnik Realty
Tel: 08-9700467
Local (U.S.) call to Israel: 718-715-0283
Email: info@pearlskolnikrealty.com
www.pearlskolnikrealty.com

## Sea Opera

Netanya has always been a popular holiday destination for the Brits, despite not having a five-star hotel; it has also been a top spot for UK Jews purchasing property, either for vacations or with a view to going on aliyah at some stage in their lives.

Firstly, it is only 40 minutes from the airport and 30 minutes from both Tel Aviv and Haifa – and, on a good day, Jerusalem is only an hour away. Secondly, local estate agents have for good reason called Netanya "Little England." As the wife of an ex-colleague who went on aliyah four years ago told me recently, "everyone speaks English here."

Construction is big business in Netanya, with new developments being built in both the north and south of the city.

I went to look at the much-heralded Sea Opera development being constructed on Netanya's Riviera, right on the beach at the top end of Nitza Boulevard. It is being built by Danya Cebus, one of Israel's largest construction companies and part of the Africa-Israel Investment Company.

This is a two-tower project with a unique design. It offers three-, four- and five-bedroom apartments and penthouses, all with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean.

I was shown around by sales director David Lowenstein, who was keen to point out the quality of the project. It has a granite exterior and every apartment is double-glazed to protect against heat and cold. There is an underground car park and a beautifully designed lobby with 24-hour security concierge and maintenance.

When Mr. Lowenstein took me to view a three-bedroom ocean-front apartment, what struck me immediately was the quality – beautiful Regba kitchens with caesarstone marble counters and top-of-the-range appliances, as well as Hans Grohe and Villeroy and Boch bathrooms and showers, are fitted as standard.

The apartments are, of course, air-conditioned and have their own laundry room and there is garbage disposal on each floor. Generously-sized balconies mean that most meals will be taken outside.

The project's first tower is finished and sold, with the exception of a couple of penthouses. The second building is under construction and David Lowenstein assured me that it is on target for the December 2007 completion date. This building will have four lifts including a Shabbat one.

The swimming pool and gardens are due to be finished three months after the completion of the building.

Imagine – when you open your front door, that sea view is the first thing that greets you. That's what really impressed me.

If you buy now, you are, of course, purchasing off-plan, so you have the advantage of choosing your tiles, kitchens and so on.

The first building has a beautifully equipped gym, which appeared to have never been used, so the plan for the second building is to make the room into a reception room for residents.

The development is selling very well to the Anglo-Jewish community, says Mr. Lowenstein, who speaks with great passion about his project.

For further information, contact
Tel: 972-9-892-2466
Fax: 972-9-832-9384
Mobile: 972-50-7812261
e-mail: dave@seaopera.co.il
Website: www.seaopera.co.il

## Tivuch Shelly LTD

Tivuch Shelly, established in 1989, is one of Israel's leading real estate specialists serving English-speaking newcomers and the investor community. With four offices in Jerusalem (opposite the Inbal Hotel), Beit Shemesh, Maaleh Adumim and Modiin, the company services all of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas.

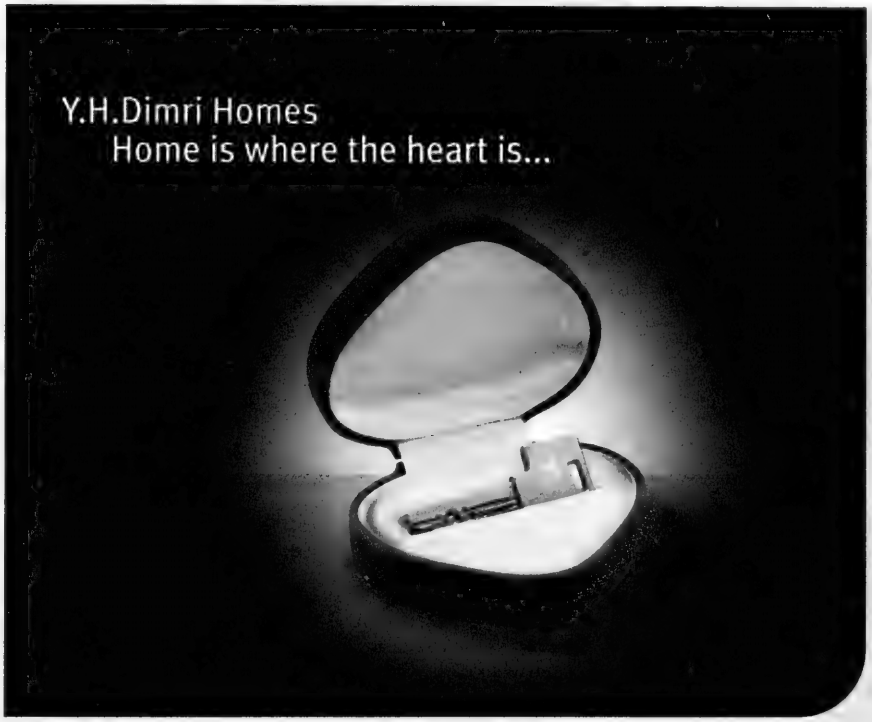
Tivuch Shelly is owned and managed by former New Yorker Shelly Levine,who is deeply committed to customer service and professionalism.

Shelly draws special pride from the leading role she and her company have played in establishing the dynamic and fast-growing community in Beit Shemesh-Ramat Beit Shemesh, beginning over a decade ago.

BRAND-NEW LUXURY TOWERS IN THE HEART OFJERUSALEM

The agency is presently beginning to sell literally hundreds of top units in a new section in the heart of Jerusalem ... minutes away from the Kosel by foot, and close to downtown, the Great Synagogue, and other top amenities. These luxury homes will be UNVEILED


Y.H.DIMRI
Construction & Development

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for the first time to the public at the February 2006 Israel Housing Fairs.

A brief overview of the three great neighborhoods of Modiin, Beit Shemesh and Maale Adumim:

BUCHMAN-MODIIN

The Buchman neighborhood is located in the heart of Modiin, Israel's Number One "Growth City." This area overlooks a breathtaking, panoramic view. Buchman is a thriving community that is quickly proving to be one of the most desirable for residents - especially newcomers from English-speaking countries. Cited by GLOBES (Israel's Wall Street Journal) as the best real estate investment property going, the community is already proving to be a wonderful combination of the best of Israeli and U.S.-inspired culture! All 5- and 6-room cottages and luxury apartments include a private garden, private parking, storeroom and large balcony.

Beit Shemesh

Shainfeld Beit Shemesh is home to one of Israel's most popular communities. This exciting, well-established development, built by Yifat Hashemesh Ltd., is ideal for families of different ages and diverse needs who share a firm desire for the "most" home possible at affordable prices. Exceptionally popular two-story "Super Townhouses" are five-room homes with private entrance and parking. The upper levels have three balconies and attic, while ground floor units have a private garden. And now, SOMETHING NEW: 52 luxury two-family homes, each one approx. 200 sq. meters!

Ramat Beit Shemesh Aleph (THE RAMAT SHILO PROJECT): Accomplished building company Or Ami Ltd. has undertaken an exciting new community within the ever-popular Ramat Beit Shemesh-Aleph neighborhood. Well-planned, superbly designed 54 homes and apartments are now being built in the prime location of RBS-Aleph, near all communal and commercial services such as synagogues, schools, & a new yeshivah.

Maale Adumim - Mitzpe Nevo

This amazing new project - the final one planned to be built in one of the Jerusalem area's most successful knitted-kippa suburban communities - will include 42 units of 5- and 6-room homes in Mitzpe Nevo, the premier modern Orthodox neighborhood of Maale Adumim. We are also now building custom-designed 2-family houses in the "build your own house" area.

Mitzpe Nevo is a marvelous combination of a separate "small" neighborhood with clearly defined traditions, set inside a vibrant town, Maale Adumim, which has consistently topped the quality-of-life charts for all of Israel.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD: 190 luxury apartments in the sought-after Amona neighborhood of Jerusalem. Get information early so you can make an early decision.

Registration has already begun!

For more information, contact Tivuch Shelly at: 011-972-2-566-2499
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E-mail: shellylevine2000@yahoo.com
Website: www.tivuchshelly.com

## Oz Vehadar

Oz Vehadar Construction Ltd. presents a variety of high-quality, spacious vacation homes and luxury apartments in Tzefat, northern Israel. Also - impressive penthouses and garden apartments, all with a Succah porch, Shabbos elevator, privacy, proximity to a spa complex, and breathtaking views, surrounded by lush greenery and seemingly endless mountains.

Tzefat gives you the opportunity to walk on the same tranquil pathways, to pray, and to learn in those synagogues where Tzadikim and Kabbalists used to live and thrive, inhaling holiness with every step.

Tzefat hosts kevarim of such spiritual giants as the Arizal (and his mikva and shul), R' Yosef Caro, the Alshich, and many more.

Orthodox schools and seminars, yeshivas and kollels, mikves, a large variety of mehadrin supermarkets, and kosher restaurants. In addition, the large percentage of English speakers contributes to the warm and friendly atmosphere that prevails in Tzefat.

Our experienced staff will assist you in every way possible, from purchase options to advice on loans and mortgages.

Oz Vehadar Ltd.
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Sun Hills, to be located on Nachal Lachish\Kishon provides the following options:
4 rooms, starting at $175,000
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5 rooms, attached cottages, garden, starting at $255,000
*Come forward now and invest at these great prices! We can be reached at 9995727. We urge you not to miss these once in a lifetime opportunities.*

B. Lemkin

Pearl Skolnik

חזון&גלילי בע"מ

## Pearl Skolnik Realty and Chazon & Galili

*are happy to announce the launching of the new project - Ganei Soreq in Yad Binyamin. The exclusive project Ramat Kramim in Ramat Beit Shemesh will be presented.*

*Pearl Skolnik Realty will be offering new services for overseas property owners and investors. Property Management Services, Commercial and Residential Investments as well as Real Estate Services in the following areas: Modiin, Chashmonaim, Beit Shemesh, Ramat Beit Shemesh, Yad Binyamin and Jerusalem and the surrounding areas.*

כרמי שלנו

גני שלנו

רמת אברהם

Shaim Weiss
Pearl Skolnik Realty
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Local call to Israel (718) 715-0283

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## Y.H. Dimri Construction & Development Ltd.

Y.H. Dimri has rapidly transformed itself into one Israel's leading construction companies. The company was founded in 1989 by Yigal Dimri, whose experience in construction and general vision have led the company through more than a decade of rapid expansion.

Y.H. Dimri offers its customers a diverse range of services needed from start to finish of the project including financial services. Other services include rigorous and aesthetic planning, quality finishing and completing projects on time. At present, the company is building and planning projects in 10 cities throughout Israel.

During the past few years, Y.H. Dimri has also invested time and effort in reaching out to the Anglo communities in North America. Recognizing that specific projects have become a magnet for investors and new immigrants, Y.H. Dimri's sales staff has met with thousands of potential buyers at real estate events in North America, UK and Israel.

"When we built a project in Beit Shemesh about five years ago, we recognized the tremendous potential of this market. So, we made a strategic decision to reach out and create a relationship with the Anglo community," Amir Cohen, one of Y.H. Dimri's fast-rising sales managers revealed.

In fact, Mr. Cohen's office is located in Modiin, where Y.H. Dimri has sold dozens of apartments and homes to English speaking couples and families vis-à-vis three very different projects, including the magnificent "Dimri Towers."

"We know that Anglo couples and families are looking for projects with high construction standards and also want to live a certain lifestyle with access to synagogues and top schools. Which is why, we are marketing projects in places like Modiin and Netanya where there are growing English-speaking religious and traditional communities," Mr. Cohen added.

The company's "Dimri Al Hayam" (Dimri On The Sea) project in Netanya is one of the centerpieces of an incredible municipal real estate endeavor called "Ir Yamim" (Ocean City). When completed in the next few years, "Ir Yamim", is expected to become the hottest beachfront community in the entire country.

Y.H. Dimri's Netanya project, calls for five 22-story towers featuring four and five room offerings, all with magnificent views of the Mediterranean Ocean just downstairs.

"The fact that Netanya has a well established English-speaking community, as well incredible shopping opportunities, makes our project that much more enticing for potential investors," Mr. Cohen remarked.

For more information about Y.H. Dimri, you can visit their website at:
www.dimri.co.il
Telephone: 972-8-993-9000

## C. Raphael Projects Ltd

C. Raphael Projects Ltd. is one of Israel's most entrepreneurial real estate developers building high-quality projects in some of the country's most beautiful locales. The company boasts a pipeline of construction projects that are in varying stages of completion in three very attractive cities: Gedera, Ashdod and Eilat.

The "Pisgat Elran" project in Gedera consists of 78 beautiful 5 and 6.5 room cottages that are being built to the highest standards in a serene and private area. Gedera, is rapidly becoming a prime market for young couples and families, who wish to live in the pastoral Coastal Plain and still be close enough to Israel's major cities. Gedera is only a few minutes away from Ashdod and less than 30 minutes to nearby Rishon LeZion, Rehovot and Tel Aviv.

The company is also building in Ashdod, one of the country's fastest growing cities, where real estate prices have started to rise (especially in the new city center and marina) as a result of significant investments from aliyah minded European and North American Jews.

In Eilat, C. Raphael Projects Ltd. is constructing a stunning luxury vacation / residential apartment complex including swimming pool and jacuzzi where buyers have the unique opportunity to own a property in a city that is being hailed as Israel's Red Sea Riviera. The apartments have a priceless view of the bay and the colorful Moab mountains.

The staff at C. Raphael Projects Ltd. assists potential buyers through the entire process, including assistance with securing proper financing through the local banking system and delivering the apartment/cottage on schedule.

Representatives from the company will be on hand during the Israel Real Estate Exhibitions in Canada to greet and advise potential buyers on all of the aforementioned projects.

For more information you can visit the website at: www.crp.co.il
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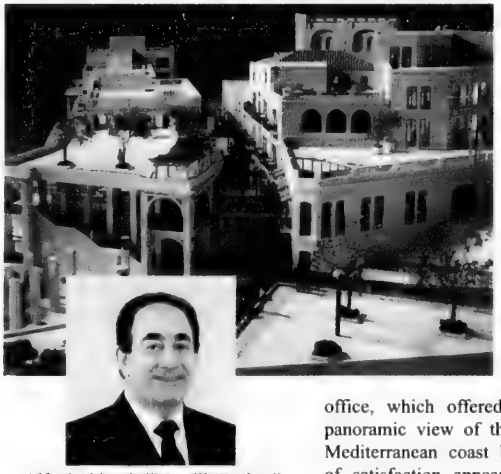
# Hotel & Real Estate Magnate Overcomes Bureaucratic Bungling On His Way To Create Jerusalem's Ultimate Complex



Alfred Akirov's "Mamilla Project"

By Ken Stephens

Israeli hotel and real estate magnate Alfred Akirov admittedly lives for the challenge of building expensive mega projects. As he peered out of the windows of his Tel Aviv office, which offered a spectacular panoramic view of the city and the Mediterranean coast below, a smile of satisfaction appeared across Mr. Akirov's face. "You see those new apartment towers in the distance? I built them. I want to get up in the morning, look out of my window and say, 'That's mine!' It just feels so good to build things, whether they are upscale residential buildings like the TreeTop Towers that you can see from my office, or mega hotel & tourism projects like Mamila and the David Citadel in Jerusalem," he told CJN.

However, it would be a huge mistake to presume that Mr. Akirov is 100% satisfied with what he has accomplished in Israel. Mr. Akirov's fast paced entrepreneurial spirit has repeatedly clashed with Israel's fossilized political bureaucracies, which time and again have placed stifling roadblocks in his path. Frustrated by the lack of change and forward thinking within the country's political establishment, Mr. Akirov's company-the Alrov Corporation, which to date has invested well over a billion dollars in various projects spread out across metro Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, is about to pull the plug on future projects and turn their attention towards Europe.

"It's just too political here. Nothing is to the point. And no one within this bureaucracy is really interested in doing something for the better of the nation," Mr. Akirov claimed. "I honestly want to do more exciting tourism projects in Israel, like rebuilding the port in Tel Aviv that would feature new hotels and upscale residential areas. I'm also willing to invest at least another billion dollars in order to build more residential and hotel projects specifically for the American and European Jewish market. We take our own risks to invest in these projects but if no one wants us here… There is just no way to do it right now. Every two years we get this revolving door of new government ministers. Who wants to deal with these hassles? This literally stops the country from moving forward. We've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tried everything possible to reason with them. We receive the red carpet treatment in the USA and Europe, so why should we be satisfied with receiving what I call 'black carpet' treatment by Israeli officials."

At least one other builder confirmed Mr. Akirov's frustrations by claiming that he endured nearly 15 years of stifling political bureaucracy in order to receive the "official paperwork" (including the all important "Taba"-land ownership rights) in order for him to start building an upscale real estate project on the outskirts of Jerusalem. "You either have to have Israeli blood in your veins or just stand your ground and keep plugging away in order to survive the system," the builder added.

Mr. Akirov maintained that the local bureaucracy (at City Hall) is sometimes even worse than on the national level. He claims that the city of Tel Aviv has allegedly refused to let him build on a piece of downtown property that he has had in his real estate portfolio for the past 16 years! "I won't build another major project in Israel, unless the property comes with all of the paperwork assuring that I have the Taba," Mr. Akirov said matter-of-factly.

**THE CROWN OF JERUSALEM**

If there is one specific endeavor that has given Mr. Akirov a real measure of pleasure after numerous battles, it is the Mamila Project-David Citadel residential and hotel complex, which sits on a majestic plateau overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.

Representing the "largest private investment in Jerusalem's history", the $400 million dollar architecturally compelling complex, which was designed by Moshe Safdie (he also recently designed the new wing at Yad Vashem), will double in size and capacity within the next two to three years. "In reality, the entire complex, which will eventually include another five-star hotel, 100 more upscale residential apartments, a 25,000 meter Shomer Shabbat commercial center, offices and a big car park with over 1,000 spaces, should have been finished in 2000 but the government that was in power at the time wouldn't allow us to continue to build," Mr. Akirov maintained. "However, with a different minister running the Interior Ministry in 2004, we were able to get the paperwork very quickly in order to start construction on the second phase of the Mamila Project. This is also a case where I have nothing but praise for the Jerusalem municipality, from former Mayor Ehud Olmert (now Prime Minister) to current Mayor Uri Lupolianski and city General Manager Eitan Meir. All of these people always offered their support despite the battles with the government. Everyone knows that this project has financial benefits for Jerusalem and is a tremendous attraction for foreign investors, as well as tourists."

As for the new hotel, which is being erected directly across the street from the David Citadel and will open for business in 2008, Mr. Akirov revealed that it will be a "city style" facility offering top quality standards. "It will more of a business style type of hotel. It won't have a swimming pool or large ballrooms like the David Citadel, but it will most definitely be one of the best," he boasted. "I'm excited when I go visit the site because I like the touch of good building. I'm also deeply involved with the architect, because I'm always looking to do something new and reinvent the concept of top quality service."


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# BUYING AN APARTMENT IN ISRAEL

There are a number of steps to be taken before buying an apartment in Israel. In the following article I shall briefly survey these steps.

**Step 1 – Deciding the purpose for which the apartment is being purchased:**
Holiday/Residence/Investment
When you come to buy an apartment, the first thing to do is to define the purpose of the purchase. There are three main purposes for which an apartment is purchased:

**Holiday Apartment**: If this is to be a holiday apartment, you should check the proximity to the sea, the Old City or any other place in which you are interested. It is extremely important to purchase an apartment where there are permanent tenants who will care for the building, rather than buying in a deserted place where the apartment owners have no interest in the building.

**Residential Apartment**: If you are interested in a residential apartment, you should first examine the residential area. Are there English-speakers in the area? Which synagogues are nearby? How far is the shopping center? It is also very important to know what activities are available in the area and what organizations, such as HOB, the AACI, etc.

**Investment**: If you are interested in an investment, you should examine rentals in the area. Who resides in the area? What return is there? Is there someone who can arrange to rent out the apartment? What is the potential for a rise in the price of apartments in the area? The condition of the apartment must also be examined.

**Step 2 – What is your budget:**
The second matter to be examined is the budget available for purchasing the apartment. This may be divided into two parts:

1. The budget for purchasing the apartment.
2. The budget for on-going maintenance of the apartment.

The budget for purchasing the apartment.
Firstly, with regard to the budget for purchasing the apartment, the price of the apartment is not the only amount to be paid at the time of purchase of the apartment.

The following must be added:
For a second-hand apartment:
Purchase tax, attorney's fees, currency conversion fees, real estate agent's fees, and miscellaneous costs.

For a new apartment:
All of the above, plus the fee of the contractor's attorney and bank guarantees.

Here I will explain the expenses:
**Purchase tax**: Purchase tax is a tax paid to the Israeli government when the apartment is purchased. Recently there has been a slight reduction in purchase tax for those buying an apartment which will be their only apartment in Israel. For the initial 559,350 NIS which is approximately $120,000 free of any purchase tax. In calculating the purchase tax to be paid, a distinction is made between people purchasing an apartment which will be their only apartment in Israel, and those purchasing a second apartment.

With regard to the first apartment, the tax is divided into three rates:

1.Up to 559,350 NIS 0%
2.From 559,351 NIS to 694,600 3.5%
3.From 693,602 NIS 5%

With regard to a second apartment, the tax is divided into two rates:
1.Up to 693,600 NIS 3.5%
2. Above 693,601 NIS 5%

I wish to emphasize that from the point of view of Israeli income tax, a wife with children under 18 are considered a single family unit, and therefore if the wife owns an apartment in her own name when the husband purchases an apartment in his name, he will pay the higher rate as if he owns an apartment.

**Attorney's Fees** It is most important to have an attorney who will examine the title and the agreement and will register the apartment in the name of the purchaser. Attorney's fees range between 0.5% and 1.5% plus VAT, depending on the complexity of the transaction.

**Currency conversion fees**: When purchasing an apartment in Israel it should be remembered that it is generally necessary to make payment in Israeli shekels and not in dollars, Euros, etc. When converting money to shekels, take into account a cost of between 0.1% and 0.5% of the amount that is being converted.

Real estate agent's fee: Generally the real estate agent's fee is high, ranging between 1% and 2% of the amount of the transaction.

Miscellaneous Among other things, this includes the cost of translations, cost of registration in the Land Registry, etc.

**In a new apartment:**
**Contractor's attorney fee**: A distinction must be made between the fee paid to the contractor's attorney and the fee paid to the private attorney. The attorney of the contractor does not represent the purchaser, only the contractor. The only thing for which he is paid is the registration of title in the name of the purchaser in the Land Registry. The attorney for the purchaser cannot register this type of apartment, because this is a new project, all of the apartments must be registered at the same time and by one lawyer.

**Bank Guarantee:** According to Israeli law, all payments above 15% to the contractor require the contractor to give guarantees to ensure the money. The most accepted manner of ensuring the money is by means of a bank guarantee.

Most of the building projects in Israel are accompanied by some bank which grants the contractor the loan for construction of the building. In order to ensure its loan as well as the money of the purchaser, the bank requires that every sum be deposited in a special bank account. Each amount that is deposited in a special account, the bank issues a bank guarantee.

The money is released from this account to the contractor in stages only after the contractor has completed a particular stage. The bank sends an engineer to check that the stage is in fact complete and has been built as required.

If the company goes into bankruptcy, the bank that guarantees the purchaser's money generally finds another contractor and completes the building. In such a situation it is guaranteed that the contractor will not receive money for work which has not been carried out. The cost of this guarantee is about 1.2%. It should be emphasized that that the purchaser's attorney should confirm that the purchaser's title is properly protected when returning the guarantee to the bank.

Linkage to the construction inputs index: When purchasing an apartment from a contractor you should be aware that the price of the apartment is linked to the index from the date of signing of the agreement to the date of actual payment. At times the price is linked to the dollar or the consumer price index.

Expenses after receiving the apartment: You should take into account that after receiving the apartment there will be current expenses for the apartment such as: house committee fees, insurance, municipal rates, etc. These expenses should be checked before purchasing the apartment.

**Stage 3 – financing the purchase:**
After we have decided what kind of apartment to buy and what our budget is, we have to decide how we are going to finance the purchase of the apartment. The first option is to pay the full amount in cash. The second option is to take a mortgage.

All mortgages in Israel are linked to a particular index or to a foreign currency. The three principle types of mortgages are:
A mortgage linked to the consumer price index, a mortgage linked to the prime rate and a mortgage linked to a foreign currency (dollar, pound, Euro, etc.). At this time the usual interest for the various types of mortgages is:
Index linkage plus 4%-4.5%
Foreign currency (dollar) linkage LIBOR plus 1.6-1.8% linked to prime plus 2%.

If you wish to receive a mortgage above 60%-70% of the price of the apartment, it is necessary to purchase insurance for payments above 60%, generally known as EMI.

The cost of EMI is very high, about 4% of the value of the loan. Due to its high cost, it is not recommended.

There are a few other costs which must be taken into consideration:

1. The bank charge for processing the mortgage is approximately 0.25%.

2.Life insurance and building insurance are required.
3. The cost of registration of the mortgage/lien in the Land Registry/Lien.
Nowadays there are mortgage counselors, and it is worth consulting with them.

**Stage 4 – signing the agreement**
Before the agreement is signed it is desirable that everything has already been agreed upon so that it is all included in the contract. It is important that there be an English translation of the agreement as well as all of the principle documents attached to it. It is important that the purchaser's money be protected as required either by means of registering a caveat or registration of mortgage or by means of a bank guarantee.

**Stage 5 – delivery of the apartment**
There is a distinction between a new and a second-hand apartment. Generally, second-hand apartments are sold as is, and even if flaws are discovered, you may not demand their repair unless they are hidden.

In purchasing a new apartment, the responsibility of the contractor for the apartment according to the law is for three years, and in addition, the civil tort law gives another 4 years.

Regarding new apartments, there are several dates which should be made note of:
**Date A** – Receipt of the apartment. On the date the apartment is received, a protocol is drawn up between the contractor and the purchaser. All defects found in the apartment must be recorded in the protocol if it is a defect which can be found by the eye of a non-professional. It is therefore most important to record all the defects in the delivery protocol. Afterward the contractor has one year to repair all the defects recorded in the list.
**Date B** – First year. The contractor must repair every defect found during the first year.
**Date C** – During the second and third years if a defect is found, the purchaser must prove that the defect is the result of a flaw in the work of the contractor. Following this, the contractor must repair it.

With a new apartment it is recommended to hire an expert – an engineer who will examine the apartment and provide a detailed report regarding all defects.

**Miscellaneous**: When the purchaser is abroad when the apartment is purchased, he will desire to have the attorney make all payments for him. The purchaser should insist that a special trustee account be opened and that you are provided with a financial report at least once every three months.

Elliot Rosenstein
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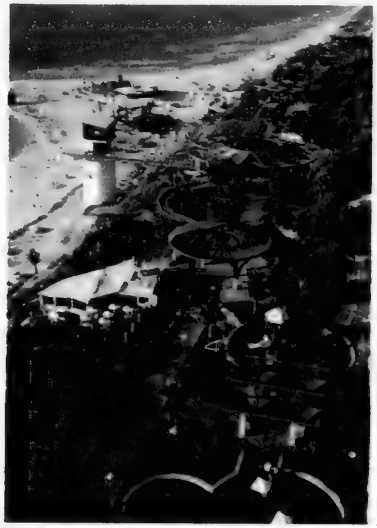


# Aliyah Tips

## NEW IMMIGRANTS "OLEH" RIGHTS

**(Courtesy: Nefesh B'Nefesh)**

All benefits are subject to change without notice as per the government of Israel

***Sal Klitah – Absorption Basket***
**Description**
*Financial assistance to be used at oleh's discretion.
*Initial cash is paid to all olim at the airport.
Initial payment will be followed by 7 monthly payments after reporting to Misrad Haklita (Ministry of Absorption) with your bank account details.
*Granted only for those who spent less than 18 months (consecutive or cumulative) during the last 3 years prior to making aliyah and no longer than 3 years during the last 7 years prior to making aliyah .
*Single will receive-15,542 shekels.

**Timetable**
Paid out over the first seven months after your aliyah.
If the oleh leaves Israel during the first seven months (irrespective of the reason), payments are stopped.
Payments can be simply restarted by visiting the Ministry of Absorption
If you return to Israel 13 months or more after your aliyah, payments are discontinued.

***Health Coverage***
**Description**
*Full coverage in any Kupat Cholim of your choice.
*Available irrespective of whether
you are employed. If working, health insurance will be deducted from salaries.

**Timetable**
First six months after your aliyah. Not available for Israeli ***citizens.***

***Hebrew Ulpan***
**Description**
*Free Hebrew ulpan in many different locations in the country. 5 months, 5 days, **5 hours** a day.

**Timetable**
Apply within the first 18 months after your aliyah.
Address *in your* TZ (teudat zahut – ID card),will dictate the location of the ulpan.

***Free Tuition BA or MA degree provided by the Student Authority Assistance***
**Description**
*Candidate up to the age of 23 can receive assistance for mechina (prepatoray program).
*Candidates up to the age of 27 can receive assistance for a BAat a recognized institution.

Candidates up to the age of 30 can receive assistance for a MA at recognized institutions.

**Timetable**
Must start studies within 3 years after your aliyah.
A student must study in a program at an institution of higher education recognized by the SA. Details at the Ministry of Absorption.

**Rent Subsidy**
**Description**
*Single oleh (2nd to 4th year after aliyah) will receive 223 NIS.5th year 89 NIS.
*Oleh family will receive 402 NIS 2nd year, 322 NIS 3rd year, 223 NIS 4th year and 99 NIS in the 5th year.

**Timetable**
Starts automatically 13 months after your aliyah

**Oleh Chadash Mortgage**
**Description**
*Low interest rates, compared to other market rates.
*You need a TZissued by the Ministry of Housing through a mortgage bank.

**Timetable**
Granted up to 10 years after your aliyah

**Reduced Purchase Tax**
**Description**
*A reduction **for olim** on the purchase tax.

**Timetable**
Available up to 7 years after your aliyah.

**Income Tax Reduction**
**Description**
*Discount with your income tax payments.
*Advise your employer that you are an oleh.
*A significant reduction in tax rates for 18 months and after the discount is reduced

**Timetable**
Available up to 3 and half years after your aliyah.

**Arnona – Municipal tax reduction**
**Description**
*Varies depending on the municipality. Usually
olim will be receiving 90% of reduction in arnona.

**Timetable**
Available for 12-24 months after aliyah for one year only.

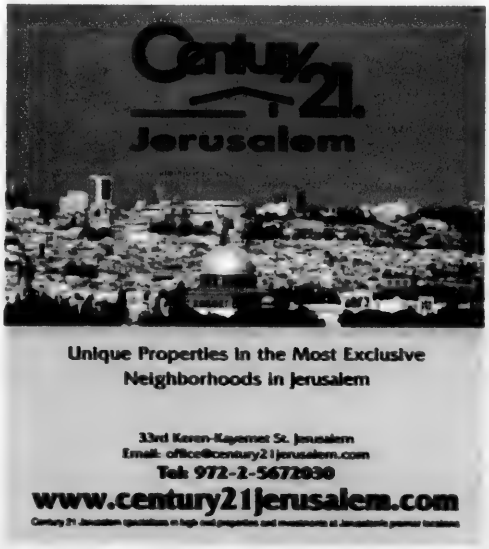
**Free one-way ticket to Israel**
**Description**
*Only when making aliyah from abroad.
*There is a charge of 50$ paid to the Israel Aliyah Center for each person over 12.

**Customs benefits for a car bought in Israel**
**Description**
*Olim will pay a reduced tax rate of 77% – irrespective of engine size.
*A valid Israeli drivers license is required.
*Valid only for a new car, or passport to passport

**Timetable**
Our recommendation is not to ship cars from the USA+ Canada.
Available up to 3 years after your aliyah

**Absorption Center**
**Description**
Temporary housing for olim. Check with the Jewish Agency about your eligibility to reside in a Mercaz Klita. Must be arranged before your aliyah by your ahaliach

Minimal rent charge + electricity, water and phone line.



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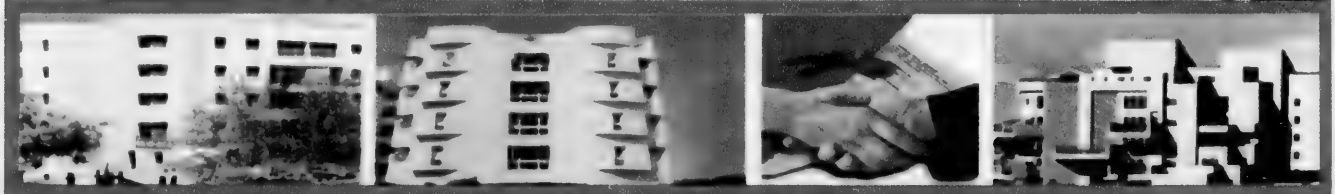

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## This Week

### National

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**Synagogue event** marks Yom Hazikaron. *Page 5*

**'Indiana Jones'** seeks volunteers for Israeli dig. *Page 18*

### On Campus

**Toronto students** join Darfur rally in Washington. *Page 22*

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# Olmert takes office and vows to change borders

By ETGAR LEFKOVITS
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — After four months of filling in for Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert moved into the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday, vowing to redefine Israel's borders and crack down on illegal Jewish settlement activity in the West Bank.

"In the next few years, we will change Israel's character to ensure it will be a state with a solid Jewish majority living within defensible borders that can provide security to its residents and separate us from those who must live alongside us and not among us," he said at a ceremony marking his move.

Olmert, who has headed a caretaker government since Sharon suffered a massive stroke on Jan. 4, had previously refrained from moving into the Prime Minister's Office in deference to the comatose leader, maintaining his previous office in the more modest Industry and Trade Ministry while he served first as acting prime minister and then as interim prime minister.

Indeed, the ceremony marking his move into Sharon's office, attended by his wife Aliza, scores of office workers from governments past and present and close friends, was marked by nostalgia and expressions of regret at the absence of the former prime minister.

"If we could ensure that Ariel Sharon would be here, I would wait without any problems as much time as was required before entering this building," Olmert said. "However, Arik is not here, and our prayers and longing are with him."

At the new government's first cabinet meeting earlier in the morning, coming on the heels of the forced eviction of three Jewish squatter families in Hebron, Olmert reiterated that the government would not accept lawlessness in the territories.

**Continued on page 40**

**Prime Minister Ehud Olmert salutes attendees at a ceremony marking his move to the Prime Minister's Office Sunday. Hundreds of employees working at the PMO welcomed Olmert as he entered it for the first time.** *[Israel photo]*

# *Preserving Masada*

By SUE FISHKOFF
*JTA*

**MASADA, Israel** – Masada is one of the most renowned symbols of Jewish endurance.

Rising 750 feet above the Dead Sea valley, the site of a mass suicide of Jewish Zealots in 73 CE, it is, next to Jerusalem, Israel's most popular tourist site. Elite units of the Israel Defence Forces hold special ceremonies atop its heights, pledging, "Masada shall not fall again."

But it might.

Not today, not tomorrow, but one day, as seismic tremors, climatic change and, inevitably, gravity continue to threaten the stability of the historic ruins and the mountain that supports them.

Engineering professors from Be'er Sheva's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the University of California-Berkeley have teamed up to make sure that doesn't happen.

Using state-of-the-art monitoring devices and advanced computer modelling techniques, and armed with a four-year grant from the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, Be'er Sheva's Yossi Hatzor and Berkeley's Steven Glaser are breaking new ground in geological engineering.

Masada is their test case.

"Masada has been degrading for 2,000 years," says Hatzor, head of BGU's Rock Mechanics Laboratory and founder of the geological engineering team working on the problem.

**Continued on page 41**

**Emor**
**Candlelighting: 8:15**
**Havdallah: 9:20**
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**The CJN survey questionnaire — please see inside**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Walkathon Nets $4,500

**KELOWNA, B.C.** — Some 20 adults and children took part in the Okanagan Jewish Community's second annual five-kilometre walkathon last month. The April 30 event, held at the Holiday Park Resort in Kelowna, B.C., raised about $4,500 for operations and programs at the Okanagan Jewish Community Centre.

### WORLD

#### New Jewish Paper

**HONG KONG** — "Asia's first Jewish community tabloid," *Jewish Times Asia*, was launched last month in response to the rapidly growing presence of Jews in China and elsewhere in the region. The 24-page April issue includes an article on the Jewish community of Taiwan, an interview with Israel's consul general in Hong Kong and a feature on the 15th anniversary of Hong Kong's Carmel School. The Hong Kong-based paper had significant upscale advertising. "I have had the idea for about 10 years," publisher and founder Philip Jay wrote in a front-page letter to readers. The paper will be distributed free to all Jews in the region and will also be available at selected Jewish community centres and shuls in China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

#### Hamas Rep Gets Visa

**STOCKHOLM** — Sweden broke with EU policy last week by granting a visa to a Palestinian Authority cabinet minister from Hamas. Minister for Refugees Atef Adwan was given a visa to attend a weekend conference in Sweden, the first time an EU member state has allowed entry to a member of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority since the terror group took power in March. Israeli officials were infuriated. France and Belgium had refused visa applications from other Hamas officials after EU leaders decided last month there would be no dialogue with Hamas until it recognizes Israel and gives up terror. The Swedish visa will allow Adwan to travel freely in 15 European countries.

#### No BBC Bias: Report

**LONDON** — There is no evidence of systematic bias in the BBC's coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, but the network shouldn't shy away from using the word "terrorism," a panel found. The report, issued by a five-person panel named last year by the BBC, did note some cases of biased coverage, the *Guardian* reported, but it said that overall, the BBC tries to report impartially. Still, the report concluded the BBC "does not consistently give a full and fair account of the conflict," and in some cases favours the Israeli side, the *London Times* reported. Israeli deaths, for example, received greater coverage than Palestinian deaths, the report said, and Israelis got more air time than Palestinians on news and current affairs programs. That might surprise Jewish groups, who have accused the BBC of being pro-Palestinian.

#### Brandeis Pulls Exhibit

**BOSTON** — Brandeis University pulled a pro-Palestinian art exhibit from its campus. Among the images in the "Voices from Palestine" exhibit were Palestinian children dripping with blood and a bulldozer threatening a girl. The pieces were painted by Palestinian teens in a Bethlehem refugee camp at the request of an Israeli Jewish student at Brandeis. The Zionist Organization of America condemned the exhibit, and several students lodged complaints. A school spokesperson said the exhibit was yanked four days into its two-week run because "it was completely from one side."

#### Sudan Divestment

**PHILADELPHIA** — The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has divested from firms doing business in Sudan. Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, president of the college, admitted the economic impact would be "very small," but he said that it sends a strong message about the government-sponsored genocide in Sudan's Darfur region and that he hopes other Jewish institutions will follow suit. The move comes after recent rallies for Darfur across the continent that had heavy Jewish involvement.

#### Court Nixes 'Jerusalem, Israel' on Passports

**OTTAWA** — The Federal Court of Canada last week dismissed an application asking it to order the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to allow "Israel" to appear on the passports of people born in Jerusalem.

The application was filed by B'nai Brith Canada's senior legal counsel, David Matas, on behalf of Eliyahu Veffer, a Toronto teenager who had been frustrated in his efforts to have his birthplace shown as "Jerusalem, Israel."

The decision effectively means that Veffer "will continue to receive differential treatment under the existing policy," Matas said. "Eliyahu Veffer is effectively being denied his birthright by the restrictive policy now in place."

Federal Court judge Konrad von Finckenstein ruled Veffer's religious and equality rights were not violated by the passport office policy, which he said was adopted for "geopolitical reasons." Canada does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem, he noted.

Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith's executive vice-president, said, "We will certainly be communicating with the new [federal] government [about the policy]."

Veffer will appeal the ruling, one of his lawyer's said.

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Yom Ha'atzmaut 5766

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# Jewish youths show Israel's colours at nightclub

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

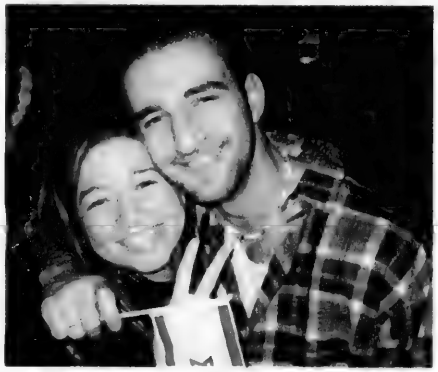
Many Jewish organizations worked together to bring a little taste of Israel to downtown Toronto in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 58th birthday, last week.

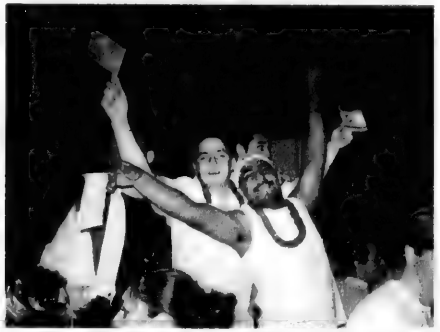
About 600 people gathered at Afterlife Nightclub May 2 for "Yom Ha'atzmaut Tel Aviv Style," a party organized and sponsored by Hillel, Canada Israel Experience, Israel Aliyah Centre, the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other Jewish organizations.

Israel Program Centre's regional director Michal Kaye, who co-chaired the event with Hillel's Israel affairs co-ordinator Orna Hollander, said she was thrilled that the party went off without a hitch.

"It definitely reached our expectations. It was a mixed crowd, mixed ages, and that's what it's all about. People had a great time. It was amazing," Kaye said.

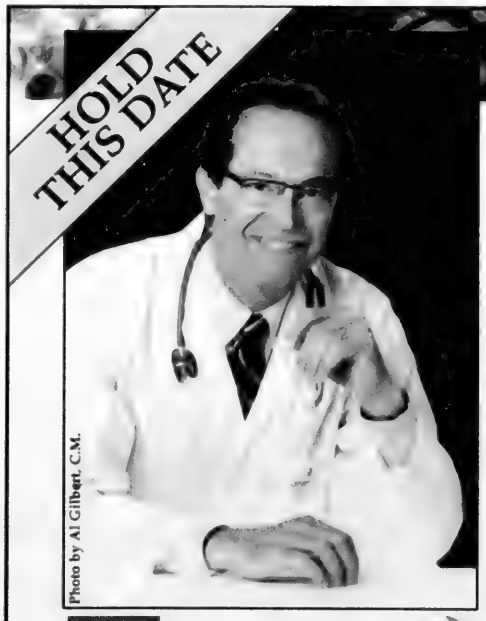
The Megan Boys Entertainment DJ spun tracks that included something for everyone – top 40 hip hop, trance, house and some Israeli music that was thrown into the mix to reflect the party's theme.





From left, Moshe Hadida and Isaac Oziel wave their Israeli flags with pride at Afterlife Nightclub in downtown Toronto. Esther Small and Doron Simacov are all smiles at last week's Yom Ha'atzmaut party, while Or Bar and Sagi Marisi dance in celebration of Israel's 58th birthday. [Sheri Shefa photos]

Continued on page 16

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Yom Hazikaron 5766

# Israel's fallen soldiers remembered 'with tears'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

In honour of Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, more than 600 people of all ages joined Israel's consul general in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh, at a moving Yom Hazikaron memorial service last week at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation.

From the opening ceremony, with six young people marching with Israeli flags, to the closing musical presentation by the Renanim Youth Choir, comprising girls and boys ages 10 to 18, the sombre program in English and Hebrew honoured Israelis who have been killed in their country's ongoing battles.

Following a moment of silence, Ephraim Shoham, Israel's trade commissioner in Canada, recited *Yizkor*.

Speaking about the 22,000 Israelis who have died in war and at the hands of terrorists, Brosh reminded the gathering to remember what we owe them and their families.

"They won't be forgotten," he said.

Photos of some soldiers who perished were displayed on a large screen.

Zafrira Hotz lit a memorial candle. She lost her father Chaim Yoel Goldenberg in 1936 when he was shot in a village near Haifa. He was 22.

She also lost her brother, Lieut. Aaron Goldenberg, who fell in 1963 while serving as a pilot in the Israeli Air Force.

Others who lost family members made presentations reflecting their sorrow and grief, including Zipi Erez, whose husband was killed in the Sinai at age 31. For her presentation, titled "Each Man Has a Name," she was joined by her grandson.

Haouva Ratner, whose brother was killed in the Yom Kippur War at age 25, spoke what she called "Words for the Heart."

**Guitarist Carey Domb and her husband cellist Daniel Domb performed at the Yom Hazikaron memorial service last week. Inset: Israel's Consul General Ya'acov Brosh addresses the gathering. [Cynthia Gasner photos]**

Benny Gruber recited *Kaddish*. His brother was killed while serving as an air force pilot in 1962.

Some of the others making presentations included Israel Defence Forces Col. (Res.) Gil Ben-Haim, Eli Shenhav, David Gidron and Hassida David.

The event also featured a number of musical performers, including cellist Daniel Domb and his wife Carey on the guitar, and *K'el Maleh Rachamim* sung by Cantor Marshal Loomer, who was later joined by Michael Rubin for a duet of the song *The Last War*.

In his poignant presentation, Rabbi Phillip Scheim, Beth David's spiritual leader, recalled the first postwar seder held by Holocaust survivors, and their determination to establish a homeland.

He said that out of love and respect for those brave soldiers who have fallen and "who we remember with tears," we must not relinquish hope or lose faith.

"We are resilient people," he said.

***From the editor's desk*** WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK

Yom Ha'atzmaut 5766

**TRI-SCHOOL CELEBRATION**

**Neighbouring Thornhill day schools held a joint Yom Ha'atzmaut parade last week. Far left, from left, are Jan Lapedus, principal of Leo Baeck Day School, students David Schlosser and Amanda Silcoff. [Frances Kraft photo]**

**Near left are students from Netivot Hatorah Day School, Associated Hebrew Schools, Kamin branch, also took part. [Rebecca Ansel photo]**

Flag bearers at Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

# Synagogue event marks 'auspicious anniversary'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

More than 1,500 people, many of them students, crowded into Shaarei Shomayim Congregation to remember those who lost their lives in Israel and to mark the transition from sadness on Yom Hazikaron to joy with the celebration of Israel's Independence Day.

Sponsored by the religious Zionist organizations Mizrachi Organization of Canada, Emunah Women, Yavneh, and Bnei Akiva, the standing-room-only crowd prayed, sang, and later enthusiastically cheered and danced.

The consul general of Israel in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh, opened the evening's ceremony by speaking about his personal memories of Israel's experience with sacrifice and success.

"In 58 years, Israel has emerged from humble beginnings to leading the world in many fields." He added that the transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut as night falls characterizes the Jewish psyche and the Jewish drive for survival.

He added that people died to make sure the State of Israel remains strong and vibrant.

Toronto Mayor David Miller, accompanied by Deputy Mayor Mike Feldman, spoke of the "auspicious anniversary" being celebrated.

"From its birth, Israel has been a land dedicated to peace. And I know we all share the fervent hope [that] a pattern can be found for peace, security and an end to atrocities of terrorism."

Speaking of Canadian diversity, he said, "We have to be vigilant when we see anti-Semitism. We have to speak up strongly against those acts and other acts of hatred."

He emphasized that "Israel remains a beacon of hope."

Rabbi David Cohen, an Israeli exchange teacher at Netivot HaTorah Day School, told about his commanding officer in the Golani Brigade, a very skilled officer who was killed at age 39 by a roadside bomb while visiting troops in Lebanon.

Rabbi Cohen said that on Yom Hazikaron, he thinks of his commanding officer.

Shaarei Shomayim's spiritual leader, Rabbi Moshe Shulman, told a moving story of two fathers, one whose son perished in the Holocaust and the other whose son died while serving in the Israel Defence Forces.

He recited prayers for peace and tranquility for the Jewish people, and he spoke of the challenges and dangers facing Jews today. He emphasized the blessings of this generation and the need to have faith in God and give each other strength.

"It is our collective and national responsibility to praise God and to thank God – to recognize these blessings, to acknowledge that while there are still challenges, as significant as they are, these are challenges that our parents and grandparents would have gladly traded for the challenges they had to face, wandering [as] exiles from country to country. The challenges that we face today we have dreamt of having for so long."

Edie Kalb of Emunah Women lit a memorial candle, and a song was presented by Yaakov Morel and Yonatan Shlagbaum. Rabbi Avichai Zehavi recited a memorial prayer and sang an Israeli chassidic song, and a musical medley by students from Netivot HaTorah Day School's children's choir was enthusiastically applauded.

To mark the threshold between Memorial Day and Independence Day, flag bearers from Yeshivat Or Chaim marched through the synagogue.

After viewing an audiovisual presentation of Yavneh, Bnei Akiva and Camp Moshava activities, among others, the audience erupted into cheers and joyous clapping.

The merrymaking later spilled into the shul's social hall, with exuberant Israeli dancing to music by The Velt, a student orchestra.


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| 10:30pm | **Ruth**: Rabbi Tina Grimberg, Congregation Darchei Noam |
| 11:30pm | **Lamentations**: Rabbi Yossi Sapirman, Beth Torah Congregation |
| 12:30am | **Song of Songs**: Prof. Sara Horowitz & Prof. Jonathan Richler, York University & First Narayever Congregation |
| 1:30am | **Dessert Buffet** |
| 2:00am | **Esther**: Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Kolel |
| 3:00am | **Ecclesiastes**: Rabbi Ed Elkin, First Narayever Congregation |
| 4:00am | **The Whole Megillah**: Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Ed., Congregation Beth Haminyan |
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| 11:30pm | "Holy Hormones: About Teenage Love & Judaism" with Rabbi Tina Grimberg |
| 12:30am | "What does G-d have to do with it?" with Baruch Sienna |
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# COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

**With flags waving, and blue and white balloons flying, Israel was uppermost on everyone's mind at last week's outdoor Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in honour of the country's 58th birthday. Held behind the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, the event was co-sponsored by the BJCC, the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, the Schwartz/Reisman Centre, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, the new UJA Federation Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.**

**[Carolyn Blackman photos]**

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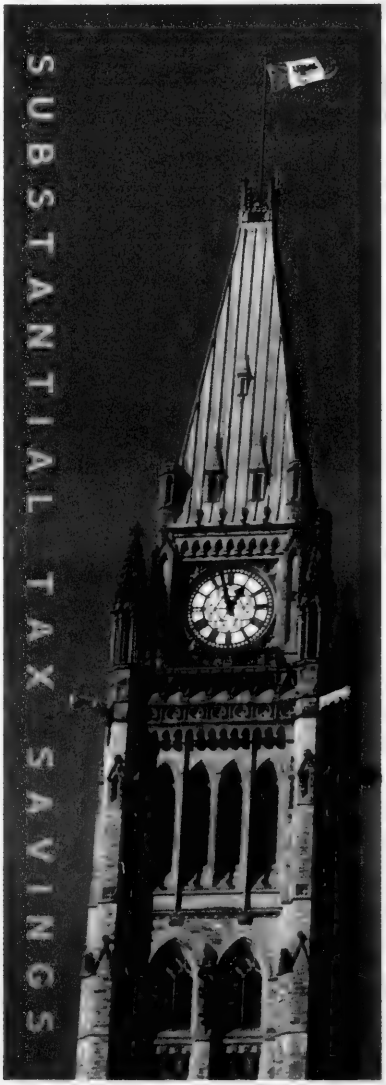


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# How great is our pride

One of the seminal commandments in the Torah's panoply of 613 is the obligation to teach our children the laws of Jewish life. It is of such paramount importance that we also find it at the heart of the *Shema*, the declarative watchword prayer of Jewish faith. As we all know, it is not merely technical rules that the Torah enjoins and our sages have enshrined. Rather, it is the transmission from one generation to the next of the framework and details of the entirety of the Jewish structure of obligations and values in the service of God, which is at its core, according to the imperatives of His will, the service of mankind.

The attempt to mobilize the conscience of the world to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, is eloquent evidence that our children are learning well the teachings of their parents. Jewish youth – university-age students and younger – were instrumental in organizing the rallies held two weeks ago around North America on behalf of Darfur.

To be sure, Jewish institutional leadership has been at the forefront of the campaign to heighten awareness of the plight of the people of Darfur and to try to rescue them from their hell. The reason was powerfully articulated by Bernie Farber, CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He told *The CJN:* "We [the Jewish community] understand the pain of victimization and genocide, and it's up to us to throw a fence of protection around other communities." Congress' efforts on behalf of the persecuted in Darfur have been sustained and unbending. We note, too, the exemplary initiative of former justice minister Irwin Cotler, who spearheaded the founding of the Save Darfur Parliamentary Coalition, and the grassroots pioneering of Norman Epstein, co-founder of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan.

But it has been our students who have seized the issue and waved it with tenacity and steely-eyed determination before the somnolent consciences of the nations of the world – the Toronto rally was organized by five Jewish students calling themselves Project Equity.

In a poignant and courageous *cri de coeur* published last week in the Toronto edition of *The CJN,* two students, Jonathan Laski and Danny Richmond, explained to us, indeed pleaded with us – the generation of their parents – that "our generation is searching for a way to keep the Shoah alive through its lessons, and by doing so, we will also keep the spirit of its victims and survivors alive."

Josh Scheinert, a young Canadian intern in Washington who took part in the Darfur rally there, sent this message to *The CJN:* "In the last century, humanity failed itself too often. This is the first great challenge the 21st century has presented to our moral fibres. In that sense, it is our first chance to start anew. The atrocities of Darfur must signify a new era, one where the evils of perpetrators turn the indifference of bystanders into a tsunami of actions. Only then can victims of the past and the present begin to have some degree of faith in humanity."

Like our patriarchs, Isaac and Jacob, members of our younger generation are, in their own way, finding, understanding and embracing the faith and values of their fathers on their own terms.

How great is the pride we feel.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Relations between Israel and West Germany hit a new low as Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin strongly criticized German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for saying Germany should recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination and for comparing Israeli and Palestinian military actions. Schmidt responded to Begin's remarks by stressing the close relations between Bonn and Jerusalem.

**Dry Bones**

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HAD SHARON BEEN WELL ENOUGH TO HAND OVER THE JOB...
HE WOULDN'T HAVE!

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Isaac Apter, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Daniel Held, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Keith Landy, Andrea Most, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Michael Stroh, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks**

## Mazel tov to Olmert from CIC

To Prime Minister Ehud Olmert:

On behalf of the Canada-Israel Committee and the organized Jewish community of Canada, we want to congratulate you on the formation of your government and extend our best wishes for a successful administration.

We know that Israel faces many challenges both domestically and regionally. But we are confident that under your experienced leadership the country will achieve the stability and security that all Israelis deserve and cherish.

Be assured, prime minister, of the ongoing support of Canadian Jewry.

We pride ourselves on enjoying a special relationship with you and look forward to helping advance Israel's position and the Canada-Israel bilateral relationship.

We trust we will have an opportunity to meet soon.

**Marc Gold**
**Chair**
**Moshe Ronen**
**Co-chair**
**Canada-Israel Committee**

* * *

## Yom Hashoah memorial program (1)

I refer my colleagues in the Vaad Harabonim to a well-researched tshuvah, *Kol Be-Ishah Ervah – The Voice of a Woman Is Erotic*, written by Rabbi David Novak for the Panel of Halachic Inquiry under the auspices of the Union for Traditional Judaism ("Group of rabbis withdraws from Yom Hashoah event," *CJN*, April 21).

One excerpt states: "Rabbi Ya'akov Yehi'el Weinberg was asked by leaders of a Jewish youth organization in France… whether it was permissible for them to sponsor programs that involved boys and girls singing Shabbat songs together… He reports that subsequently he learned that Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and Rabbi Ezriel Hildesheimer had permitted the practice, as did a Sephardi authority quoted in *Sedei Hemed*. They permitted it based on the principle that 'two voices cannot be heard'… He also quotes Rabbi Moshe Isserles, who rules that anything that is not done in an affectionate way is permissible as long as it is for the sake of Heaven. Rabbi Weinberg says that since the purpose of singing these songs is to arouse religious feeling and to instill in one's heart an affection for the holiness of Israel, one can be lenient."

The tshuvah concludes: "As long as the singer and listener are acting… 'for the sake of Heaven,' it would indeed be permissible to listen to a woman sing songs that are quotations from the Tanach or from our tradition that praise the Holy One, Blessed be He, His Torah, His people Israel, and His Holy land of Israel."

I would add that our halachic tradition invokes the principle "*Koach d'hatirah adifah*," which loosely translated means: "At times, it is considered strong, courageous, and preferable to render a lenient halachic ruling." Does not a community Yom Hashoah commemoration merit this consideration? Otherwise, what is next? A mechitzah at Earle Bales Park when *Kaddish* and *K'El Maleh Rachamim* are recited? A ban on women singing prior to the Walk for Israel parade?

**Rabbi Howard Morrison**
**Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue**

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## Yom Hashoah memorial program (2)

MY HEARING WAS DAMAGED FROM WORKING IN A FACTORY
AUDIOLOGIST
MINE WAS FROM ALL THE PEOPLE TALKING SHOP AND GOSSIPING IN SYNAGOGUE

I cannot help but wonder how a rabbinic body can get away with breaking one of the only remaining displays of Jewish unity in Toronto without being taken to task for it ("Why we chose not to take part," *CJN*, April 27). Can you imagine what kind of outcry there would have been if it was the Orthodox that pulled out? Where are the lay leaders in these congregations? Where are the Toronto Jewish leaders, champions of Jewish unity? Must we shlep the Holocaust into politics, too?

**Rabbi Avraham E. Plotkin**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

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## Yom Hashoah memorial program (3)

I was not impressed by the logic of Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich's explanation for the Toronto Board of Rabbis' withdrawal from the community-wide Yom Hashoah memorial service ("Why we chose not to take part," *CJN*, April 27).

He writes of how the board is "ever-mindful of the fact that men, women and children perished in the Holocaust because they were Jews" and expresses its opposition to any event that precludes the full participation of all.

Yet despite all this high-sounding moralizing, this is exactly what the board itself proposes to do. They are well aware that the changes they propose will exclude the Orthodox community from this event. Do they not know that the Orthodox suffered and died together with all Jews in the Holocaust?

The Toronto Board of Rabbis should truly act in the interest of Jewish unity and retract its withdrawal. Yom Hashoah is no time for interdenominational politics.

**Andy Rechtshaffen**
**Toronto**

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# Remembering a literary giant

By SIMCHA SIMCHOVITCH

On May 13, we will mark the 90th anniversary of the death of Sholom Rabinovitch, the brilliant humourist and classic author of modern Yiddish literature known as Sholom Aleichem.

He was born in 1859 in Pereyaslev, near Kiev, and died in New York at the age of 75. During his lifetime, he was a private teacher, a state-appointed rabbi, a grain merchant and a stockbroker. He lived in Odessa, Kiev and Kharkov; travelled throughout Europe; and lived in the United States in his final years.

But above all, Sholom Aleichem was a very productive writer. He wrote easily wherever he happened to be – walking in the streets, travelling by train, at home or away from home, and he loved writing during daylight hours as well as at night, as his daughter Mary Weitz-Goldberg says in the biography of her famous father. In addition, Sholom Aleichem was forced to write a lot because he had to support a large family and therefore had to constantly supply stories, novels and feature articles to the editors of the newspapers and journals where he worked.

In total, his collected works in Yiddish include some 30 volumes, not counting the unpublished manuscripts that survived his death and the hundreds of letters he wrote to family members, writers, editors, publishers, ordinary readers and admirers.

Of course, not everything in this large literary inheritance is of equal quality and level of maturity, but more than enough remains that has passed the test of time and is as precious, lively and fresh today as it was 90 years ago.

Sholom Aleichem remains the most popular and beloved Yiddish writer, and not only for Yiddish speakers and readers, because many of his works were translated into no less than 20 languages. His comedies and dramas are still performed in theatres, and the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* based on his *Tevye the Dairyman* is world renowned.

The key to Sholom Aleichem's huge success is in his God-given humour, which is as rare in Yiddish literature as it is in world literature generally. Among the small number of world-class humourists, Sholom Aleichem must be considered one of the greatest. In Yiddish literature, as well as in Jewish life in general, humour was a rarity. In the Torah, the Mosaic laws and statutes dominated, and in the other books, the harsh reproaches of the prophets loomed large. The tone of the later rabbinic Jewish teachings was also earnest, as it applied Jewish ethical teachings to the daily life of the Jews.

The same tone of earnest criticism and biting satire against the "dark sides" of Jewish life dominated the Enlightenment (Haskalah) literature of the 18th and 19th century, in Yiddish as well as in Hebrew.

At the same time, a living stream of folk humour and playful optimism found its expression in the jokes and stories of the folk jesters, such as Motke Chabad, Hershele Ostropolier and others. This tendency toward light fun and merriment was also expressed in the entertaining quality of Purim plays, Simchat Torah celebrations and family simchas such as engagements, weddings and circumcisions. Sholom Aleichem drew plentifully from these light-hearted folk traditions and, through the prism of his genius, turned them into high-quality humour.

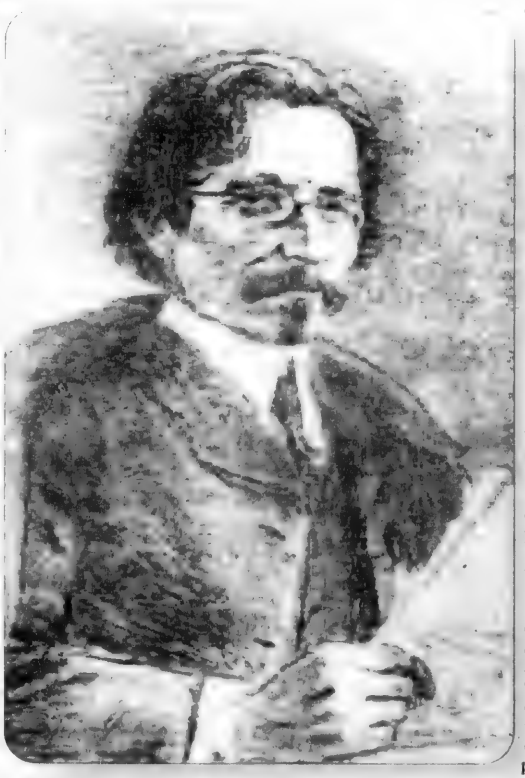
This, naturally, did not take place all at once. He had to struggle to free himself from the satire of the Maskilim, especially from that of Mendele Mocher-Sforim, the father of the new Yiddish literature, whom Sholom Aleichem admired and from whom he learned so much. On the other hand, Sholom Aleichem also had to conduct a bitter struggle against Nachum Shaikevitch, who, under the pseudonym of Shomar, flooded the literary market of those days with cheap novels and romances that were very popular among ordinary people.

In order to fight this *shund* literature with more than public denunciation, Sholom Aleichem created a series of his own novels, such as *Sender Blank*, *Stempeniu*, *Yosele Soloway* and later on, *The Wandering Stars*, *The Flood*, and *The Bloody Joke*, many of them based on the lives of Jewish bohemians, klezmers, travelling actors and others. These romances not only have historical value, they can be read with pleasure and interest today as well. Through them, Sholom Aleichem succeeded in winning and educating Jewish readers and accustoming them to a better kind of Yiddish writing.

It was only then, after freeing himself from the satire of the Haskalah and after raising the level of the Yiddish mass-reader, that Sholom Rabinovitch was transformed into Sholom Aleichem – the good-hearted humourist whose golden smile and innocent laughter made the Jewish reader forget for awhile the tragic reality of Jewish life in Czarist Russia. First of all, Sholom Aleichem penned a vivid picture of Kasrilevke, a Jewish town with its poor but joyful Jews, full of spiritual energy and wit, and good-natured self-mockery, in spite of oppression and poverty.

The crown of this creative phase are Sholom Aleichem's monumental books *Menachem Mendel from Yehupetz*, *Tevye the Dairyman*, and *Motl Peysi the Cantor's Son*. These are three original and unforgettable types of universal significance, just like *Don Quixote* and *Hamlet* or *Oblomov* in western European or Russian literature.

Menachem Mendl is the prototype of the Jewish *luftménsch* who has tremendous energy and passion for great undertakings and ventures that always come to nothing. Sheyne-Shaindl, his wife, is a practical woman, a sort of Sancho Panza to her Don Quixotic husband, and she warns him that "*kreplach* in a dream are not *kreplach* at all."



Sholom Aleichem

Menachem Mendl is, therefore, a tragicomical parody on Jewish haste and gullibility that more than once misled some of our people on false paths – for example, the thousands of young and intelligent Jewish youth who devoted their lives to, and often sacrificed themselves on the altar of, the October Revolution and the Communist system in Russia that ended in such bitter failure in our time. Yet this same Menachem-Mendlish energy and enthusiasm was instrumental in the formation of an independent Jewish state and in the blossoming of new Jewish centres across the ocean.

If Menachem Mendl is the somehow unsympathetic representation of the Jewish entrepreneurial spirit, Tevye the Dairyman represents an ideal Jew. Sholom Aleichem raises Tevye, the simple wagoner and dairyman, to a universal figure of an ideal man, husband and father and good-hearted person. In his six stories about Tevye, Sholom Aleichem writes masterfully about Tevye's character – his unassuming nature, goodness and understanding of how to deal with people and their suffering.

Tevye forgives and even has sympathy for Menachem Mendl when the latter loses 100 rubles on the Yehupetz stock market that Tevye had invested in his speculative ventures. Tevye agrees to the self-selected marriage of his daughters: Tzeitl to the poor tailor Motl Kamzoil and Hodl to Feferl, the revolutionary who has been exiled to Siberia. Even when Chava, his beloved and talented daughter, falls in love with a young Ukrainian and converts because of him, Tevye's heart is torn from the conflicting feelings of anger and disappointment and fatherly love and compassion for his rebellious daughter.

And when his daughter Shprintze drowns herself because of a disappointing love affair with the wealthy Arontchik, Tevye cries out: "Why should people be so wicked when they can be good?" The simple Jewish dairyman is thus elevated to a Job who accepts his suffering with love, then submits to his fate and overcomes his despair through simplicity and faith.

The third and probably the most beloved of Sholom Aleichem's heroes is the orphan Motl, the son of Peysi the Cantor. Here, as in other children's stories, Sholom Aleichem did away with the concept of "little Jews," which Mendele and other Jewish writers argued robbed Jewish children of their childhood. Motl is a playful prankster who loves to laugh, play and sing, just like children of his age all over the world. They laugh together with Sholom Aleichem, their creator, in spite of their worried and troubled parents. They live in an innocent Garden of Eden of childhood, where they play and laugh according to Sholom Aleichem's famous saying: "Laughter is healthy; doctors tell us to laugh."

This purely innocent laughter of Sholom Aleichem has warmed Jewish hearts at all times. Even in the frightful years of the Holocaust in Europe, in the ghettos and in the death camps, Sholom Aleichem's stories brought healing and hope to broken Jewish hearts. In days of sorrow and mourning, as in days of joy and yom tov, Sholom Aleichem's words will continue to be heard and cherished.

*Simcha Simchovitch is one of Canada's most celebrated Yiddishists and poets. This article was translated from Yiddish by Miriam Beckerman.*

Opinions

# More bar than mitzvah?

There are times when even an Orthodox rabbi will lament tradition. In particular, I believe it's time to change our bar/bat mitzvahs.

Yes, we're too rigorous in our bar/bat mitzvah "traditions" (ones that I somehow neglected to study at yeshiva).

*Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal*

"Tradition" states that each bar/bat mitzvah must include a night affair, a game room and expensive giveaways. It must also have the proper caterer, florist, photographer, band, DJ and videographer. Despite my own inclinations, these "traditions" make me uncomfortable. To me, these "traditions" smack of true fanaticism.

George Santayana once said "a fanatic is someone who redoubles his efforts while losing sight of his goal." Our bar/bat mitzvahs are events only a fanatic could love. Having abandoned all but the most perfunctory religious rituals, they have become oversized and ostentatious celebrations with only a slightly religious veneer. The contemporary bar/bat mitzvah is an empty festivity, a party that celebrates itself.

Many have remarked that our bar/bat mitzvah celebrations are "more bar than mitzvah." Indeed, there are many non-Jews who are clamouring for a bar/bat mitzvah of their own (no Haftorah necessary). Two years ago, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on the phenomenon of "faux bar mitzvahs," parties for affluent non-Jewish teens who didn't want to miss out on a big party. Of course, the very existence of the "faux bar mitzvah" reveals a sad truth: that our "real" bar/bat mitzvahs are pretty phony, being much more about bars than mitzvahs.

This may sound radical, but it's time to bring religion back into the bar/bat mitzvah celebration. A bar/bat mitzvah should require some serious preparations, in which the young person has done communal volunteering and serious Torah study, as well as come to services for more than an obligatory three weeks.

At the celebration itself, Judaism must be a priority, not an afterthought. And after the event is over, guests should have something better to talk about than gowns and hors d'oeuvres.

At one recent bat mitzvah, the young woman got up to explain the theme of the night. It was not a kitschy movie or a pop group, but rather a quote from the Mishnah: "Whoever saves one life has saved an entire world." She said this quote inspired her to donate the gifts from her bat mitzvah to help buy an ambulance for Magen David Adom.

This act of remarkable tzedakah made it a memorable bat mitzvah, one that celebrated Jewish values.

I hope this young woman's generosity will inspire others to follow her example. It's about time we break tradition and make the bar/bat mitzvah into a religious event again.

# Who really deserves an honour?

Brandeis University is granting celebrity playwright Tony Kushner an honorary doctorate this spring. It's an appalling decision for America's "only non-sectarian Jewish-sponsored college or university," which is named after the great American Zionist, Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

*Gil Troy in Montreal*

Kushner, an ardent anti-Zionist, once said that "the founding of the State of Israel was for the Jewish people a historical, moral, political calamity." Kushner is free to "wish modern Israel hadn't been born," as he has also said. But what prompted Brandeis to decide to lionize Kushner this year, especially considering Kushner's screenwriting input on the movie *Munich*, Steven Spielberg's morally obtuse treatment of Palestinian terrorism?

Kushner's free speech is not in question – he enjoys plenty. Rather, Brandeis' judgment and values require scrutiny. Honorary doctorates represent universities' highest values, their loftiest aspirations. Honorees serve as role models for graduating seniors to emulate – and name-drop promiscuously back home.

Kushner is one of many "progressive Jews" who happily lead the pile-on against Israel, feeding the ugly anti-Zionist climate of opinion on campuses and elsewhere. He is a kindred spirit of the 400 "progressive" rabbis who signed a petition this spring begging the U.S. Congress and President George W. Bush to continue financing the Palestinian Authority, even as European governments were refusing to pump money into Hamas-run coffers.

Proving that Jews are not monolithically pro-Israel, Kushner has many academic Jewish allies, in Israel and North America. Is Brandeis emulating the many Israeli universities that shamelessly pluck Jewish, and Zionist, heartstrings to fundraise, while fomenting a culture that demonizes Israel, America, and many core western values?

I leave it to the Brandeis community – and Brandeis' many Jewish donors – to debate Kushner's undeserved honour. But the Jewish community – and the many Jewish progressives – need the "rigorous, unapologetic skeptical inquiry" that Kushner and other progressives self-righteously demand in order to dissect all our biases.

Amid the bloodiest anti-Semitic outbursts since Nazism, progressive Jews have demonstrated a downright Christian, turn-the-other-cheek approach to Islamism. Yet the same people who can endlessly rationalize Islamist terrorism, and magically perceive a pragmatism in Hamas that few others can see, are instinctively prejudiced against Christian Zionists.

It's pathological. While millions of Christian Zionists support Israel, tens of millions of Muslims demonize Israel, and Jews, regularly. While right-wing American Christians have raised millions of dollars for Israel, Palestinian terrorists have launched thousands of attacks, eliciting Muslim cheers. While Christian fundamentalists lobby for Israel, Muslim fundamentalists demand Israel's destruction. While many leading churches have repudiated anti-Semitic elements of their theology, many leading mosques regularly endorse hateful Qur'anic passages that call Jews pigs, monkeys and liars.

I challenge my supposedly open-minded friends, who recoil at Christian evangelicals' friendship for Israel, to confront their prejudices by reading David Brog's new book, *Standing With Israel: Why Christians Support the Jewish State*.

Brog systematically, intelligently and convincingly catalogues evangelicals' support for Israel and debunks the popular slurs that doubt Christian Zionists' motives. As the rare Jew who has bothered studying Christian Zionist beliefs, Brog explains that a recent theological "revolution" repudiated "replacement theology," which claimed Christians superseded Jews as the Chosen People.

Now, rather than condemning Jews, fundamentalists feel commanded to embrace Jews because of a biblical verse most modern Jews don't even know – Genesis 12:3, wherein God promises Abraham to "bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you."

Let's assess the real threat of Muslim anti-Semitism, which has killed hundreds of Jews already, versus the potential threat of Christian philo-Semitism. And whoever forgets that democratic coalitions often entail marriages of convenience and criticizes the broader Christian right agenda should consider Islamist stances on women, gays and other progressive icons.

Finally, let's ask the really hard questions: how much of this sympathy for Muslim opponents of Jews combined with this disgust for Christian Zionists is because Christians are western, white and too much like us? The great poet Robert Frost once said "a liberal is a man too broad-minded to take his own side in a quarrel." Such self-loathing today is dangerous, not just decadent. David Brog's important book proves that we owe our Christian allies a second, more informed look, a deep apology, and a renewed alliance against the modern world's true enemies of fundamental progressive ideals, such as liberty and democracy.

If Brandeis's dishonourable honour triggers such a debate and re-examination, it will have fulfilled its educational mission.

# The shul I don't go to

We've all heard the story about the Jewish castaway marooned on a desert island. Rescued after 15 years, he shows his rescuers an elaborate hut that he laboriously constructed from mud and straw. "That's the shul," he says proudly.

*Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto*

One of his rescuers notices a second elaborate hut, off in the distance. "And what's that?" he asks.

"Oh, that's the shul I don't go to," the castaway responds

What makes the joke funny is the self-perception that Jews can be a rancorous lot, that periodically we become disaffected with some aspect of the shul we go to and migrate to another, or establish a "breakaway" service. Pushed to the extreme, the joke has us imagine that one Jewish man alone on an island will find a bone of contention with a synagogue whose membership numbers one. (Perhaps he's displeased that the shul can't get a minyan, even on Yom Kippur.) It reminds us of the saying, "Two Jews, three opinions." Yes, we are a contentious people, stiff-necked and proud of it.

But the joke may not seem funny to future generations of Jews. Like the castaway, it seems that these days – at least according to a recent poll – many Jews on our continent have a shul that they don't go to. Unlike him, however, they don't have a shul that they do go to. According to a Gallup poll conducted over a period of three years, only 15 per cent of American Jews attend Shabbat services with any regularity – a figure far lower than the number of Catholics and Protestants who attend weekly services. The castaway in our joke defines himself as being against a particular shul. The survey points to a preponderance of Jews who simply don't like shul altogether.

While the poll focused on shul-going habits south of the border, and Canadian Jews have stronger affiliations, a casual survey of Toronto shuls reveals that while some fill up regularly on Shabbat, others are going through lean times, with far more empty seats than shuckling bodies.

Why do so few Jews enjoy shul? What would it take to bring people to Shabbat services? For some people, the answer might seem simple: a binding sense of religious obligation. Although the survey did not distinguish among different branches of Judaism, and included Jews with no particular affiliation, it's clear that the percentage of regular shul-goers is much higher among Orthodox Jews. But why choose one shul over another? What makes one shul inviting and another off-putting?

People turn to shuls for two basic components of Jewish life: spirituality and community. The two are intertwined. What makes a shul spiritually inspiring? On one level, the answer is highly individual. My brother, for example, has always preferred the "early minyan" – preferably a no-frills job with competent but quick davening, a (very) short sermon, and out by mid-morning. I've always been drawn to the late service (indeed, the later the better), with strong and enthusiastic singing, a thought-provoking dvar Torah, and a place for women's ritual participation. My husband prefers well-paced services and finds inspiration in a masterful chazzan. None of us likes responsive readings. And we've all gone to synagogues that have left us unsatisfied.

Some people come to services to talk to friends. While I once considered that antithetical to what shuls should be about, I have since reconsidered. Forging and solidifying the ties of community are important functions for a shul, and the Jewish notion of the sacred is very much tied to the concept of community.

But more and more, people are simply not coming to shul. In blogs and letters to the editor after the survey results were published, many people confessed to being bored or unmoved by the Shabbat services they attend, and to feeling like outsiders. Others longingly recalled particularly dynamic services they had attended – shuls that touched their spirit and drew them in.

One challenge of the 21st century is to revitalize synagogue life on our continent, in order to find more and better ways to speak to people's spiritual and communal yearnings. While no single formula will work, shuls we have loved can serve as models. Large synagogues may find that offering a variety of services will give them the freedom to experiment wildly in some contexts, and remain traditional in others.

And, of course, there is the counter-model the shul I don't – and would never – go to.

The Kirshner File

# Jewish Film Festival impressions

The 14th annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival, one of the finest of its kind, ends its run on May 14, but there is still time to sample some of its choice morsels.

Shmuel Haimovich's Hebrew-language *Summer Story* is a sparkling gem, a gentle coming-of-age movie set during the 1982 Lebanon war. The film revolves around Gal (Kosta Kaplan), a kind, sensitive pre-pubescent boy from a moshav who learns the meaning of love, compassion and death in a few short months. Though *Summer Story* is only 76 minutes in length, it packs a wallop, leaving a viewer impressed by Haimovich's writing and directorial skills.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Gal, the moshav's summer postman, is enjoying an idyllic vacation, but a succession of incidents intrude on his life.

Ovadia, a farmer and conscientious objector, is arrested by the military police. Accusing Gal of having led the police to his home, he curses Gal and blames him for his arrest. A crop-duster lands in an open field, and Gal and his friend, Boaz (Itamar Cohen), are thrilled to be in the presence of the dashing pilot.

Gal's father is called up by the army, and suddenly he is the man of the house, a role he fulfils with effortless ease. As these events transpire, Gal is smitten by Haya (Aya Steinovitz), a beautiful young woman with a heart condition, and is pursued by Ronit (Eden Katz), a flirtatious girl of his own age. These scenes unfold seamlessly.

The war, a distant reality, is brought to the fore by Aliza (Tikva Dayan), the postmistress who constantly reminds Gal of the daily casualties. Meanwhile, Dadon (Albert Iluz), a local resident whose wife has run off to Canada, uses Gal as an intermediary to romance Miryam (Evelin Hagoel), an eligible single woman who rebuffs his advances.

In a jealous fit, Gal tears up a photo of a soldier corresponding with Haya. Being a good person, Gal makes amends.

*Summer Story*, with excellent performances from its cast, draws us into Gal's world, touching us with its simple poignancy and irresistible charm.

***

*Until Tomorrow Comes*, a comedy by David Deri, is another Israeli film in which human passions flare, sometimes at the most inconvenient moments.

Lillian, a Moroccan widow, cosmetician and wedding planner who lives in a Negev development town, has her hands full. She is busy looking after a fussy client, Liat, whose father, Elias, is a police commander and widower. Her dotty and increasingly eccentric mother is growing senile and cantankerous, while her sullen daughter, Etti, is having serious marital problems with her husband, Miki.

Can Lillian cope with these demands?

Deri handles these diverse situations with the aplomb of a seasoned director, keeping a viewer suitably engaged.

As the subplots unreel, Lillian wonders whether she should place her mother in a senior's home. Etti confesses that she plans to leave Miki, Elias makes a pass at Lillian ("You've captured my heart," he announces) and Liat gets cold feet about her impending marriage.

*Until Tomorrow Comes* is workmanlike and quite entertaining.

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*Hitmakers: The Teens Who Stole Pop Music*, an exuberant 90-minute American documentary by Morgan Neville, focuses on a group of mostly Jewish, twentysomething, extremely talented songwriters in New York City who tapped into the teen market and produced iconic rock 'n' roll and R&B hits such as *Hound Dog*, *You've Lost That Loving Feeling*, *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?* and *Be My Baby*.

Usually toiling in windowless cubicles in the Brill Building at 1619 Broadway, these prolific songwriters, many of them from Brooklyn, churned out songs for Elvis Presley, Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin, Neil Sedaka, Little Eva, Bobby Darren, Connie Francis, The Shirelles and The Drifters.

*Hitmakers*, narrated by the actor John Turturro, concentrates on the composers Jerry Lieber, Mike Stoller, Carole King, Gerry Goffin, Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, Jeff Barry and Bert Bacharach.

"We all had the ability to hear a hit record," says King (Klein), who went on to become a renowned singer.

"If you had a hit, you graduated to a cubicle with a window," observes Sedaka, who wrote and sang his own songs.

In the main, they worked for the legendary manager and music publisher Don Kirshner, who, with a twinkle in his eyes, recalls the halcyon days of the 1960s.

*Hitmakers* takes us back to a formative era in the music industry that exerted a profound influence on American culture.

***

*Lover Other*, the last film scheduled to be screened at the festival, is the story of two extremely unusual and unconventional women

**Kosta Kaplan, left, and Itamar Cohen star in *Summer Story*, a gentle, poignant coming-of-age Israeli feature film.**

Claude Cahun (1894-1954) and Marcel Moore (1892-1972) – who were way ahead of their times. Both surrealist artists and free spirits, they were half-sisters and gender-bending lesbians who lived and worked together, first in Paris and then in Jersey Isle, in the Channel Islands off the coast of Britain. When Germany occupied the island, Cahun – a Jew from a wealthy family– and Moore were summarily imprisoned by the Nazis.

Barbara Hammer's documentary about these still essentially unknown women explores a variety of themes ranging from lesbian identity to surrealism.

***

The following films were screened last week, but for the record, they rate a review.

*The Children's House*, an interesting Israeli documentary by Tamar Feingold, analyzes a failed social experiment that, until recently, flourished on kibbutzim.

In accordance with kibbutz ideology, the children of settlers lived together in separate quarters, cared for by nurses who raised them, all within earshot of their parents. But as the kibbutz changed, children's houses were phased out.

"We had 300 mothers and fathers," says Idit Levavi-Gabbai, a kibbutznik who saw her parents only once a day in the late afternoon. Looking back, she recalls the "sterile atmosphere" in which she grew up and the strict routines to which she had to submit.

Hagai Tamir, a former kibbutznik who works in Tel Aviv as an architect, is not nostalgic either. Bereft of his parents, he was lonely and now feels he "missed out." Shula Kobo, a third kibbutznik raised under this system, says she resented the lack of privacy.

Most of the old-timers have no regrets. "We had a cause, redeeming the land," says a *vatika*. Buttressed by file footage of happy children frolicking on kibbutzim, *The Children's House* proves the thesis that the best of intentions can sour.

***

You have probably never heard of Willem Sassen, a Dutch Nazi sympathizer, Waffen SS reporter and confidant of German war criminals in postwar Argentina.

But in Roelf Van Til's fascinating documentary, *The Man Who Sold Eichmann and Mengele*, Sassen is revealed as a charming scoundrel and rank opportunist who was Eichmann's ghostwriter (the transcripts played a role in his trial in Jerusalem) and Josef Mengele's predator (he helped the Mossad track down the Angel of Death, but the operation was called off), all for a hefty price, of course.


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Esther Zeppieri, Secretary

# Chair of Women's Campaign & Advocacy emphasizes working women

## *New position for Judith Finer-Freedman caps decades of involvement*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Although Judith Finer-Freedman has just been installed as chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy (WC&A), she feels that her involvement in the Jewish community has been inevitable since one night 37 years ago in her native Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"It was in 1969 when I had my first taste of UJA Federation when my dad asked me to present a gift to Ruth Dayan – Moshe Dayan's wife – who was speaking at our home," says Finer-Freedman, who replaces Linda Frum Sokolowski in her new role. "I have been at home in UJA since I was a young adult in the New York Federation, the Houston Federation, and then here in Toronto. Whether we say 'shalom y'all, or shalom, eh,' we are all Jews with our deep traditions that hold us together."

One of Finer-Freedman's main objectives this year is to help UJA Federation connect more with Toronto's working women.

"More women than ever before are in the workforce," she says. "Working women are busy – coming out to meetings or community events is difficult. Yet, they may have a desire to become involved with our campaign but perhaps have never been asked."

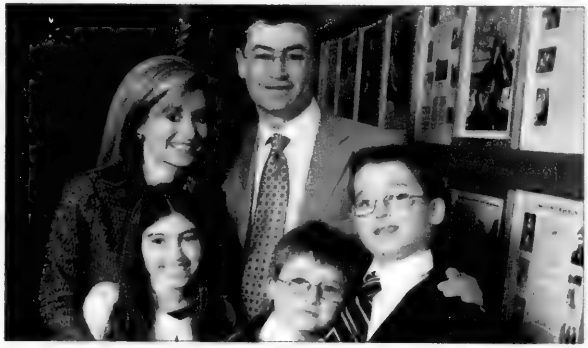
In order to meet this challenge, Finer-Freedman has already enlisted the services of a seasoned working woman.

"Judy Nyman, the president of nymark inkcreative solutions, has agreed to chair a working group of three successful women in our community who will help us learn how to reach out to this vital group," explains Finer-Freedman.

Finer-Freedman spoke passionately to the 130 guests at the installation ceremony about her recent fact-finding mission to Israel, which also included the chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2007, Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks.

"We stepped off that plane and into the world of programs supported by Toronto's Jewish community, and to sum it up, what a 'can-do community' we live in," says Finer-Freedman. "We spent a day in Eilat visiting the educational and social programs UJA Federation supports.

We spent another day at an absorption centre with Ethiopian families who had arrived only 24 hours earlier. Later that day, we visited Kiryat Moshe where I met firsthand the students who benefited from our tutoring program last year for high school exams or matriculation. This trip was a wonderful first step in my journey as chair. It inspired me to think of ways that we can expand our reach to help Jews both at home and in Israel." Liora Yakubowicz joins Finer-Freedman as vice chair of WC&A.



*The entire Freedman family enjoyed the recent installation of the Women's Campaign & Advocacy Executive, which saw Judith Finer-Freedman installed as the new chair. Joining Judith are husband Jeremy and their children Amanda, Jesse and Zachary Freedman. (Photo by Caryn Silverstein).*

# Israeli synagogue dedicated to memory of Edward Bronfman z"l

By DVORA WILSHANSKY

Hundreds recently attended a dedication ceremony of the Mishkan Synagogue in the Israeli community of Eli, in memory of noted Toronto philanthropist, Edward Bronfman z"l.

Participating at the ceremony were Toronto benefactors David and Rachelle Bronfman, Edward's son and daughter-in-law. Israel's

*Rachelle and David Bronfman*

Chief Sephardi Rabbi Shlomo Amar and other rabbis, members of Knesset, and community members.

"When we first started to build Mishkan Eli," explained Lior Shtul, Eli's local council chair, "we believed that miracles happen when you build a shul. We continued with the construction, and didn't lose faith, and our prayer was answered by philanthropists from Toronto."

The moving dedication ceremony included a procession of Torah scrolls to Mishkan Eli accompanied by musicians and dancing.

A special memorial booklet was prepared which including greetings from Rabbi Aron Hoch of Toronto's Village Shul, Rabbi Moshe Shulman of Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Rabbi Shmuel Veffer from Toronto, and many others.

"We are sure that this building and the activities that will take place there will bring honour to the memory of Mr. Edward Bronfman and his long-lasting friendship with the State of Israel and its citizens," said UIA Federations Canada director general in Israel, Yossi Tanuri.

# Home-grown volunteer named to top North American leadership position

By CARLA LANCIT
UJA Federation

A Torontonian has been named to the lofty position of co-chair designate of the North America-wide UJC National Young Leadership.

UJC or United Jewish Communities is the umbrella organization representing Jewish Federations and smaller communities across North America.

David Spiro, who has chaired UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Young Adult Division, and co chaired its Young Lawyers Division, will assume the role of co-chair designate in August this year at the UJC National Young Leadership Cabinet Retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona and will become co-chair in August 2007. He will serve along with co-chair designate Amy Warshaw of New York.

"This is the highest position that any Canadian has achieved within UJC Young Leadership," says UJA Federation chair, David Engel. "David has certainly proven himself to be an outstanding leader, and we know he will continue to excel in his challenging and exciting new roles."

Spiro is thankful to Engel for his support, and credits Richard Diamond as well as former Torontonian Paul Rosen for paving the way for his involvement in the UJC National Young Leadership Cabinet, noting that it was Rosen who connected Canadian young leadership as a group with UJC. "Cabinet is the best training and development program there is for leadership of Federations across North America," says Spiro. This training takes members through a wide-ranging leadership development curriculum over a six year period which prepares them to be effective future leaders.

*David Spiro*

Spiro hopes to bring this type of commitment back to the community level. "One of my priorities is to ensure that young people help the Federations to create a culture of giving and asking," he says. "In other words, that we all consider it a privilege and a mitzvah to give and ask others to give."

Spiro, a partner in the law firm Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, and an experienced tax litigator, is no stranger to Jewish community leadership.

In Canada, Spiro serves as chair of the Young Leadership executive, and sits on the executive committee and the Board of Directors of UIA Federations Canada. Spiro has been the recipient of a National Young Leadership Award from UIA Federations Canada, and UJA Federation's Young Leadership Development Award.

Spiro sees his community involvement as the continuation of the legacy that his parents, Rabbi Solomon and Tauba Spiro, and his grandparents transmitted. "I take their lives as examples in terms of their sacrifice and their dedication to the community," says Spiro. "I feel an obligation and a pleasure in having the opportunity to devote time and energy to the needs of our community."

**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

**JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.**

# Elimination of capital gains tax creates new incentive for stock donations

## *UJA Federation anticipates a sharp increase in gifts of stock thanks to new budget*

*UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other Canadian charities are expecting a surge of stock donations as a result of last week's federal budget.*

*The budget completely eliminated the capital gains tax on publicly listed securities to registered non-profit organizations, including UJA Federation.*

*According to UJA Federation chair, David Engel, the substantial tax savings from this new budget provision will encourage more community members to either pay their UJA Federation pledge with stocks, or consider an endowment through the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.*

*"We're expecting a big boost in stock donations as a result of this budget provision," says Engel. "The government clearly recognizes the importance of gifts to non-profit organizations which benefit all Canadians."*

*"This creates a much anticipated opportunity for philanthropy in our community," says Elizabeth Wolfe, chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. "Donors who have been thinking about their philanthropic legacy may find this new tax incentive to be exactly the motivation that they need to create a donor advised fund or other endowment at the Jewish Foundation at this time."*

*In the following analysis, Jamie Golombek, vice president, taxation & estate planning at AIM Trimark Investments in Toronto, and a member of the Jewish Foundation's Professional Advisory Committee, explains the significance of the new budget.*

*Jamie Golombeck*

In the new government's first budget delivered last week, the Conservatives followed through on their pre-election promise to completely eliminate the capital gains tax on donations of listed shares, mutual funds and segregated funds to registered Canadian charities. This new rule should provide a huge impetus for a flood of sizable stock donations during the remainder of 2006.

To understand the impact of these new rules, let's assume that Mark currently owns shares that have a fair market value of $100,000 that he purchased many years ago for $20,000. He is considering donating these shares to charity.

If he simply sold the shares first, he would realize a capital gain of $80,000 and pay tax of about $18,000 on the gain, assuming a top marginal rate of about 45%. His net benefit, taking into account the value of the donation credit less the tax on the capital gain, would be about $27,000.

Under the new rules, since the capital gains tax would be eliminated altogether on the donation of the shares to charity, and since he would still be entitled to his full tax receipt for the $100,000 contributed, his net benefit would be $45,000.

The budget also indicated that individuals who make qualifying charitable donations of listed publicly-traded securities that were acquired with employee stock options will also benefit from a zero per cent inclusion rate on the associated employment benefit.

Note that while the new rules are proposed to be effective for donations made on or after May 2, 2006, they are not yet law as they must still be passed by parliament.

That being said, it would be highly unlikely (and extremely unpopular) for any party to oppose the passage of these new rules.

*Mr. Golombek can be reached at jamie.golombek@aimtrimark.com*

# Follow UJA Federation's Djerba mission

A unique UJA Federation of Greater Toronto mission is currently visiting Paris after travelling to Djerba, an island situated off the coast of Tunisia, where the oldest existing Jewish community in the world is located.

The UJA Federation website **www.jewishtoronto.com** is featuring a regular blog from the mission. Visit the site and click the "Djerba" icon.

# Relief for low-income families

UJA Federation chair, David Engel, (left) and Nancy Singer, executive director, Kehilla Residential Programme, teamed up recently to pay tribute to Al Mintz (right). Mintz, of Grover Realty Management, provided reduced rent housing as part of a joint UJA Federation/Kehilla initiative, through which 32 low-income families from across the Greater Toronto Area are benefiting from lower rents, leaving more funds available for other necessities.

# Torontonians join March of the Living

By CARLA LANCIT
UJA Federation

For Anita Ekstein, the teens are a source of support. "These kids give a lot of strength," she says. Ekstein, a child survivor of the Holocaust who recently traveled to Poland and Israel on the March of the Living, accompanied the Toronto contingent of 170 young people, supported by UJA Federation. Ekstein told the participants how she was saved by a Polish family that hid her, and shared the pain of losing her parents and many members of her family.

*Anita Ekstein (second from right) leads the Toronto contingent of the March of the Living on the annual march from Auschwitz to Birkenau on YomHashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. Helping Anita lead the march are two of her grandchildren, Cobi Lechem (left) and his cousin, Orly Ekstein (right). (Photo by Yigal Hecht.)*

The Toronto delegation joined with 8,000 Jewish youth from around the world to march from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. From there they went to Israel to observe Yom HaZikaron, Israel Memorial Day, and Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day.

"It presents a panorama of 20th century Jewish experience," says Moishe Kesten, chair of the Toronto March of the Living. "For kids this age it's a unique opportunity to learn about their heritage."

In Poland, the Toronto group also visited Jewish sites including the Madjanek death camp, the famous yeshiva in Lublin which recently re-opened, and the Warsaw ghetto.

"I think it's very important for young Jews to do this," says Ekstein. "The experience changes them. They get more in touch with their Judaism." While this was Ekstein's sixth time accompanying March participants, this trip was special because two of her grandchildren were with her. For Ekstein's grandson, Cobi Lechem, the highlight of the trip was visiting Belzec, the first of the Nazi's extermination camps in Poland and gaining a better understanding of his grandmother's past. His cousin, Orly Ekstein, concurs. "I've always learned about the Holocaust, but to be there, it was a whole different thing," she says. "It's kind of bittersweet," says Anita Ekstein. "I'm glad to have them with me, but it hurts me to see their hurt."

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

# Threat to Israel has expanded in region, says prof

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Israel's conflict with its Arab neighbours has widened to include the Islamic world, says an Israeli specialist in Muslim radicalism.

Whereas Israel once faced the enmity of 300 million Arabs, Israel now potentially confronts the wrath of 1.5 billion Muslims, Hebrew University professor Raphael Israeli declared recently.

"We are facing an immensity that is hard to imagine," said Israeli, a specialist in Islamic history, in a speech at Beth Sholom Synagogue co-sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University and the Canadian Zionist Federation.

The author of 18 books on the Middle East and Islam, he said that Israel's dispute with the Palestinians pales in comparison to the potential problems it could face from Islam in the future.

"The Palestinian problem is only a small part of the conflict," he observed, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran, which covets a nuclear arsenal, has become Israel's "most vitriolic enemy."

Arab leaders, in public statements, do not dare call for Israel's destruction, yet Iran's current president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has no such compunctions.

"You should be aware of the dimensions of the problem. Don't sweep it under the rug."

Even if Israel settles its differences with the Palestinians to the latter's satisfaction, Israel will continue to face threats from Iran, he warned.

Islamic fundamentalism cuts across the Muslim world in an arc from Morocco to Indonesia, noted Israeli, who was born in Fez, Morocco, immigrated to Israel at the age of 14 and served as an intelligence officer in the Israeli armed forces until 1968.

He said that the goals of Islamic fundamentalism are clear: to topple existing Arab regimes, to impose Islamic religious law on Muslim societies, to resurrect Islam as an expansionist force and to reimpose the caliphate.

"The malaise is worldwide," said Israeli, flatly dismissing the claim that the causes of Islamic fundamentalism are rooted in poverty.

Citing examples, Israeli pointed out that Osama bin Laden – the spiritual father of Al Qaeda – is a multi-millionaire and the scion of one of Saudi Arabia's richest families, while two of the wealthiest countries in the Mideast, Iran and Saudi Arabia, promote an extreme form of Islam.

In a reference to the resurgence of Islam in Israel, he said that more mosques have been built there of late than in the past 400 years.

Israeli, a visiting professor at York University some 20 years ago, said that Hamas, the winner of last January's parliamentary election in the Palestinian territories, has formed a strategic alliance with Iran and Syria.

"This is a new axis of evil and poses a direct threat to Israel."

Israeli added that Hamas, whose charter and leaders call for Israel's destruction, will not negotiate with Israel due to its opposition to territorial compromise.

"Hamas is honest. They say what they mean and mean what they say. Hamas' rhetoric is very serious."

By contrast, he claimed, the PLO was disingenuous, using the 1993 Oslo accord as a Trojan Horse to undermine Israel by political means and through armed struggle.

A hawk, Israeli described Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip last summer as an act of foolishness, saying that Israel should have demanded concrete concessions from the Palestinians in the framework of an agreement before agreeing to pull out.

By neglecting to engage the Palestinians in talks before the Gaza disengagement, Israel inadvertently encouraged Palestinian extremists to fire Qassam rockets at Israeli settlements near the border, he pointed out.

In a sombre prediction, Israeli said that these gunmen will try to hit strategic targets in Ashkelon, namely the power plant, the desalination complex and the oil terminal.

"It's only a matter of time."

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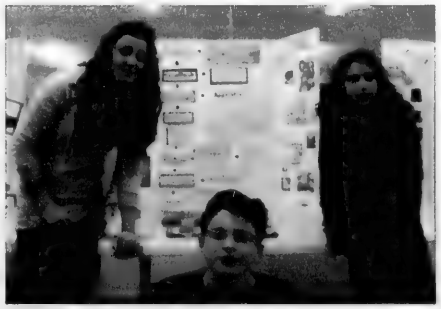

**SCIENCE FAIR: Students at She'arim recently participated in its first Science Fair. The students displayed great excitement and enthusiasm. The junior, intermediate and senior classes each submitted class projects bridged to their curriculums, while the graduating students worked independently at home. The science topics included weather and seasons, air pressure, changes in matter, computer science, electricity, the senses, chemistry and even some physics. Seen here, from left, are Tamar Braun, Joshua Susman and Lee Solomon.**

# Bialik celebrates 45th anniversary as Korin retires

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Uri Korin was executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Indianapolis and had no intention of working in a school again, but he says he "got hooked" on Bialik Hebrew Day School two decades ago when he visited it at the invitation of the late Rabbi Irwin (Yitzchak) Witty, then his counterpart at Toronto's Board of Jewish Education.

Uri Korin

On May 16, Korin will be honoured at a tribute dinner at Le Parc, and the school will celebrate its 45th year. Almost 500 people are expected to attend. Korin, 67, will retire in June as the school's director of education.

Bialik opened its doors on Viewmount Avenue in September 1961 with 29 students and three teachers, following grassroots efforts by parents who wanted to give their children a Labour Zionist education in a day school environment.

At the time there were only three other Jewish day schools in Toronto: Associated Hebrew Schools, Eitz Chaim Day School and United Synagogue Day School. Bialik would remain unique for its Labour Zionist approach and Yiddish-language instruction.

By the time Korin joined Bialik as principal in 1987, it was "a large school [about 600 students] in a very small physical environment." Korin says he found the commitment of the school's board "absolutely captivating," and agreed to sign a two-year contract.

"I found this place much more fulfilling, working with kids and teachers, creating what I consider to be the most wonderful school in North America," said Korin in an interview in his tidy office in Bialik's new expanded building, which was completed in 2003.

A native of Hadera, Korin began his career in Israel as an elementary school teacher in 1959, relocating to a Jerusalem high school the following year. By the mid-1960s he had moved into administration and was supervisor of teacher training in the department of education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he received his MA in education in 1966.

In 1969, he began a two-year stint as a shaliach in Cleveland, Ohio. He returned there after another two years in Israel as a vice-principal. In Cleveland – where he spent eight years before moving to Indianapolis to work for its BJE – he was involved in opening a new Jewish high school. He also earned his PhD in educational administration and curriculum, from Kent State University.

His administrative style, he said, is that of a team builder with a "co-operative" approach. The one-time university basketball referee considers his board and his staff to be his "teams."

Under his direction, Bialik's student population has grown to more than 800. While the demands imposed by a school of that size do not permit him to spend as much time with students as he would like, he said he makes a point of going into classrooms when he can. "I tell stories on every holiday," he said.

Over the years he has also introduced the school's Mechanech program (an Israeli concept whereby each student has one teacher who acts as a conduit between school and family), he has incorporated technology into several areas of education, and – interestingly – introduced prayer into the Labour Zionist curriculum from grades 4 to 8.

"In my mind, there isn't such a thing as a secular Jewish school," Korin said. "My goal is to [create] an educated Jewish person... In order to function on a daily basis as a Jew, you need to know what's going on in a synagogue. Even before you grow up, when you go to a bar mitzvah – not only yours – you need to know where you are [in the service]. And I want them not just to read mechanically; I want them to understand."

His granddaughter, who will enter Bialik next year, is already complaining that Korin won't be there, he said. He and his wife, Dolly, also an educator, have two children and seven grandchildren.

**TRIP TO ISRAEL: In honour of Israel's birthday, Torah Tots Pre-school took a trip to Israel and the first stop was the Kotel. Pictured "praying," from left, are Aiden Gimpel, Joshua Silverman and Barry Bytensky.**


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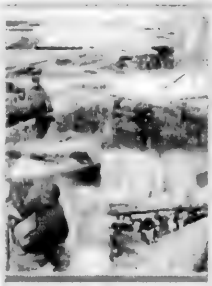

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Greater Toronto Area

# 'Everyone was in great spirits to celebrate'

**Continued from page 3**

"At 1:30 a.m., the DJ put on a horah. Everyone was dancing in circles, doing the horah – in a club in downtown Toronto. That was my favourite part," Kaye said.

Israeli flags, chocolate bars and party favours were scattered throughout the club, and a raffle was held for prizes including an iPod Nano, free passes to the gym at the Miles Nadal JCC and gift certificates to local restaurants and Best Buy stores.

The grand prize, a free trip to Israel donated by Israeli airline El Al, was won by Keren Katz, who coincidentally is Hillel's Israel affairs chair at York University.

Debbie Osiel, Canada Israel Experience's marketing manager and one of the co-organizers, said the party was intended to bring young Jewish adults together to celebrate Israel's birthday and raise money for a good cause.

"The $10 cover charge was meant to cover costs and raise money for an exceptional cause, Operation Promise," Osiel said, explaining that Operation Promise is a North American Jewish federation initiative to bring 20,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel and to provide hunger relief for hundreds of thousands of elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union.

"People like coming to parties knowing that they're giving to charity as well," Kaye said.

"Everyone was out with great spirits to celebrate Israel's birthday. People are already talking about it," Osiel said.

"Everyone had a great time. People were smiling, people left happy," Kaye said.

She added that while she has been involved in organizing Yom Ha'atzmaut parties in the past, this is the first time so many Jewish communities came together to plan a single event. She said that last year, Hillel and CIE organized one party on the eve of Israel's birthday and the other sponsors organized an event for the next day.

"I hope this trend continues beyond Yom Ha'atzmaut and we can do more things together. When the Jewish organizations work together and make things so successful, it makes the community better."

# Baycrest to open 'Café Europa' for Holocaust survivors

Baycrest has received a $500,000 grant from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to expand its community outreach.

As part of its new outreach programming, Baycrest, which cares for the largest group of aging Holocaust survivors in Canada, will open a café for Holocaust survivors.

"This is an important investment in programs to support and care for aging Holocaust survivors," said Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Mike Colle.

"Baycrest's Café Europa will provide a new weekly drop-in place for survivors to relax and socialize. I'm pleased to be supporting such a great program."

On hand for the minister's recent announcement at Baycrest were Grade 6 students from Thornhill Woods Public School, who created colourful signage for the new café. The children gave a presentation that included dramatic readings and musical performances. Also in attendance were Holocaust survivors, including child survivor Joe Gottdenker.

"I commend our provincial government for recognizing the needs of survivors, particularly as they are getting older and dealing with health problems. They require emotional support and social interaction more than ever," said Gottdenker, who was hidden by a farm family in Poland during World War II when he was an infant.

Toronto is home to approximately 12,000 Holocaust survivors, who comprise almost half of Canada's total survivor population. Aging survivors often have few or no extended family members and look to their fellow survivors for emotional, social and familial support.

The Baycrest Café Europa, which opens this fall, will be modelled after similarly named cafés for Holocaust survivors in Europe, United States, United Kingdom and Israel. Along with refreshments, the café will provide entertainment, host discussion groups and bring in guest speakers.

"This is a very exciting addition to the resources available for Holocaust survivors in the Toronto area," said Paula David, a social worker and the co-ordinator of the Holocaust Resource Program at Baycrest. "So many survivors just need a little support to relax, socialize and enjoy themselves. Now we will have a venue for them."

In addition to the café, to be located at the Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre, Baycrest will launch a Living Narratives Project to record the life stories of survivors who live at Baycrest and/ or attend the café and an inter-generational Remembrance Day Project with students in York Region, emphasizing diversity and understanding between cultures, religions and ethnic groups. The funding will also bring Café Europa programming to Holocaust survivors who spend much of their time as caregivers for spouses in Baycrest's nursing home and hospital.


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# Israel Bonds honoree 'humbled' by Meir award

By STACEY STEIN
*Special to The CJN*

Toby Feldberg has long admired Golda Meir, and soon her name will be linked with Israel's iron-willed former prime minister.

On May 23, Feldberg will receive the Golda Meir leadership award from the Israel Bonds Women's Division, in recognition of her commitment to the Jewish community and her achievements as a supporter of numerous organizations.

Meir was one of the reasons Feldberg decided to accept the award, after having declined the honour in previous years due to her modest nature and a desire to stay out of the limelight. Even still, the humble Feldberg had trouble deciding to accept the honour this year.

"It was very difficult when they asked me if I would take it on," she said. "I think Golda Meir was one of the most wonderful, clever, brave women in the world. I didn't think I was worthy to be honoured with her name."

But after some convincing, she changed her mind.

"I found it fascinating that my name would be linked with hers," Feldberg said, adding that she was also swayed when others told her that she should accept the award because it would help her fundraising efforts.

The dinner and awards ceremony, which take place at the Elgin Theatre, will be followed by the opening night performance of *Golda's Balcony*, the Broadway hit that will be in Toronto for eight shows. This will be followed by a reception to be attended by the show's star, Valerie Harper.

It's the first time Israel Bonds is holding an evening affair in the past the awards ceremony has been a luncheon event.

Attending *Golda's Balcony* as part of the evening has a special significance for Feldberg.

About 30 years ago, when she was a volunteer with B'nai Brith, Feldberg was elected to chair Israel Bonds and was asked to do a fundraising function. She ended up organizing an event at the Leah Posluns Theatre that included a performance about the life of Golda Meir.

"There's a connection," she said, amused at how her link to Golda is now coming full circle.

Feldberg first started buying Israel Bonds when she was a volunteer with B'nai Brith and was part of a women's club in which each member put in $10 every month and at the end there was a draw and one person won a $100 bond.

"This is something we supported before we could even afford it," she said.

Over the past 35 years, Feldberg has volunteered for organizations such as B'nai Brith, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Along with husband Saul Feldberg, she supports several charities and organizations, including Yad Vashem, the Jewish National Fund, UJA, Baycrest, the Hospital for Sick Children and the Israel Cancer Research Fund. She is also president of Beit Halochem Canada, which provides aid to disabled veterans of Israel, and she chairs the Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation.

Her passion for the causes she supports is fierce, inspiring those who work with her.

"She's so important to us that it's hard to imagine," said Maya Goldenberg, executive director of the Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation.

Feldberg's dedication to her work is matched by her devotion to her family.

Married for 48 years to husband Saul, she has four children and eight grandchildren, the youngest of whom was born a few months ago.

But the route to such a full life hasn't been completely smooth.

Born in Poland, her immediate family survived the Holocaust while her extended family perished.

"My biggest regret is that I don't even know what my grandparents look like, because there are no pictures of them," she said.

She immigrated to Toronto with her parents and sister from Poland via Israel in 1951, at the age of 11. She met Saul Feldberg when she was a 15-year-old student at Central Commerce Collegiate. Five years her senior, Saul had also immigrated with his family to Toronto from Poland via Israel.

Toby Feldberg had planned to pursue secretarial work, but at age 17, she got married, and the couple's first son, David, was born when she was 18. Four years later, son Bernie was born, followed by daughter Janice and then youngest son Joel.

Before her daughter was born in 1966, her husband established Global Upholstery Co., an office furniture manufacturer that celebrated its 40-year anniversary in March.

When it was first founded, Feldberg was one of the company's three employees (it now employs thousands) and was actively involved in the business, doing deliveries and attending trade shows.

When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Feldberg decided to become an active volunteer.

"I said I've got to do something, for me and for the betterment of people," she said.

She joined B'nai Brith and became a tireless volunteer, doing everything from visiting the elderly in hospitals to delivering meals on wheels. She also became involved in other organizations, helping out wherever she could.

Her support for Israel dates back to 1967, when, accompanied by her husband and two friends, she went to a Jewish neighbourhood and knocked on doors, trying to collect money for Israel.

She said she and Saul have "always had a heart for Israel."

But despite her incredible achievement as a volunteer, she still hesitates about being bestowed with an award in named for Meir.

"I'm very humbled. I still think I don't know if I deserve being linked with her," Feldberg said.

**August 15, 2006 be a part of history**

In preparation for this summer's Canadian Nefesh B'Nefesh Aliyah Flight (Aug. 15th)
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**LOCATIONS & TIMES**

**Sunday, May 14th**
**10:00am-12:00pm & 4:30-6:00pm**
At the BAYT - 613 Clark Avenue West

**Mon, May 15th & Tues, May 16th**
**9:00-11:00am & 3:00-5:00pm**
At the Lipa Green Building

* By appointment only. Please visit our website to schedule an appointment

**Sunday, May 14th**
Nefesh B'Nefesh will be presenting at the IMP Israel Property Expo
BAYT 10:00am-6:00pm
613 Clark Avenue West

NBN presentation schedule at Expo:
**12:00pm** Retirement as a viable option in Israel
**1:30pm** Community options: finding the right community
**3:30pm** Retirement as a viable option in Israel

**Monday, May 15th**
**"Lunch with NBN" 12:00-2:00pm***
Location: Jerusalem 1 Restaurant
Join the staff of Nefesh B'Nefesh for an informal lunch and conversation.
*pre-register

**Cafe Oleh: "Meat & Move" 7:00pm**
An informal BBQ for 18-30 year olds to meet other future Olim and get tips and advice on Aliyah. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Michal Kaye at (416) 638-8824

**Tuesday, May 16th**
**"Lunch with NBN" 12:00-2:00pm***
Location: The Lipa Green Building
Join the staff of Nefesh B'Nefesh for an informal lunch and conversation. *pre-register

**NBN Pre-Aliyah Seminar**
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# Jewish Indiana Jones to lead dig in Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Alex Gropper, known to some in the community as the Jewish Indiana Jones, will lead a group of Canadians to excavate one of most famous archeological sites in the Mediterranean.

Gropper, the 59-year-old president of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies at the University of Toronto's St. Michael's College and a teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for the past 34 years, is recruiting volunteers who are interested in a different kind of vacation adventure – to Tel Dor in Israel.

From July 1 to 16, Gropper and his Canadian contingent will travel to Israel to join a group of professionals and students from universities in Israel and North America, including McMaster University and the University of Saskatchewan, in the hope of uncovering clues about the Middle East's connection to the West more than 3,000 years ago.

Gropper said he became involved with the Tel Dor Project at the request of Prof. Ayelet Gilboa of Haifa University, the co-director of the Tel Dor excavations, who commissioned him to help organize activities for volunteers who want to take part in the dig.

"I thought it would be a shame to give up this opportunity," Gropper said. "It's a labour of love. I've been involved with excavations in Israel since 1968."

Israel is rich with important archeological sites, but Gropper said Tel Dor is one of the key projects in the Mediterranean for a number of reasons.

"Obviously, it's visually stunning. It's on a lagoon, it's on the coast. It gives us information on the contacts ancient Israel and the entire Middle East had with the West, with Greece and beyond. Dor is one of the keys to unlocking the riddles of the Sea Peoples [a loose confederation of people from the eastern Mediterranean who attempted to enter Egyptian territory around 1200 BCE].

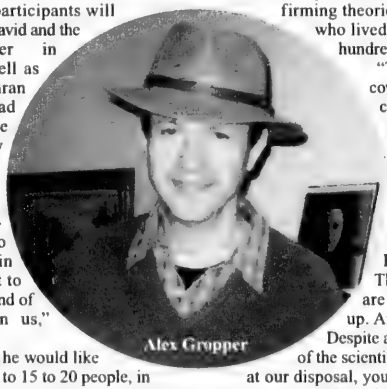
"Among the Sea Peoples, some of the best known are the Philistines, whom we are all familiar with from the Bible. But what people don't realize is that the earliest Philistine pottery, which archeologists use as an indicator of cultural connections, is virtually identical to the last phases to the Mycenaean Greek pottery. And the Mycenaean Greeks are those who supposedly besieged Troy.

"So here, in this one period, we have the two major events in the history of Western civilization that are connected – that is the exodus from Egypt and the Trojan war."

Although much of the focus will be on the dig in Tel Dor, participants will also be treated to a tour of other major archeological sites in Israel, and they will be given time to enjoy the amenities at the four-star Nachsholim resort on the beach of the Tantura lagoon, just minutes away from the dig.

"We begin at about 5 in the morning, wrap up around 1 p.m. with breaks in between, and there is a chance afterward to take part in workshops, lectures and a chance to enjoy the resort," Gropper said.

"Although we have an itinerary, if people want to go off the track, that's part of the fun of it."


Alex Gropper

On the tour, participants will visit the City of David and the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, as well as Masada, Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found) and many other well-known sites.

"This is a perfect opportunity for people who are interested in history and want to take a different kind of vacation to join us," Gropper said.

He added that he would like to limit the group to 15 to 20 people, in order to keep it intimate. The cost of the two-week trip is $4,495, and those who are interested in taking part should call Miki Friendly at 416-840-0855.

Four or five people will be assigned to a "square" of the dig and will be supervised by staff members – usually graduate students from the participating universities, who will instruct the group on how to dig and what to look for.

While people have been making physical discoveries in the area since 1980, Gropper said he is more interested in putting together the historical pieces of the puzzle and confirming theories about the people who lived in the Middle East hundreds of years ago.

"The most recent discoveries have included coins, ceilings, scarabs [a representation of a beetle, an Egyptian symbol of the soul], but it's not so much the physical find, it's how it all fits in… It's an ongoing thing. There are finds that are constantly coming up. And you never know. Despite all the advancements of the scientific methods we have at our disposal, you could just by fluke run across something that is going to change what we know. That's part of the appeal."

He added: "The fascinating thing about it is that once the dirt gets under your fingernails, it goes to your heart. It hooks you. It's a passion, and this is a chance to learn first-hand about the history of Israel."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Irving Layton and his son Max. (photo courtesy of Max Layton)

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Greater Toronto Area

# Canadian, Russian cousins reconnect after 80 years

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

**From left, Doug Strelshik, his cousin Misha Strelchik, and Misha's grandson, Boris, are delighted to have reconnected the Russian and Canadian branches of their family.**
**[Frances Kraft photo]**

Mikhail (Misha) Strelchik speaks no English, but when he visited *The CJN*'s office just before Passover and described meeting his Toronto cousins at the Moscow airport for the first time last summer, the animation in his voice, along with a poignant gesture – clasping his hands in front of his heart – clearly conveyed his feelings about reconnecting with the Canadian branch of his family more than 80 years after his uncle, Shmil Strelczyk, left Russia.

Samuel Strelshik, as he came to be known, left his Ukrainian hometown of Terlitza in late 1923. He arrived in Canada in January 1924, with $13 in his pocket, and he and his wife Dora settled in Montreal. Samuel exchanged letters with his four siblings who had stayed behind until the late 1940s, after which Russian government policy made it impossible for them to be in touch with foreigners.

According to Misha, in the late 1920s, once Samuel was settled, he extended an invitation to Misha's father and his other siblings to join him. Misha's father, a committed Communist and Trotskyite, wouldn't hear of it.

Almost 80 years later, in 2004, Samuel's son, Arthur, received a long-distance phone call at his Montreal home. It was Misha's grandson, Boris, calling from Moscow with Misha at his side to re-establish a family connection.

Boris, now 20, who visited Toronto and Montreal with his grandfather for Passover, recalls hearing skepticism in Arthur's voice at first. "Then he believed me, but it was hard to talk on the phone."

E-mail turned out to be easier, and Arthur's son, Douglas, 46, a Toronto lawyer, became Boris' main contact. Last summer, Doug and his son Sam, now 12 and the namesake of Doug's grandfather, visited their relatives in Moscow, seeing the sights and getting to know their cousins.

Between Boris, who speaks English, and Misha's niece, an English teacher and translator, they were able to communicate. Doug also used the Yiddish he had learned at Montreal's Jewish People's Schools and Peretz Schools to talk to 73-year-old Misha, a mechanical engineer like Arthur and the patriarch of the Russian branch of the family.

Misha's father, Velvel, who died in 1987 at age 86, had asked him to find the Canadian relatives. "It was very important to him, and to me," Misha said.

Boris, a student, recalls being skeptical himself when he originally heard about the Canadian relatives. He thought it couldn't be true, and even if it were, that it wouldn't be possible to reconnect because of the amount of time that had passed and the distant family relationship.

Doug had been curious for a long time about the family his grandfather had left behind in Russia, but he hadn't undertaken a serious search for them. (He has since been inspired to do more research, and found archival documents related to his grandparents' immigration at the Toronto Public Library.)

Although Doug believed that the Russian Strelchiks were in fact his relatives – the information he had about his family history and names of ancestors matched – a photo that Boris e-mailed of Misha's father was "the clincher," said Doug. "It was like one face. My grandfather was 10 years older [than Misha's father], but they were like twins. My father said, 'It's obviously Zaidy's brother.' "

The reunion last summer, and the two seders here – one in Toronto, and one at the home of Doug's sister, Melanie Fisher, in Montreal – mark "a whole new chapter" in the Strelshik family, he said.

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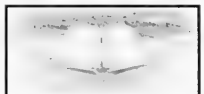
Jewish Life

# The path to spirituality and identity

By RABBI MARTIN J. BERMAN

We will read in the Torah this Shabbat (Leviticus, 14:4): "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the Israelite people and say to them 'I the Lord am your God. You shall not copy the practices of the land of Egypt where you dwelt, or of the land of Canaan to which I am taking you; nor shall you follow their laws. My rules alone shall you observe, and faithfully follow My laws. I the Lord am your God.'"




It's clear from the context that the Torah is warning the Children of Israel to observe the various laws that are enumerated immediately after this passage. These laws mostly deal with various sexual practices, what are called incest taboos.

The rabbis saw an even wider message in this passage. They said that the passage, "My rules alone shall you observe, and faithfully follow My laws," emphasizes that the Jews must obey the Torah, whether the law be rational ethical rules or merely ritual rules with no grounding in reason.

This dichotomy of *mishpat*, rational ethical law, and *chok*, non-rational ritual law, has often been a subject of study and dispute.

Rashi defines the two types of laws this way: *mishpatim* are rules given in the Torah that people would have created even if they had not been given – for example, the law against murder. A *chok*, on the other hand, is simply a decree of the King – for example, the ban on eating pork.

Maimonides rejects this idea of a *chok* being the non-rational decree of a king. He believed that every law of the Torah has a rational basis that can be discovered. As such, he came up with the unfortunate interpretation that the ban on eating pork is meant as a health measure. While I usually side with Maimonides' rationalism, here I prefer Rashi. For we cannot always see the rational basis of a law of the Torah. And while we can assume that the overall nature of the Torah is to make us better people, the individual commands may not always have a specific individual goal in mind.

But many people today only hear half of what Maimonides was saying. They assume everything must be rational and will only observe those mitzvot for which they can derive a rational underpinning. They understand the need for an ethical code, although in today's world, people don't feel constrained to follow the ethical code of the Torah.

But you can make a case for ethics. It's in the area of *chukim* that the greatest challenge resides. There seem to be no valid reasons to observe *chukim*.

The traditional community has never denied the validity of ritual, never given up on the *chok*, but too many people who belong to traditionally minded synagogues gave up on them in their daily lives. Shabbat, kashrut and prayer have been relegated to the synagogue, not to the everyday world outside the confines of the shul.

There are two important reasons for us to remember and stress rituals.

First, *chukim* represent the unknowable, the mystical element in the world. Rituals carry us beyond the knowable world to the divine. As I wrote this, my radio was playing classical music. I love the ebb and flow of the music. The sounds wash over me and transport me to another place. Ritual is a kind of music that can reach even deeper. It can hit you right in the soul, lifting you up, taking you to a plane where you confront the unknowable, the *ayn sof* of the mystics.

We are rational beings, and Judaism is rightly saluted for its emphasis on the rational, but sometimes we need to go beyond the purely rational into the domain of the mystical. In Jewish tradition, we have that capability when the ritual speaks to the heart and not the mind, such as when the recitation of the prayers or the lighting of the Shabbat candles – that is, the concentration on the power of the act – can carry you to God.

Secondly, *chukim* give us our identity as Jews. While there are certainly important differences between Judaism and Christianity, we share much of our moral and ethical sensibilities with Christians. If Rashi is correct – that *mishpatim* are laws that had not God given them, we would have created them for ourselves – they should be the inheritance of all rational beings. It's our ritual that sets us apart and defines us as being Jewish. Laws against murdering and stealing are not limited to Jews. It's the way we eat, the way we pray and the way we address the unknowable that sets us apart.

The Torah warns that we must obey so that "the land vomit not you out also." If we don't observe the Torah, but instead copy the ways of the people around us, we will not be vomited out by the land. Instead we will be swallowed up, lose our identity and disappear from the face of the earth.

*Rabbi Berman is spiritual leader of Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill, Ont.*

# Lag b'Omer: a lesson in unity

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

In the later part of counting the Omer is the holiday of Lag b'Omer. The 33rd day of counting is a holiday that commemorates an occurrence of persecution and freedom of one of the ancient sages, Shimon bar Yochai. According to the Talmud, Rabbi Shimon was sitting with several colleagues and discussing the merits and dangers of the Roman Empire. While others were pointing out possible contributions by the Romans, Rabbi Shimon was adamant in dismissing and disparaging any of the higher infrastructure or contributions they brought to the region.

Among those listening to this rabbinic discussion is an informer who tells the Romans about Rabbi Shimon's comments. A death sentence is pronounced, which forces Rabbi Shimon and his son to go into hiding. They hide in a cave for 12 years, during which time, tradition tells us, Rabbi Shimon is compiling and writing Jewish Kabbalistic literature. When Caesar dies, it becomes safe to emerge from the cave, and Rabbi Shimon and his son re-enter the world.

Upon encountering society again, Rabbi Shimon is unable to process what he sees. There are people working in the fields and engaging in everyday necessities to keep the economy running and their society strong. Rabbi Shimon is appalled at the time wasted that could have been devoted to Torah. Using the mystical powers he has strengthened for 12 years, Rabbi Shimon proceeds to set afire everything he gazes upon.

God intervenes and sends Rabbi Shimon back to his cave for one more year. God chastises Rabbi Shimon by proclaiming: "Have you come out to destroy My world?" After the 13th year, Rabbi Shimon and his son again re-enter society, this time with a different attitude. Rabbi Shimon sees that even the daily occurrences of the average person are an expression of God's presence in the world.

At times, we focus on the details and lose sight of the larger picture. Our focus can lead us to lash out in ways that are destructive to Jewish goals and our Jewish unity. We are Rabbi Shimon when he first emerges from the cave, and with all good intentions we destroy what should be valued.

With patience, introspection and Jewish creativity, further reflection and study of the Torah allows us to keep focused on the larger issues. It's easy to introduce divisive elements within a community that is rich in Jewish expression. Rabbi Shimon was not wrong in his initial observations. He was simply exercising his observations inappropriately. He is correct in concluding that time we spend elsewhere could be spent on Torah. He is correct in noticing that the Torah, in all its details and insights, could become the world in itself. He is incorrect in not seeing that the Torah was meant to function within a world and within a Jewish community. The last year spent in the cave serves to introduce perspective and to refocus Rabbi Shimon on the larger goals at stake.

The study of Torah is a skill that invites diverse opinions and debate to enrich all of our understandings. The expressions of a Jewish community must find a way to promote a unified and strong community. The beauty of Torah as a functioning document is that it affords scope and latitude for all Jews to find themselves. The duty of a Jewish community is to preserve unity when we gather while securing diversity when we debate.

Rabbi Shimon emerged from his cave on Lag b'Omer. It would be a fitting time for all Jewish communities to remember that Torah is not only about study and the expression of detail, but equally about finding its way into the daily and valid expressions of a unified Jewish community.

# Winnipeg Chabad unveils plans for $3-million shul, yeshiva

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Chabad Lubavitch of Winnipeg's longtime dream of building a yeshiva in this city is a step closer to reality.

In mid-April, Chabad spokesperson Rabbi Yaacov Simmonds unveiled plans for an ambitious $3-million Lubavitch centre in south Winnipeg that would include a synagogue, social hall, auditorium, library, lounge, classrooms, kosher kitchen, parking lot for 60 cars and a play area.

One of the goals for the new centre, Rabbi Simmonds notes, is to draw yeshiva students to Winnipeg.

Rabbi Avraham Altein bought the Lubavitch movement to Winnipeg in the early 1970s. Chabad has a building in a residential area of north Winnipeg that serves as a synagogue, school and auditorium.

About five years ago, after witnessing the movement of the majority of Winnipeg's Jewish population to the south end of the city, Chabad leased a storefront to better serve the burgeoning number of Jewish residents in south Winnipeg.

At the same time, Chabad began looking for property on which to build a permanent centre in south Winnipeg. It found the property it wanted two years ago and was able to finalize the purchase arrangements last fall.

## *Centre to be built in phases*

Rabbi Simmonds said the centre will be built in phases as funding permits. The first phase, which he estimates will cost $1 million, will consist of space for a day care, youth programs and adult education classes. For the past nine years, Chabad has been holding a summer yeshiva program, which features visiting rabbinical students who lead five weeks for study with interested members of the community.

The rabbi said that if funding and everything else falls into place on time, phase I construction could begin by summer's end. If not, then the work will begin next spring. The social hall, synagogue, library, lounge, classrooms and kitchen will be built as funding permits.

"This is an opportunity to put Winnipeg on the Jewish map," an enthusiastic Rabbi Simmonds said.

He notes that Lubavitch doesn't have an official membership. Even on the High Holy Days, both the north and south Winnipeg Chabad centres are open to anyone who wants to attend services.

But Rabbi Simmonds estimates that Lubavitch comes in contact with as many as 5,000 Jewish Winnipeggers a year through its outreach programs in Jewish schools and the community.

He said Chabad will be holding a kosher fundraising dinner this month at the Hotel Fort Garry, one of Winnipeg's oldest and classiest hotels, to raise money for the Winnipeg south project.

# Jewish names, Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week we looked at the significance of Jewish names. Today, we look at choosing one. If you happen to be in the market for a name – or if you want to lend some advice to someone who is – there is a wealth of suggestions waiting for you on the web.

Of course, many Ashkenazim start their quest by considering naming after a family member. Rabbi Paysach Krohn quotes one of the founders of Chassidut in Galicia, Poland, Rabbi Elimelech of Lyzhansk, who said that there is a profound connection between the soul of an infant and the soul of the person for whom he or she is named. "When a child is named after the deceased, the latter's soul is elevated to a higher realm in heaven and a spiritual connection is created between the soul of the departed and the soul of the newborn child. That deep spiritual bond between these two souls can have a profound impact on the child." **[http://tinyurl.com/ndy9e]**

Although Sephardim may honour a living family member by naming a child after them, Ashkenazi Jews do not follow the same practice. As the Ritual Reality website explains, "They rarely name children after living relatives, probably dating from a superstition of the Middle Ages to avoid having the Angel of Death take the newborn child instead of the aging relative it was named for by mistake." **[http://tinyurl.com/pwh7b]**

And then there is the Bible. As Lisa Katz points out, there are about 2,800 names mentioned in the Bible but only about five per cent of those names are used today. (Think of how many Abraham's and Esther's and you've met compared to of Arpachshad's and Maacah's. **[http://tinyurl.com/qf892]**

Aside from relatives and the Bible, there is no shortage of other places to look. Tempe, Arizona's Tri-City JCC site lists the major sources including holidays, animals and plants, Israeli place names, Jewish celebrities and historical figures. **[http://tinyurl.com/odz32]**

There are several excellent sites where you can look up names. Babynamer.com isn't a Jewish site, but it does index more than 500 Hebrew names. You can even specify the first letter of the name and how many syllables you are looking for. With most names, you are given a definition. For example, Aviva means "Springtime" and Liora is "God's gift of light to me." **[http://tinyurl.com/kxmze]**

If you're still stuck for a name, check out Cantor Philip L. Sherman's Jewish Naming Guide **[http://tinyurl.com/lg42h]**, Baby NameWorld **[www.babynameworld.com/biblical.asp]**, JewishBabyNames **[http://tinyurl.com/f63qo]** and the Hebrew site, Zooloo. **[www.zooloo.co.il/more/name/]**

Meanwhile, AskMoses answers some interesting name-related questions, such as is it proper to name two siblings after the same grandparent? (same name, no; same letter, yes). **[http://tinyurl.com/fzt2a]** And of course, Jewish names aren't just for newborns. Anita Diamant has advice for converts who want to choose the right name. **[http://tinyurl.com/n37rx]**

When selecting a name, parents are always walking a tightrope between choosing a unique moniker and one that's become too popular. The U.S. Social Security Administration keeps tracks of baby-naming trends, so that you can check the popularity of the top 1,000 names going back to 1900. In 2004, there were 323 "Chaya's" born, which placed the name in 783rd place, and 173 "Chaim's," which put the name in 953rd place. (Emily and Jacob have been number one since 1999.) **[www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/]**

I want to finish with a story that Rabbi Berel Wein tells. It's about a brit milah that a friend of his attended. When the rabbi asked the father what he was going to name the newborn boy, the father responded, "Avraham, Yitzchok, Yakov, David, Shlomo, Yosef."

The rabbi was astounded and asked the father, "Why such a string of names?"

The father replied, "Rabbi, I am a poor man, so the child won't have much of an inheritance.

"If he resembles my wife's side of the family, he probably won't be that smart.

"And if he looks like my side of the family, he is not going to be too handsome, either.

"So, I decided, let him at least have a good name!"

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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On Campus

# Toronto students join Darfur rally in D.C.

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

As hundreds of people gathered in Toronto for last week's Scream for Darfur rally at Queen's Park, a few Jewish Torontonians were on their way to the simultaneous rally in Washington, D.C. to ensure their presence was felt there as well.

Aviva Zimmerman, 21, a fourth-year theatre student at Ryerson University was one of four people – three students and a Hillel of Greater Toronto staff – who made the overnight drive to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to represent Toronto at a rally aimed at raising awareness about the genocide in Darfur and to push the government into action.

"It was a whirlwind trip, but it was really powerful," Zimmerman said.

"I learned a lot about the Darfur conflict. I had already known a little bit about the issue, but this really opened my eyes to a lot more."

Zimmerman guessed that more students didn't come because the rally was held in the middle of exam season, and some may have opted to show their support at the Toronto rally instead.

"It was important to add numbers to the cause because it is so horrific what is going on there," she said.

Tilly Shames, the Israel affairs director at Hillel of Greater Toronto, led the three students on their overnight trek to meet with members of Cornell Hillel in Ithaca, N.Y., at 5 a.m. before making their way to the National Mall, where the rally was staged.

**From left, Toronto students Aviva Zimmerman and Elenna Mosoff show their support at the Darfur rally in Washington, D.C.**

The rally was just one of many organized in cities across North America that urged the government to help end the killing, raping and torturing of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese people at the hands of an Arab militia group known as the janjaweed.

Since the conflict began three years ago, it is estimated that more than 400,000 people have been murdered and about 2.5 million have been displaced from their homes.

"The two major messages were 'not on our watch' and 'never again.' These were the slogans that were seen on signs throughout," Shames said.

Among the speakers were Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Washington-based Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel; the New York City-based civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton; U.S. Senator Barack Obama; actor George Clooney; and Paul Rusesabagina, who inspired the film *Hotel Rwanda*.

"It felt good to be part of such a large mass of people that were raising awareness about the issue," Shames said, adding that there was a real sense of non-partisanship among the estimated 15,000 protesters and that people were supporting the cause regardless of their political affiliations.

She criticized the Canadian government for failing to call the conflict in Darfur a genocide, even though the United States has done so. She added that it seems that the United States is more willing to do something about it.

"It is imperative for us not to be silent," Shames said.

Zimmerman said one message that really stood out was that the conflict in Darfur is just one of many conflicts in Africa.

"It is important to draw attention to this, but we should also be aware of what is happening in the Congo and Uganda. It's important to stand up for them too," she said.

After watching a video provided by the Cornell Hillel leader on the bus on the way to the rally, Zimmerman said it opened her eyes to the atrocities in the region.

**Continued on page 23**

The Rabbi Jacob Mendel Kirshenblatt Endowment Annual Lecture

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On Campus

# Students hear from Wiesel at Washington rally

**Continued from page 22**

"The video was a detailed account of what is going on there. It brought it home for me and it helped me realize the extent of the human suffering."

Zimmerman added that the highlight of the rally was being with 1,000 other Jewish students, and that she was glad for the opportunity to "get connected and get engaged with student activism.

"This was an awesome experience and I'm very appreciative that Hillel was able to subsidize the trip. They really try to reach out to students and help them get connected to the rest of the world," she said, adding that the transportation to Washington only cost her $40.

For Shames, the most memorable parts of the rally came from the many parallels that were drawn to the Holocaust.

"Elie Wiesel was certainly a highlight. It was powerful to hear from him, as well as [California Congressman Tom] Lantos, who are both Holocaust survivors. To hear them speak about Darfur was really powerful," she said.

"We were all so glad we made the effort to go down to Washington for this rally. Sadly, the Jewish people experienced what it was like for others to remain silent during our time of need. We will not remain silent now and allow another genocide to continue."


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# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Mazel tov to Theda & Howard Warner on your 50th wedding anniversary. Love, your children and grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov to Jenna Rosman, daughter of Dr. David & Caryl Rosman, on her recent engagement to Guy Man. Love from all the family.**

**Mazel tov to Dara & Jay Godfrey who were married on March 26. Proud parents are David & Shanea Rakowski and Paul & Gina Godfrey.**

**Nathan Brown is excited to announce his upcoming wedding to Shari Swirsky. Proud family Ben & Marsha Swirsky, Gordon & Barbara Brown and Jakob and Elijah.**

**Big sister Daniella and parents Maura & Joe welcome Julie, born March 13. Thrilled grandparents are Mireille & Arthur Siegel, Ilana & Ytschak Aschaiek.**

**Julie, Doug and Naomi Scott-Shapiro of New York announce the birth of Leah. Grandparents, Howard Scott, Suzi & Arnie Lipes of Montreal. Great-grandmother, Sally Scott.**

***SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!***

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

*In this issue...*
**The CJN Survey**
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***or* The Producers *on DVD***

**What's New deadlines: Monday, May 15, is the deadline for the May 25 issue and Friday, May 19, is the deadline for the June 1 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, May 11

**SCORE!**

Petroff Gallery presents "Score!" an exhibition and sale of sports-themed contemporary works of art by professional and celebrity sports artists, to raise funds for Toronto's SickKids Foundation. Reception tonight 5-9 p.m. Runs through June 4, 1016 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-782-1696

**POSEIDON GALA**

Join Israel Cancer Research Fund for a gala screening of the film *Poseidon* followed by a dessert buffet and entertainment featuring the Magen Boys at Cinesphere and Atlantis Restaurant, Ontario Place. 7 p.m. Free parking. $100. 416-440-7781

***WAL-MART*: THE FILM**

The Winchevsky Centre presents the documentary *WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price,* followed by a discussion led by a union activist. 7:30 p.m. $6. 416-789-5502

**KABBALAH OF LOVE**

The House invites parents and educators to hear **Rabbi David Aaron**, on "Kabbalah of Love: Raising Our Children to Great Heights and Happiness." 8 p.m. 469 Eglinton Ave. W. #3. 416-482-9025

**FAMOUS TRIALS**

Beth Emeth Synagogue continues its lecture series "Famous Trials" with **Gerald Ziedenberg**, this week the Rosenbergs, next week Eichmann. 8 p.m. 416-633-3838

## Saturday, May 13

**BROTHERHOOD SHABBAT**

**Bernie Farber** will be the guest speaker during services at the Beth David Brotherhood Shabbat. 9 a.m.

**HALTON-PEEL SERVICES**

Join B'Nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel for services at 10 a.m. followed by kiddush. For location and information, 905-469-4344 or bnaishalom2004@yahoo.ca.

**KABBALAH AND YOU**

Birthright Israel alumni, students, and young professionals are invited to hear **Rabbi David Aaron** on "Kabbalah: Your Ultimate Calling". 10:30 p.m. 469 Eglinton Ave. W. #3. 416-482-9025 or thehouse@bellnet.ca

## Sunday May 14

**LEIBTAG ON HAR SINAI**

**Rabbi Menachem Leibtag** speaks on "Understanding What Happened at Har Sinai" 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770

**GEORGE GERSHWIN**

Beth Emeth Brotherhood presents a Mother's Day breakfast, "By George! By Gershwin!" with singer/actor **Gregory Cross**. 10 a.m. Adults $15, children under 10, $7. Reserve by May 12 at 416-633-3838.

## Monday, May 15

**HUMAN COST OF TERROR**

Join One Family Fund for a reception and meet with and hear the personal stories of victims of terror. View an exhibit of portraits by photographer **Jason Schwartz**,"The Human Cost of Terror." 7:30 p.m. at the Miles Nadal JCC. The exhibit runs through May 31. 416-644-4955

**BIRTH AND DEATH RITUALS**

Oraynu Congregation begins a Jewish life-cycle series with **Rabbi Eva Goldfinger**. Tonight, "Jewish Birth and Death Rituals: From Superstition to Science." North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. lower level. 7:30 p.m. $20. RSVP, 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

**Continued on page 25**

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What's New

**Continued from page 24**

**JEWISH DIABETES MEETING**

**Dr. Alexandra L. Jenkins**, of Glycemic Index Laboratories, speaks on "The Glycemic Index and You: How Can It Improve Your Diabetes?" at the Jewish Diabetes Chapter meeting. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $1. 416-363-0177, ext. 7403

**BEYOND THE PALE**

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents a concert with Beyond the Pale and singer **David Wall**. 8:30 p.m. Tickets $35, senior $30, student $20. 416-221-3433

## Tuesday, May 16

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**Murray Armel** looks at "The Life of Abba Eban" at Beth Tikvah. Lunch 12:15 p.m., Learn 1 p.m. By pre-paid reservation only. $10. 416-221-3433, ext. 352

**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT**

The Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Circle of Care offer a Parkinson's Support Group beginning today through July 18, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the BJCC. Each hour begins with exercise followed by discussions on Tuesday and relaxation exercises on Thursdays. Patients and caregivers welcome. Annual fee $135. For information, call **Janet**, 416-636-1880, ext. 259.

**ETHICS OF THE FOUNDERS**

Beth Tzedec Congregation continues Four Practitioners on Ethics of the Founders with **Hindy Najman,** professor of Jewish studies, University of Toronto, on "Moral Perfection and Pirkei Avot." 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 34

**STARS OF JEWISH HISTORY**

Temple Har Zion continues its series with **Eric Lawee** on early European Jewish thinkers and philosophers. Tonight, "Judah Halevi and The Jewish Golden Age in Muslim Spain." 8 p.m. 905-889-2252

**SENIOR MOMENTS**

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood presents "Senior Moments and the Fear of Changing Cognitive Abilities" with **Dr. Guy Proulx**, director of psychology neurorehabilitation at Baycrest Centre. 8 p.m. Non-members $5. 416-221-3434

## Wednesday, May 17

**FATHERS AND SONS**

**Rabbi Tina Grimberg** speaks on "Images of Fathers and Sons in the Tanach." 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Congregation Darchei Noam, 15 Hove St. www.darcheinoam.on.ca or 416-638-4783

**THE NUTRITIONAL MAZE**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada presents **Dr. Joe Schwarcz**, of McGill University and author of *Let Them Eat Flax*, on "Eating: Is There a Solution to the Confusion." 8 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. Members $10, non-members $15. Tickets, 416-633-5100.

**JEWISH HISTORY**

Join **Rabbis Shlomo Jakobovitz** and **Leo Davids** for the series "Moments in Jewish History," running through June 14. Tonight, Davids on "Origins and Evolution of Yiddish." 8 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. 416-633-4193

**PIANO RECITAL**

Pianist **Elissa Miller-Kay**, winner of the 2006 Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award, performs at Temple Sinai. 8 p.m. 416-487-4161

## Other news

**TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL**

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs through May 14 at the Bloor Cinema and the Al Green Theatre with features, documentaries, shorts and animated films, and free events/screenings. For tickets, visit www.tjff.com or call 416-324-9121.

**OLD HOPES AND ANXIETIES**

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents **Rabbi Avraham Feder** in a series of Rabbi Emeritus Lectures. Wednesday, May 17, 8 p.m. "A New Era for Israel with Old Hopes and Anxieties"; Thursday, May 18, 8 p.m. "Hamlet and Moses: Two Dimensions of Being Human"; Monday, May 22, 8 p.m. "Tears and Laughter of Jewish Life Through Song." 416-211-3434

**HEBREW CLASSES**

**Keren Hatarbut Institute** offers Hebrew-language classes for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Classes are taught on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning May 17. 788 Marlee Ave. For registration, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

**ESTATE AUCTION**

Join Toronto Hadassah-WIZO and Ritchies for an auction of Lalique, Hunebelle, Royal Doulton on May 18 at Adath Israel Congregation. Patron preview 6:30 p.m. Couvert $36, tax receipt issued. General admission 7:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit learning disabled children. RSVP to 416-630-8373.

**MELTON MODEL CLASS**

The Melton Adult Mini School, a project of Hebrew University, holds an information night at Beth Tzedec Congregation, Thursday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. 416-789-7400

**SAM GLASER CONCERT**

Associated and USDS host a concert with **Sam Glaser,** accompanied by the choirs of Associated Hebrew Schools and United Synagogue Day School, Thursday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at Beth David Synagogue. Adults $18, children $10. For tickets, call **Missy**, 416-787-9988.

**LAURA BLUMENFELD**

Beth Sholom Synagogue presents **Laura Blumenfeld**, author of *Revenge: A Story of Hope*. Thursday, May 18, 8 p.m. 416-783-6103

**BETH TZEDEC WEEKEND**

Beth Tzedec Congregation hosts **Prof. Steven Katz**, of Boston University, the weekend of May 19-21. On Friday, May 19, he speaks at Shabbat dinner on "For Good or For Bad, Modernity's Impact on Judaism." Adults $35, children (5-13) $23. Reserve by Tuesday, May 16. On Saturday, May 20, his morning sermon is "Kabbalah and the Halachah." Following kiddush, Katz speaks on "Gentile Heroism During the Holocaust." He speaks on "The Uniqueness of the Holocaust" at Sunday brunch following Shacharit at 9 a.m. 416-781-3511

**CHABAD DINNER**

Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre holds its "Spirit of Community Dinner" Monday, June 5, with guest speaker **Rabbi Yisroel Meir Lau**. For tickets, call 905-709-7770.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800, ext. 215 or register online at www.jfandcs.com.

One Family, Two Homes: Three sessions for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age-appropriate groups. Parents discuss keeping the kids out of the conflict and trends in family law. Begins Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313

## FOR SENIORS

**Association of Jewish Seniors** general meeting, Thursday, May 18, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with **David Zimer**, MPP, providing "An Update on Current Politics." **Tammy**, 416-635-2860.

**PAL Seniors Group at Earl Bales** go to see *Ragtime* at the Performing Arts Centre on Sunday, May 28, at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 416-398-2424.

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, May 21; Bridge, Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 11, lecture with **Linda Summers** on "A Harmful Will." Call **Menachem**, 905-731-7748.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Book and Munch Club, Wednesdays, 12-1:15 p.m. Bring a lunch. For info, **Mara**, ext. 2275.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Ottawa Tulip Festival trip, May 16-17, $200/250.

Spring Lunch, May 17. $15/$18.

Israeli Etrog Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Help Support Maccabi Athletes, at the JCC Maccabi Spin-a-thon, Sunday, May 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call **Grant** ext. 257.

Learning Experience, "Changes Are a Necessary Evil" with **Anne Balaban**, Tuesday, May 16, 1-2:30 p.m.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca

Two Radio Plays by **Yehuda Amichai**, *Bells and Trains* and *Killing Him* with **David Ferry** and **Jordan Pettle**, Wednesday, May 17, 8 p.m. $12 advance, $15 at the door. Call ext. 606.

Sisters of Sheynville, Thursday, May 25, 8:30 p.m. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Call ext. 606.

Registration on now for Mini-Me Camp this summer, ages 3-5. Risa, ext. 128, e-mail risaa@mnjcc.org

**HOSTS NEEDED**

Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada hosts 10 disabled veterans June 4-18. If you can accommodate an Israeli in your home, call 905-695-0611 or e-mail info@advi.ca.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Society is looking for volunteers for the Jewish Mosaic Festival on Sunday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 4 pm. Contact **Allison** at 416-630-6481.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 27*

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

**BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mathilde Sugarman | Apr 22/06 | 203 Coldstream Ave |
| Joan Buckler | Apr 22/06 | 4005 Bayview Ave |
| William Velvel Laiwint | Apr 23/06 | 569 Sheppard Ave W |
| Morris Isenberg | Apr 23/06 | 7 Townsgate Dr |
| Jack Lane | Apr 24/06 | 5 Weldrick Rd W |
| Larry Goldstein | Apr 26/06 | 796 Cranston Crt |
| Mindie Fenton | Apr 27/06 | 33 Jackes Ave |
| Ricky Gould | Apr 29/06 | 500 Avenue Rd |

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| David Alexander Stokes | Apr 23/06 | 8 Rean Drive |

**Steeles Memorial Chapel**

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| Friedman, Sara | Apr 23/06 | 5935 Bathurst St |
| Kenigsberg, Jacob | Apr 25/06 | 1 Doncrest Dr |
| Gross, Isaac | Apr 24/06 | Private |
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| Muller, Helmut | Apr 27/06 | Private |
| Reiter, Bertha | Apr 27/06 | 53 Franklin Ave |
| Gelernter, Mina | Apr 27/06 | Private |
| Fink, Wilfred | Apr 27/06 | 1555 Finch Ave E |
| Moses, Ethel Ann | Apr 28/06 | 8 Covington Rd |
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| Webber, Dyna | Apr 29/06 | 158 Lisa Cres |
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on there loss of a family member, who were
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# *Sane or crazy? How to handle Iran*

As Iran defies the UN Security Council by pressing ahead with its nuclear ambitions, analysts and media commentators generally agree that it must not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. But they agree on little else.

The *Globe and Mail* editorial "Keep after Iran," April 29, calls for international sanctions: "Only tough, concerted action by the international community will put an end to Iran's reckless game of [nuclear] brinkmanship."

**According to Reports**
By PAUL MICHAELS

The *Globe* notes that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme religious leader and head of its nuclear program, said Tehran might transfer nuclear technology and expertise to Sudan, "confirming one of the West's worst fears. If Iran manages to become a nuclear power, it could well become a storehouse of scientific knowledge and technology that would be made available to unstable Islamic regimes and perhaps to terrorist groups themselves."

And because "Tehran has been unwilling to engage in the normal give-and-take that makes negotiation and compromise possible," sanctions are the best solution, the paper argues. "A genuine threat of effective economic sanctions, which would severely damage Iran's oil-reliant economy and a freeze on its foreign assets, which would hit the ruling elite in the pocketbook."

The editorial concludes: "If there is one thing some of Iran's leading mullahs fear almost as much as an open, democratic society, it is a disruption of their lucrative business activity."

However, economic powerhouses Russia and China are threatening to veto any UN Security Council resolutions that would impose mandatory economic sanctions. Russia has made massive investments in Iran, including $1 billion in the Bushehr nuclear plant alone. China also has multibillion dollar contracts for crude oil and gas needed to fuel its rapidly expanding economy.

Even the European countries – some of which, like Germany, are major trading partners with Iran – are not united on sanctions. The Reuters report, "Iran consensus in focus on Merkel U.S. trip," May 3, notes that German Chancellor Angela Merkel, heading for a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush, "wants to keep [UN Security] Council members Russia and China, which oppose sanctions, onside and German officials say she will try to convince Bush of the need for a measured step-by-step approach toward Iran that preserves the fragile western front."

In the meantime, analysts don't agree if Iran's leaders, and especially President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, are even rational actors capable of being stopped by, if not sanctions, then the threat of nuclear deterrence.

In "Deterrent Defeat" (*New Republic*, May 8), Peter Beinart argues that if nuclear deterrence can work against North Korea, "as isolated and nutty a state as exists on the face of the earth," it should work against Iran. "Where's the evidence that [Iran's leaders] seek martyrdom so fervently that they would risk the one thing that most regimes value above all else: survival?"

Beinart's view is shared by Janice Stein, director of the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto. On *Diplomatic Immunity* (TVO, April 29), Stein appeared to surprise host Steve Paikin, who had questioned whether the Iranian regime is rational, by saying: "Do we know that Ahmadinejad is mad? I don't think we do… I think we know we profoundly disagree with virtually everything he says… but I'm not sure he's crazy."

Former U.S. Mideast peace envoy Dennis Ross takes a different view in "A New Strategy on Iran" (*Washington Post*, May 1): "As for those who think that the nuclear deterrent rules that governed relations between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War will also apply in a nuclear Middle East: don't be so confident… [W]ith an Iranian president who sees himself as an instrument for accelerating the coming of the 12th Imam – which is preceded in the mythology by the equivalent of Armageddon – one should not take comfort in thinking that Iran will act responsibly."

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

Coast to Coast

# Jewish studies association holds conference

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS), an organization with about 150 members in Canada and a few in the United States and Israel, is offering an eclectic mix of subjects for its upcoming three-day annual conference.

"I think it's a tremendous achievement that we have over 30 scholarly papers," said AJCS president Randal Schnoor, a York University sociologist. Canadian Jewish studies is a small but growing field, he noted.

"I'm very excited about the conference because it's our 30th anniversary and it's one of our largest conferences," he said.

The event will kick off Sunday, May 28, at Beth Sholom Synagogue with a day-long "Festival of Canadian Jewish Life and Culture" that is open to the public.

Keynote speaker Morton Weinfeld, a McGill University sociologist and author of *Like Everyone Else, but Different: The Paradoxical Success of Canadian Jews*, will discuss "The shift from Canadian anti-Semitism to anti-Semitism in Canada," at an evening session.

Daytime sessions will include "Portraits of Jewish Scholars and Rabbis in Montreal"; "Israel and the Mediation of Diaspora Identity," which will feature a speaker on "Campus Zionism and the Embattled Jew"; "Sephardic Canadian Jewry"; and "The Commemoration of Canadian Jewish War Veterans."

The evening will include a dessert reception in honour of the organization's 30th anniversary, and presentation of a distinguished service award to historian Gerald Tulchinsky of Queen's University. York University history professor Irving Abella will receive the same award two nights later.

The other two days of the conference are part of a larger meeting called the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, held every year at a different university, said Schnoor.

The AJCS conference will include a joint session with the Society for Italian Studies and the Association for Canadian Hispanists that will examine identities among the Italian, Spanish and Jewish communities in Canada.

"I think it will be a very dynamic session," said Schnoor, who is also a presenter (along with Dan Mendelssohn Aviv of Bialik Hebrew Day School and Jack Lipinsky of United Synagogue Day School and the University of Toronto), at a session on "The Jewish Day School in Canada."

The conference will wind up with a dinner, a klezmer concert and a panel on "The Futures of Yiddish Education and Culture in Canada." The event is open to the public for a cost of $10.

For further information about the conference, go to www.acjs-aejc.ca, or e-mail program chair Dan Heller at dan.heller@utoronto.ca.

**HOLDING THE FLAG: Grade 3 students at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School – from left, Kate Brooks, Heitan Ben Avraham, Rebecca Redelmeier, Natalie Cappe and Margaret Rose – carry the Israeli flag at Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue during a parade last week to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut.**


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# Global Partners in Cancer Research

## Women of Action Luncheon 2006

Back left to right: Margaret Wente and Sandra Ainsley. Front left to right: Dr. Janet Rossant and Lesley Binstock Offman

The 5th Annual Women of Action Luncheon took place on April 5, 2006. This year ICRF was privileged to honour four exceptional women: Sandra Ainsley, visionary art dealer; Lesley Binstock Offman, outstanding community leader; Dr. Janet Rossant, Chief of Research at The Hospital for Sick Children and Keynote Speaker, Margaret Wente of the Globe & Mail.

Honourees Sandra Ainsley and Lesley Binstock Offman both had very personal reasons for accepting their invitations. They had lost their husbands to the disease and were compelled to do whatever they could to help support cancer research.

"I just couldn't say no," says Lesley. "ICRF is doing wonderful work in supporting some of the world's best and brightest research scientists in the battle against cancer." Lesley's sentiments were echoed by Sandra who added that she was "very honoured" when asked to be recognized at the event and that she "wants to support the major breakthroughs in cancer research coming out of Israel."

Left to right: Co-Chairs Devra Baryshnik and Janice Baryshnik

Over 500 people attended this tremendous event, thanks in part to our ambitious committee. Many new, enthusiastic young leaders were involved in this year's event.

## Our First Mission to Israel

Last November ICRF (Toronto) joined forces with State of Israel Bonds Women's Division for our first Mission to Israel. Mission participants met two brilliant ICRF scientists, Dr. Howard Cedar (Hadassah Hospital), a recipient of The Israeli Prize in Biology, and Dr. Alberto Gabizon (Shaarei Tzedek Hospital) who developed the breakthrough drug Doxil, used in the treatment of ovarian and breast cancers.

As supporters of ICRF, this group was grateful to know these extraordinary

left to right. Mission Co-Chairs Barbara Bregman and ICRF Co-President Carole Herman Zucker.

scientists are indeed making a difference. The tours of the Hadassah Hospital and the Shaarei Tzedek Hospital were fascinating. "What touched me most was the deep sense of caring and commitment found in all the hospitals we visited where special care is given to the whole person," recalls Mission participant Gale Borison-Socken. The sights, sounds and tastes of Israel were ever present during this remarkable journey.

ICRF is looking forward to leading another exciting mission to Israel November 5 -13, 2006. For information or to pre-register, contact Karen Lieberman at the ICRF office at 416-440-7781 or via e-mail Karen.Lieberman@icrfonline.org

## Our Scientists - Trailblazing Towards A Cure

**Doctors Avram Hershko** and **Aaron Ciechanover** of the **Technion-Israel Institute of Technology** were awarded the **2004 Nobel Prize for Chemistry** for their discovery of the ubiquitin system, a method of removing the body's damaged proteins. Their research resulted in the development of the drug Velcade named the "Top Medical Breakthrough of 2003" by the wall Street Journal. Velcade is used to treat multiple myeloma and is being used in over 50 countries worldwide.

Left to right: Doctors Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover (photo credit, Technion)

**Dr. Eli Canaani** of the **Weizmann Institute of Science** identified the first abnormal chromosome found in Leukemia, leading to a new drug **GLEEVEC**, which is the first-ever approved cancer-specific drug and has been shown to treat Leukemia patients with high success rates. It is currently being tested on other cancers. "Gleevec helped launch what oncologists hope will be an effective strategy for staunching tumors and prolonging survival of cancer patients with fewer side effects than those that accompany conventional chemotherapy," *The Wall Street Journal* reported on January 27.

**Dr. Alberto Gabizon** of Jerusalem's **Shaare Zedek Hospital** developed a new formulation of a chemo-therapeutic drug, **DOXIL**, used to treat breast and ovarian cancer as well as a form of cancer in AIDS patients.

**Dr. Howard Cedar** of **Hebrew University, Hadassah** is acknowledged as a pioneer for his extraordinary achievements in understanding the processes of gene regulation, expression, and DNA replication. He was awarded the Israel Prize in Biology, in 1999 by the State of Israel.

## ICRF Origins

In 1975 ICRF was founded by a group of doctors who came to the conclusion that not only was Israel in the forefront of cancer research, but it was also a world leader in cost effective research facilities. Also, Israel had a network of well equipped laboratories, superb scientists and a unified healthcare system. ICRF has raised over US $31 million and has awarded 1,526 grants to scientists in 25 institutions throughout Israel. Their discoveries are being used by patients worldwide.

Monies raised at ICRF events and other initiatives such as our holiday and tribute cards, provide fellowships to leading physicians and scientists enabling them to continue their promising research and to pursue new initiatives in finding cures for cancer.

Space purchased and materials supplied by Israel Cancer Research Fund.

# Celebration Delivers

When ICRF volunteers say they will throw a party, they deliver "big time". Celebration of Hope 2005, one of ICRF's most anticipated events of the year, was a great success! Last November, over 300 guests enjoyed outstanding music and live entertainment by the Magen Boys, a fabulous silent and live auction, and a poker tournament sponsored by Casino Media Group in support of cancer research.

Co-chairs Lisa Erlick, Faith Sherman, and Jennifer Gold

Co-Chairs Lisa Erlick, Faith Sherman and Jennifer Gold have each been touched by cancer at some level and are passionate about eradicating the disease. Sadly, Lisa's son is dealing with the effects of cancer at the young age of 11. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor and has been receiving cancer treatments for the past year. Thankfully, he is on his way to recovery. "I was involved with ICRF and previous ICRF events for several years before Evan's diagnosis," says Lisa. "Once the diagnosis was made I knew I had to stay involved. Evan sees that the whole family is working to help scientists in Israel find a cure and feels very good about that."

Committee members Risa Rotenberg, Elaine Naiberg Borchiver and Anne Solomon

"Celebration was a terrific opportunity for friends and new friends to get together to support a really great cause and to have a fantastic time," says event co-chair Faith Sherman. "People kept coming up to me all night to say this was the best time they ever had at a fundraising event."

# Junior Partners in the Fight Against Cancer

Just as cancer knows no age restrictions, there are no age restrictions for the volunteers who work for ICRF. Our supporters believe that youth should grow up with an understanding of the disease and how they too can play a part in supporting research. The Tzedakah Project is an outreach program in partnership with the USDS Bathurst campus that bring scientists into the classroom to encourage students to support ICRF. It is currently being expanded to include students at other Hebrew day schools.

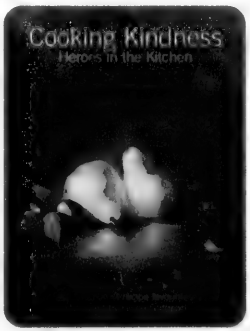
A Bar and Bat Mitzvah program has also been created for young people to give a portion of their gifts to ICRF. The response from our 'junior partners' has been very rewarding. Their gifts are from the heart and often honouring loved ones who have been touched by cancer. "Unfortunately many of today's young people are all too familiar with this dreaded disease," says Janice Jordan, one the volunteers spearheading ICRF youth programs. "It is rewarding to educate the community's youth on how they can contribute to finding a cure."

Charlotte Wynn and Co-President Sharon London Liss

A multitude of thanks to our young donors who have generously supported ICRF.

# Cooking Kindness - Heroes in the Kitchen

Author/broadcaster Gloria Guttman has been greatly involved with ICRF for 13 years. She has put her heart and soul into her new cookbook, Cooking Kindness - Heroes in the Kitchen. Proceeds will be donated to ICRF (Toronto).




Launch of a new cookbook by Glona Guttman

Cooking Kindness includes a compilation of Gloria's favourite recipes plus those she has collected from around the world over the past decades. Many of the contributors have dedicated their recipes in honour of a cancer victim or survivor. "I wanted to do something that combines my passion for friends, family and food," says Gloria. "Cooking Kindness does this in a way that also supports the fantastic work being undertaken by the brilliant researchers in Israel."

Launched at the 2006 Women of Action Luncheon, Cooking Kindness - Heroes inthe Kitchen will soon be widely available at book stores, fine food shops and synagogues. To order your copy, please call 1-866-230-3269 or visit gguttman04@earthlink.net.

## We're Online and Ready for You

Have a question? Need more information about ICRF events? Want to make a donation, send tribute cards, change your address or get added to our e-mail list? Please visit our website at www.icrfonline.org.

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Coast to Coast

Jewish day school students cheer for Israel on its 58th birthday. [Howard Kay photo]

# Students voice enthusiasm for Israel at birthday rally

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — This year, it was mostly for the kids.

About 2,000 boisterous, festive Jewish day and high school students – and some 1,000 others – crowded into Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park's Butler Building in Cote St. Luc to cheer Israel on its 58th birthday last week.

For the past four years, the Jewish community has staged a massive pro-Israel march and rally in downtown Montreal on Yom Ha'atzmaut. The event was deliberately scaled down this year, compared with the tens of thousands who gathered downtown for the earlier events.

The decision by FEDERATION CJA to shift the rally to the Jewish community's "centre of town" to make it easier for students to participate also seemed to make it a more intimate and down-home experience for the young ralliers despite the steady drizzle.

Still, opinion was divided on the move. Two veterans of the downtown rallies – École Maimonide's Daniel Rossdutscher, 15, and Bialik High School's Katie Cohen Olidenstein, 14 – told *The CJN* they would have preferred the usual venue because it allowed the general public to see the depth of Jewish community support for Israel.

"It's safer here," Olidenstein said, "but better downtown, because more people see how much we appreciate Israel."

But neither that point of view nor the rain appeared to dampen the overall spirit if the noise in the building was any indicator.

Gone from the program were the lengthy speeches of the downtown event. In its place were students from Jewish schools standing on stage to sing their hearts out and show their fellowship with and knowledge of specific parts of Israel.

**Continued on page 32**

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**TIME TO CELEBRATE:** Grade 2 students led Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations at Bialik Hebrew Day School with a delightful performance in English, Hebrew, French and Yiddish that used story, song and dance.

Coast to Coast

# Israel's 'Bob Dylan' performs on Yom Ha'atzmaut

By REBECA KUROPATWA
*Special to The CJN*

**WINNIPEG** — The Jewish community here celebrated Israel's 58th birthday with Israeli composer, songwriter and singer Hanan Yovel, last week.

"Hanan Yovel is like the Bob Dylan of Israel," said Michal Solomon, a Winnipeg resident who was born in Israel. "We all grew up with his songs. Actually, everyone knows his songs, and he is a reflection of the kind of warm-hearted society Israel is."

Solomon was with her family at the Yom Ha'atzmaut event held in the gym of the Asper Jewish Community Campus on May 3.

Yovel, who has produced more than 20 popular albums, performed many of his hit songs, as well as traditional favourites, including *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*. It was a one-man show, with Yovel singing and playing guitar. He sang most of the tunes in Hebrew, with some English verses sprinkled in.

Born in Kibbutz Mishmarot, Yovel served in the Israeli military in the musical Nahal troupe. He then became a member of the Shlosharim Trio, a band that introduced elements of rock to the Israeli pop music scene. Since then, he has had a successful solo career.

The evening began with a falafel dinner served in the gym, and after the concert, guests were given cake in honour of the State of Israel's birthday.

The audience of about 500 showed their pride for Israel, many singing along and clapping to Yovel's songs, some dancing at the foot of the stage, while children danced and waved Israeli flags.

The children primarily enjoyed the music, the food and and the celebratory mood, while the teens, adults and seniors also appreciated the opportunity to be at an event with an Israeli flavour.

**Top left, Israeli singer and songwriter Hanan Yovel; bottom left, Michal Solomon with her children and, above, Madeline Schwartz and her mom, Sharon.**

**[Rebeca Kuropatwa photos]**

**YIDDISH BUDDIES: York University Yiddish students held a "Fun with Yiddish" event with seniors on April 27 at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. The students, who have completed a beginners Yiddish course at York, led songs, performed a skit and conversed in Yiddish with the seniors. From left are Florence Leslie, Shaun Bernstein, Shira Zeliger, Aron Katz, Brenda Burkes and Sabrina Friedman.**

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  Shabbat, May 20, Service 8:45 a.m.
- Hendeles Chapel following Kiddush:
  **"Gentile Heroism during the Holocaust"**
- Sunday Brunch, May 21:
  **"The Uniqueness of the Holocaust"**
  Shaharit Service 9:00 a.m.
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בית צדק

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Coast to Coast

# Israel less secure than ever despite strength, prof argues

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Although Israel has a stronger military and economy than ever before, it faces a security paradox that leaves it little room to manoeuvre, a leading Israeli academic says.

"Never before in the history of Israel has [the country] been so powerful militarily and economically, and yet, never has it been so insecure," University of Toronto political science professor Emanuel Adler, the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Chair in Israeli Studies, said at a recent lecture at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

"Unfortunately, the situation is damned if you do, damned if you don't."

Any solution to the quagmire, the international relations theorist argued, must be political.

"We need a new doctrine to deal with this problem," he related.

"And there is no magic, technical solution. The only way to disarm [Israel's enemies] is to disarm their intention… So the only way to solve the problem… will be political."

In describing the security paradox, Adler illustrated how being strong militarily can work to Israel's disadvantage.

For example, "when we use force, it elicits a response" that, in turn, triggers a "terrorist trap," or endless cycle.

With respect to economic progress, the professor said that Israel is dependent on the United States, which frequently strains its ability to "act on its free will."

The four biggest threats to Israel's security today, said Adler, are terrorism, missiles, demographic concerns and the danger Iran poses if armed with a nuclear weapon or weapons of mass destruction.

"Israelis are surrounded from the north, east and southwest… mainly by religious, fundamentalist groups," he said.

"Using force against them, in most cases, will achieve the opposite [of the desired] result."

In terms of missiles, Adler noted that some long-range ones in the possession of Israel's enemies have a range of 2,000 kilometres and can knock Israeli planes and missiles right out of the sky.

Moreover, if missiles are armed with biological agents, they could inflict catastrophic damage and suffering.

The demographic pressures that Israel is grappling with centre on the likelihood that in the next few years, there will probably be more Arabs than Jews in the area between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea.

"The only alternative for this is a two-state solution when a Palestinian state is viable," Adler said.

Perhaps the most daunting threat of all is that posed by Iran and its efforts to achieve nuclear capabilities.

***Most daunting threat posed by Iran, Adler says***

"In a few years, Iran may have plutonium and enriching capacity," Adler said.

"Once this happens, Israeli intelligence says that in three to four years, Iran will have a nuclear weapon."

What's more, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad threats to wipe out Israel and the fact that many Iranians are being imbued with a call to martyrdom are tangible reasons why Iran's nuclear ambitions should be taken very seriously, Adler said.

So what is a possible solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis?

Adler said neither diplomacy, a regime change, deterrence, a surgical strike on nuclear sites nor an invasion would be successful.

The one option that may at least stymie Iran for the time being would be for Israel to become a member of NATO, he said.

"Israel would have a nuclear umbrella via NATO," Adler said.

"This process should lead to some kind of… long-term truce in which you get to a solution."

Adler conceded this option has many holes in it, "but if diplomacy fails… I advise the decision-makers to think seriously about this alternative."

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# Students celebrate in Montreal

Continued from page 30

"Today is the proof that the Zionist dream is alive and well!" declared Bialik High School student Corey Omer, who served as MC for the event with Sara Villani, also a Bialik student. "Today, Jewish people throughout the Diaspora can come together and rejoice."

Omer's sentiment was echoed by Israeli Consul General Marc Attali, CSL Mayor Anthony Housefather and FEDERATION CJA vice-president Jack Hasen, the only other speakers on the program.

Attali delivered a Yom Ha'atzmaut message from Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert, and Housefather cited Israel as a "beacon of light" in the Middle East.

"As Canadians we have to proudly proclaim our support of Israel every day of the year," Housefather said.

"All CSLers have a special connection to Israel," including Ashkelon being the municipality's twin city, he added.

Hasen noted the level of enthusiasm being transmitted by the younger crowd.

Despite its friendly location, the rally, co-chaired by federation volunteers Brenda Gewurz and Gary Lackstein, was marked by an extraordinarily high level of security, with dozens of police from CSL and neighbouring municipalities virtually blanketing the area by car and on foot.

# Rabbi urges fight against high intermarriage rates

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Rabbi Henry Balser, spiritual leader of Winnipeg's Etz Chayim Congregation, has issued a clarion call for action in light of a new report that shows high intermarriage rates among young Jewish Winnipeggers.

Quoting from a report based on 2001 census data – prepared by Charles Shahar, the Montreal-based head demographer for UIA Federations Canada – Rabbi Balser noted in a letter to Winnipeg's *Jewish Post and News* that 62.5 per cent of married Jewish Winnipeggers under 30 have spouses who aren't Jewish, compared to 39 per cent of married Jewish Winnipeggers between 30 and 39 and 20 per cent for those over 39.

Overall, Winnipeg's intermarriage rate of 23 per cent is higher than those of Montreal (13 per cent) and Toronto (15.6 per cent), but lower than those of Ottawa (almost 32 per cent), Calgary (34 per cent) and Vancouver (41 per cent).

The corollary to these intermarriage rates is that about one-third of Winnipeg's Jewish children are growing up in multifaith homes. Of 2,210 children 14 and under identified as Jewish in the 2001 census, 35 per cent live in mixed-marriage households. Twenty-three per cent of children aged 15 to 24 were living in mixed-marriage homes.

In his letter to the *Post*, Rabbi Balser – whose Conservative, 700-member congregation is Winnipeg's second largest shul – recognizes that fulminating against intermarriage from his pulpit is futile.

"Our children will fall in love with whomever they choose," he wrote. "Given the open society we live in and the not very Jewish lives they lead, the people they love will increasingly be non-Jews."

He argues that secular or cultural Judaism is a dead end. "Only a religious Judaism gives a reason for Jewish continuity and gives young people the idea that being Jewish is really important," he said.

Nor does he believe that teaching Hebrew or Yiddish as an end in itself will do anything to preserve Jewish identity. He calls on the Jewish community leaders to put more resources into programs that will give Jews "the knowledge and enthusiasm that will enable them to have truly Jewish homes and lead Jewish lives."

He also stresses the centrality of the synagogue and a belief in God.

The study also found that Jews with non-Jewish spouses are more likely to live in neighbourhoods that have not traditionally been Jewish areas. Winnipeg's most heavily Jewish neighbourhoods – such as South River Heights and Tuxedo in south Winnipeg and Garden City in north Winnipeg – have intermarriage rates of around 10 per cent.

Downtown and in the nearby Wolseley area (popularly known as the "granola belt"), the intermarriage rate is 44 per cent. In other areas far from traditional Jewish neighbourhoods, the intermarriage rate is between 73 per cent and 83 per cent.

"We are noticing that younger people are moving into neighbourhoods that are not traditionally Jewish," said Faye Rosenberg-Cohen, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg's director of planning, who helped prepare the study.

The report also found that among Argentine Jewish immigrants to Winnipeg over the past few years, the rate of intermarriage is nil. Among Russian Jewish immigrants, intermarriage is at about 33 per cent.

Rosenberg-Cohen observed that since the census data is five years old, the high rate of intermarriage likely applies to people under 35, rather than under 30.

She said the federation is studying the issue and will come up with a strategy to deal with it over the coming months.

# *Esprit de Corps* editor shares Iraq experiences

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — Scott Taylor, editor and publisher of the military magazine *Esprit de Corps*, author, military adviser and former member of the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry of the Canadian armed forces, has been to Iraq more than 22 times.

Taylor covered the war in the Balkans in the 1990s and was invited by Slobodan Milosevic to interview him in his jail cell. "The Balkans [experience] led directly to my other area of expertise – Iraq," Taylor told members and friends of the Ottawa Post of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada at their annual banquet on April 30.

"In 2000 when nobody else was going there, I started. I have now been there 22 times, got to know how the country works and the different factions."

**'I was tortured as an accused Mossad spy'**

At first, Taylor was reporting on the impact of UN sanctions in Iraq. He later covered the U.S. invasion.

In March 2003, during his last trip prior to the American intervention, Taylor was asked to leave Iraq for fear of his being a spy for the Israeli Mossad.

"I was tortured as an accused Mossad spy. Does that qualify me as an honorary member of the Jewish War Veterans?" he asked with a light touch.

But in referring to his first-hand experience with torture, Taylor admitted that he was terrified. "Yes, indeed, these things do scare the crap out of you… to be accused of being a Mossad spy is not something you want to happen. To be the story rather than get the story was embarrassing. But that experience allowed me to get experience about what is happening inside Iraq."

He is now acting as an adviser to the Americans. "If anyone doubts that the Americans are losing the war in Iraq, the fact that they have a kid from Scarborough briefing them means they are in trouble," he said.

"Last July, with good reason, I went back into Iraq… the reason for going back was a bit of personal peace. In the interim, one of the guys that had beat me had been picked up and I was able to give a witness statement that helped to put him away. It doesn't get any better than that."

Taylor concluded by sharing a lesson he had learned from his father: "Courage is the one virtue without which all the rest are meaningless."

The banquet was also an opportunity to bid farewell and congratulations to Maj.-Gen. Edward Fitch, who is retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces after 38 years of service and will be moving, with his wife Sharon, to Victoria, B.C.

Phil Pinkus, on behalf of the Ottawa Post, announced that a cheque for $500 will be donated to the post's scholarship fund in Fitch's honor.

Fitch thanked the post and said he had spoken to his father that day. His father, also a Jewish war veteran, had reminded him that including his nephew, five consecutive generations of the Fitch family have now served in the military.

Following remarks by former deputy prime minister Herb Gray, the banquet concluded with the march off the colours by members of the Ottawa Post.


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Presentation of Audited Financial Statements
Appointment of Auditors
Election of Directors
Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting

**Stanley K. Plotnick,** *President*

# Historian's lecture boosts Jewish Heritage Centre's coffers

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

## *Martin Gilbert in Winnipeg*

**WINNIPEG** — An appearance by famed British Jewish historian Martin Gilbert has added more than $100,000 to the badly depleted coffers of the Winnipeg-based Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada.

Gilbert was the inaugural speaker on April 30 at the centre's new, annual Sol and Florence Kanee Distinguished Lecture series. He spoke about the Jews of Arab lands, drawing extensively from his book on the subject. He concluded that the United Nations is slowly coming around to the view that Jews who fled their Arab homelands are also refugees and suggested that they, too, may one day receive compensation.

Gilbert spoke to an audience of about 600 at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in an event that gave Winnipeg's financially beleaguered Jewish Heritage Centre (JHC) a vital shot in the arm.

Within the past year, the JHC has had its funding from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg slashed considerably, while at the same time its rent at the Asper Jewish Community Campus, like all of the campus' tenants, has been doubled.

As a result, the JHC has been forced to move out of the space occupied by the nine-year-old Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada and give up some of its office space.

The JHC executive and its board of directors are adopting a positive attitude about the changes that have been forced upon them.

Rather than having a traditional museum space, after June 30, the JHC will have three wall-mounted displays and one exhibit case in the hallway in front of the former museum area (which is being filled by the Kaufman-Silver Library) and five other large wall-mounted displays in an adjacent hallway. Each window will have a different theme related to the history of Jewish life in Western Canada.

As well, each window will be wired so that viewers can listen to oral histories and search computer databases. The artifacts in the windows will be rotated on a regular basis, and there will also be permanent exhibits in the building related to Jewish athletes and education.

"Change is never easy," said JHC president Rona Davies, conceding that a number of museum supporters are unhappy about what's happening.

"We have spent hundreds of hours with professionals over the past few months determining our objectives and how to ensure that our exhibits and archives remain accessible to the public. We feel that with our new cabinets spread around the campus that we will have more display space than we had at the museum."

The JHC board is also looking to the Internet to make their resources available.

"We have also 300,000 photos and artifacts and over 60,000 of newspaper that we are scanning onto computer," Davies said.

"We also have a treasure trove of Yiddish songs. By putting it all online, we will be better able to preserve our sensitive materials, because there will be less handling of them.

"We think that a lot of great things are still in store for the Jewish Heritage Centre as these changes unfold."

As for future exhibitions, Davies said that the JHC will hire curators on a contract basis as required and that the exhibitions may be held at the campus or at other locations around the city.

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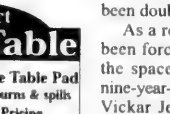
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## YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

## ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

### די רעזולטאַטן פון די לעצטע וואַלן אין מדינת ישׂראל

פון אַלעק סילווער

איר האָט שוין זיכער גאָר אַ סך געזען, געהערט און געלייענט וועגן די לעצטע וואַלן אין מדינת ישׂראל. אַ סך „מבֿינים" און קאָמענטאַטאָרס האָבן שוין געגעבן זייערע אַנאַליזן און נבֿיאות, וואָס עס איז געשען און וואָס עס וועלן זיין די צוקונפטיקע רעזולטאַטן פון אָט דער געשעעניש. נו וועל אויך זאָגן אַדער שרייבן א פּאָר ווערטער. אָבער קיין נבֿיאות וועל אויך נישט זאָגן. עס איז זעלבסטפֿאַרשטענדלעך, אז דאָס וועלן זיין שוועריע צייטן פֿאַר דער יידישער מדינה, ווער עס זאָל נישט הערשן. מיר וועלן מרוץ וואַרטן בית עס וועט בא־קומען וועגן דער צוזאַמענשטעל פון דער 17טער כנסת.

וועגן די ווערטער וועגן געשריבן זיינען די לעצטע רעזולטאַטן אָפֿיציעל: קדימה 29 דעפּוטאַטן; העבֿודה 19; ליכוד 12; ש״ס (מפּלגת הספֿרדים שומרי תורה) 12; ישׂראל ביתנו 11; האיחוד הלאומי־מפּד״ל (נאַציאָנאַלע רעליגיעזע פּאַרטיי) 9; גיל (גימלאי ישׂראל לכנסת – פּענסיאָנערן) 7; יהדות התורה, אַדער אחדות התורה המאוחדת (אַ שותפות פון אגודת ישׂראל און דגל התורה) 6; מרצ־יחד״ה (א שותפות פון מרצ און שחר״ה) 5; רשימה ערבֿית מאוחדת־רע״מ (אַראַבישע באַוועגונג פֿאַר באַפֿרײַונג) 4; בל״ד (ברית לאומית דמוקרטית – „נאַציאָנאַל־דעמאָקראַטישע אַסעמבלי", אַן אַראַבישע פּאַרטיי) 3; חד״ש (החזית הדמוקרטית לשלום ולשוויון – אַן אַראַבישע פֿאַרטיי פֿאַראייניקט מיט מפּלגה קומוניסטית ישׂראלי־מק״י, די קאָמוניסטישע פּאַרטיי) 3. צוזאַמען 120 דעפּוטאַטן.

די איבערריקע פון די 31 פּאַרטייען, וואָס זיינען נעבן לאָמן, זיינען אין גאַנצן פֿאַרשוווינדן. צווישן זיי זיינען שינוי, חרות, עלה ירוק (גרינע בלעטער), הירוקים (די גרינע), אהבת ישׂראל, מורשת אבֿות, צומת און אַנדערע.

פּונקט ווי אין די פֿריערדיקע וואַלן זעט דער כנסת אין משך פון די אַלע יאָרן האָט אויך דאָס מאָל קיין אייניציקע פּאַרטיי נישט באַקומען קיין מאַנדאַט צו קענען אַליין שאַפֿן די רעגירונג. אויך ביי דער כנסת וועט מרוץ געשאַפֿן ווערן א קאָאַליציע און דאָ ווערן פֿאַראיבערגעזען שווערקייטן. עס האָבן זיך שוין אָנגעהויבן אונטערהאַנדלונגען וועגן דעם. עס ווערט דערוואַרט, אז עבֿודה, ש״ס און נאָך איין פּאַרטיי וואָלן אַריין אין דער רעגירונג.

צוויי נייע זאַכן זיינען דאָך באַוויזן געווארן ביי די לעצטע וואַלן. עס איז צום ערשטן מאָל, וואָס א פּירער פון א שפּאַגל־נייער פּאַרטיי זאָל דערוויילט ווערן צו באַקומען דעם אמט פון פּרעמיער־מיניסטער. כלומר ביי דער ערשטער כנסת איז דאָס נעשען און דעמאָלט זיינען דאָך כמעט אלע פּאַרטייען געווען שפּאַגל־נייע. די אַנדערע זאַך, אויב מיין זכרון דינט מיר נאָך, איז וואָס צום ערשטן מאָל זינט דער רעגירונג פון נאָלדע מאיר איז דער ראש הממשלה א פֿאָליטיקער און נישט קיין מילי־טער־מאַן, וד עס זיינען נעווען די פּרעמיער־מיניסטאָרן בית אריצט, וויי שרון, נתניהו, ברק, ראבין, פּרס און שמיר. איז דאָס גוט אַדער נישט־גוט פֿאַר דער מדינה? די צייט וועט באַווייזן . . .

אויב די וויזיע פון אהוד אָלמערט זאָל פֿאַרווירק־לעכט ווערן אין עס וועלן עגדלעך נעעגדערט אין פּעסטגעשטעלט ווערן די גרעגעצן פון מדינת ישׂראל, וועט די מאַפּע פון דער יידישער מדינה אין סיי פון דער פּאַלעסטינער אויף זיכער אריסזען אַנדערש. וויידער אַמאָל — צי איז עס גוט אַדער נישט גוט פֿאַר די ישׂראלים — דאָס וועט די צייט מרוץ באַווייזן . . .

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# Winnipeg couple trains for new cancer fundraiser

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — David and Hava Salita are in training for Winnipeg's first annual Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

On June 9 to 11, the young couple will join a group, anticipated to be in the thousands, who will participate in the marathon. They will walk a route covering 60 kilometres over two days through the streets of Winnipeg.

The fundraising marathon was inaugurated in Toronto four years ago by a board member of the Princess Margaret Hospital who saw a similar marathon in the United States.

Since that initial Toronto marathon, the event has spread to Vancouver (three years ago), Calgary and Montreal (two years ago) and Winnipeg, Edmonton and Ottawa this year. To date, the marathons have raised more than $376 million for breast cancer research.

On her page on the Weekend to End Breast cancer website – www.endcancer.ca – Hava Salita notes that it was her husband's idea to enter the marathon.

David Salita's mother, Enid, died of cancer on June 15, 2002. Although the cause of death was ovarian cancer, Enid Salita had breast cancer 25 years earlier. He recalls that he was six or seven at the time. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the fall of 2001.

"She went through chemo and radiation, but it didn't help," he says.

David long wanted to do something to raise money for cancer research but didn't have the time before, he says. His father was also diagnosed with cancer in 2000.

While Hava doesn't have a family history of cancer, she has several family friends who have either had cancer themselves or have a history of it in their families – or both, she says.

Hava is originally from Vancouver. She came to Winnipeg to work at the library at the University of Manitoba after completing the librarian program at Langara College in British Columbia. She now works for the Bank of Nova Scotia. She and David, who works at a Tim Hortons outlet, met in the spring of 2003 – it was love at first sight, he says – and were married in October 2004.

David and Hava hope to put together a team of walkers under the "Enid's Angels" banner. They note that each participant is expected to raise a minimum $2,000 in pledges. With more than a month to go, the couple has raised $655 between them.

"We would like to raise more than the $2,000 minimum," David says, "but we will be happy with whatever we raise."

The event organizers will be erecting tents in which food will be served along the route, and massage and physiotherapists and doctors will be available. David says that among the participants will be cancer patients who are still undergoing treatment.

David and Hava Salita

All proceeds from the Winnipeg marathon are going to the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

The Toronto event this year is scheduled for Sept. 8 to 10.

# Organ donation can be a 'posthumous mitzvah'

'By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Reluctance on the part of some Jews to donate organs is "a mindset problem rather than a halachic problem," according to Rabbi Reuven Bulka.

Speaking on behalf of Trillium Gift of Life, Ontario's organ and tissue donation agency, the Ottawa-based rabbi was one of five speakers at a recent symposium on end-of-life issues held at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Joining him at the Apr. 23 event were David Novak, an ordained rabbi who is a professor at the University of Toronto's Centre for the Study of Religion; lawyer Arthur Fish; Rabbi David Feldman, dean of the Jewish Institute of Bioethics in Teaneck, N.J; and Laurie Zoloth, professor of medical ethics and humanities at Northwestern University.

Jews are "traditional people," said Rabbi Bulka, explaining the slowness in accepting the idea of being organ donors. "We are so used to the idea that after a person passes away, that person is interred in the ground – that even the simple idea that there's a way station stop between death and burial which, beforehand, never existed... and is of life-saving proportions – we still have not gotten our head around it."

Changing the mindset will take "action by a significant rabbi," said Rabbi Bulka, who leads Congregation Machzikei Hadas, an Orthodox synagogue. He compared the issue to that of burial shrouds and modest coffins, instead of more expensive alternatives. "It was only because a great sage instructed that he be given a simple burial that we now take for granted that that's the way it is."

He cited an organization called the HOD (Halachic Organ Donation) Society, whose website includes a list of rabbis who have signed an organ donation card.

About 150 people die in Canada every year while they are waiting for an organ, said Rabbi Bulka. In Canada, if the family of a potential donor "balks at the idea of giving an organ, even if this was the expressed wish of the person who passed away, we don't proceed. I think it's part of the Canadian niceness."

From a Jewish perspective, the idea of having to have family consent is "bothersome," said Rabbi Bulka.

"No one has the right to deny a person the *zechut*, the merit, of saving someone else's life. If, in your will, you say you want your car to go to someone, that is not contested. But the idea that if you want your organ to save somebody's life, that can be contested – does not make any sense.

"What also does not make sense," he added, "is to stand in the way of someone doing a mitzvah, even if it's a posthumous mitzvah."

Ethically, it is hard to defend the position of being willing to accept an organ donation, but not being willing to donate one, he said. "If we accept the idea that we can take, we also have to accept the idea that we have a responsibility to give."

However, he said, few Canadians – less than 3.7 per cent – even donate blood, also a life-saving endeavour.

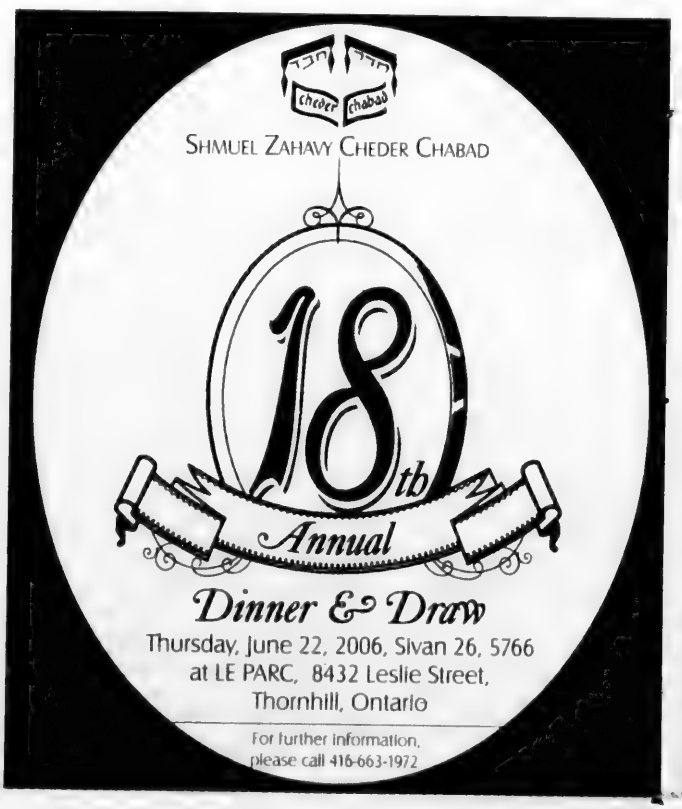
Donating offers "a great sense of fulfilment," he noted. Recalling his own donation of blood platelets that went to a two-year-old leukemia patient, Rabbi Bulka said he was "the recipient, not the donor." Nothing was more musical to his ears, he said, than to hear that he was saving a child's life.

For families of deceased organ donors, too, "when they are onside," it is "thrilling" to know that their gift has generated life.

Responding to a question about the Jewish tradition of burying intact bodies, Rabbi Bulka said the most important value in Jewish life is that of saving others' lives.

Burying a person whole is important, he acknowledged, "but this is no different than telling a person on Yom Kippur, 'You have to eat in order to save your life.'

"We have this pecking order of mitzvot," he said. "If what happens in the end is that you're saving a life, then you're doing the greater mitzvah."

# Brownie points will point you in the right direction

By NORENE GILLETZ

No one can resist a chocolate dessert, especially if it's a brownie! Lisa Slater calls brownies "the little black dress of the baking trade… Dress them up with a necklace of raspberries or serve them no-frills, stacked one on top of the other for easy access."

Slater created more than 100 fabulous chocolate recipes for her cookbook *Brownie Points* (Whitecap). It's chock full of mouth-watering photos that will beckon you to bake them, eat them and love them. You'll find rich and fudgy basic brownies, as well as brownies baked into puddings, cookies, pancakes and tarts.

Recipes include Brownie Blintzes, Brownie Triscotti, Brownie Pecan Torte, Chocolate Rugelah, The Ultimate Brownie Cheesecake and Raspberry Meringue Molten Chocolate Cake. None of the recipes takes more than 15 minutes to prepare. It's a chocolate lover's dream!

There is a comprehensive guide to ingredients, including types of chocolate, required equipment, baking tips and storage. You'll find helpful information on easy slicing so that you can make professional-looking bars. Each recipe offers "brownie points" – hints for working with brownies or adapting a particular recipe for a variety of uses.

Slater offers tricks of the trade on how to rescue mushy/greasy brownies and overbaked ones. She says, "Professional chefs rarely throw anything out. There's so much you can do with brownie batter that you should never throw it out, unless you have burned it. (For that, there really is no cure.)"

Slater was born in New York City into a family of restaurateurs. She is a pastry chef who opened her first eatery in New York when she was 28. She started the bakery department at Whole Foods Market in Toronto, where she is now a manager.

Her dedication is heartfelt and witty. She dedicated *Brownie Points* to "My parents, who are living proof that brownies promote longevity, my husband, who is living proof that brownies aren't fattening, and my children, who are living proof that brownies make you smart!"

Here is one of her scrumptious chocolate creations that are perfect for Mother's Day celebrations, bridal showers, dessert buffets, summertime entertaining or any occasion. Enjoy!

### HALVAH BROWNIE COOKIES

You can omit the diced apricots (or substitute raisins) but Slater found that apricots enhance the shelf-life of the cookies and add a subtle zing, so try them at least once. Halvah can frequently be found in the candy section or specialty section of grocery stores and certainly in markets catering to Middle Eastern or Mediterranean communities.

12½ oz. halvah
5½ oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 egg
4 tbsp. flour
¼ cup brown sugar
⅛ tsp. kosher salt
5½ oz. dried apricots, diced (about 20)

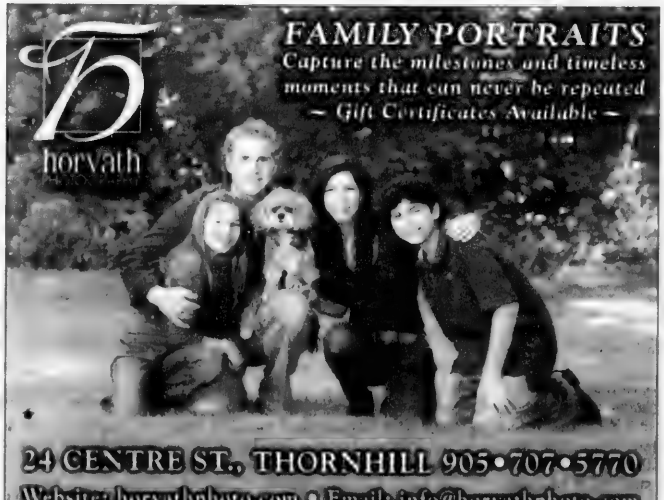
Preheat oven to 350. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Place halvah in the bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Process until mixture is smooth. Add chocolate and process until combined. Add egg and process until smooth. Add flour, brown sugar and salt. Process just until smooth. Turn mixture into a bowl and add apricots. Dough will be fairly thick, but don't worry.

Use a teaspoon to scoop mounds of dough onto cookie sheet, about 12 per pan. Bake for about 12 minutes or until cookies are just firm to the touch. Don't overbake them. Place on a rack to cool. Makes 48 cookies.

**Brownie point:** You can enhance the sesame taste of the halvah and add some additional crunch by rolling the dough into balls, dropping them into a bowl of sesame seeds and tossing to coat completely. Place on cookie sheet and flatten into a fat disk with the palm of your hand. Bake as above. When cooled, you can eat them as is or dip half in melted chocolate!

*Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.*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# *Use your crock pot and come home to find dinner ready*

BY SUE EPSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

There are many days when it's hard to get a meal on the table, either because we lack motivation or because we're busy. When we've had an active day and by 5 p.m. we're worn out and not in the mood to cook, too many of us end up eating fast food more often than we should, or we eat a meal that tastes as if there was no effort put into it.

Most likely, you have the solution sitting on your kitchen counter or in a cabinet. Too many people let their crock pots sit unused except for Shabbat. Absentee cooking is one of the best time-savers around. An entire meal, complete with vegetables, can be prepared in one pot. Or, if you just want the main dish taken care of, add a salad and bread to the feast when you're ready to serve.

Another benefit of the crock pot is that it doesn't heat up the kitchen. This can be valuable in the summer. You'll enjoy the delicious aroma of your food cooking all day. And you can even cook desserts in a crock pot.

That doesn't mean you have to use it every night, but if you're expecting a busy day, take a few minutes the night before to assemble your dish and refrigerate it. The next morning, plug it in – and turn it on – before you leave the house, and you'll be rewarded with a cooked dinner when you arrive home that night.

These recipes can cook all day (as long as 10 hours). Dinners can be served at 6, and the stew is always perfect. Almost every other slow-cooker recipe you come across will do fine if prepared the night before.

Before you add any ingredients to your crock pot, spray it with non-stick cooking spray, and it will be very easy to clean. I've also seen cooking bags on the market specifically for crock pots. Just put all the ingredients into the bag and insert it into your crock pot.

### PINEAPPLE BEEF

5 lb. beef roast, browned to melt out fat
1 onion, sliced
1 red bell pepper, coarsely chopped
¼ cup brown sugar, not packed
1 can crushed pineapple or a fresh one, sliced
1-2 tbsp. tomato paste
a splash or two of soy sauce
pepper
pinch of ground ginger

Put all ingredients into your slow cooker. Cook it all day, on low. The beef gets fall-apart tender and needs just a little rice to go with it.

### CROCK POT BARBECUE BEEF

Serve shredded barbecue beef on fresh rolls. Add a green salad or cole slaw and corn on the cob.

3 to 4 lb. beef chuck roast
1 12-oz. can beer
1 14-oz. bottle ketchup
½ cup brown sugar

Mix the sugar, beer and ketchup and put it with chuck roast beef in crockpot. Cook on high 6-8 hours or until you can easily cut and shred the beef by running a knife through it. Shred and serve. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

### TURKEY BREAST

5- to 6-lb. turkey breast
¼ cup margarine, melted or oil
fresh ground pepper to taste
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 tbsp. cornstarch

Wash turkey breast thoroughly and pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle pepper over all. Do not add salt. Place in large crock pot. Melt margarine in microwave oven and pour over turkey breast. Add garlic.

Leave lid on and cook on high for 6 to 7 hours, or until turkey gets brown and juices run clear when pierced with a knife.

Pour the juice from the crockpot into a saucepan. Bring to boil slowly, then add a cornstarch which has been dissolved in about 1½ cups cold water. Stir with a whisk. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Feature

# Rabbi Zaltzman marks 25 years on the job

## *Head of city's Russian community*

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

It is a measure of the influence of the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, that members of that chassidic movement would consult with him for assistance – or in many cases, direction – on life-altering decisions.

For many, the rebbe's word was final, so 25 years ago, Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman packed up his family and, on the advice of the rebbe, moved to Toronto. At the time, he was entertaining offers to minister to Russian Jewish communities in Vienna, Orange County, Calif., Miami and Sydney, Australia.

Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman

Looking back on his decision, Rabbi Zaltzman, now 50, has no regrets. Toronto, after all, has plenty of kosher food, an established Jewish community and freedom to worship.

But, as he told his wife, Chiena, before they were married, "I would go wherever the Rebbe said. And she agreed." The Rebbe, he added, "sees things beyond the level we can see."

With family ties to the Lubavitch movement going back generations, Rabbi Zaltzman believes that "every person who comes to the world has a mission."

For him, that has meant a career working as part "of the Rebbe's army to spread Yiddishkeit, to help Jews with their Jewish needs."

Rabbi Zaltzman recently marked the 25th anniversary of his arrival in Toronto. When he came to the city, Toronto's Russian Jewish population was small but growing, thanks to a loosening of the emigration restrictions imposed by the former Soviet regime. But Jews, who had endured more than 60 years of official Communist atheism, were arriving with little understanding of Jewish history, tradition, culture or religious practices.

It was Rabbi Zaltzman's job to bring Russian émigrés closer to their Jewish roots and to do it in a way that did not alienate those who grew up being told religion was nothing more than the opiate of the masses.

"My task was to help Russian Jews rebuild, fund and discover what Communist Russia robbed from us," he said.

When he arrived in Toronto from New York, there were some 1,500 families in the Russian community. Most were recent arrivals, having lived in Canada two or three years, on average.

Today, he estimates, there are about 10,000 Russian families in the Toronto area, or altogether about 35,000 Russian Jews.

Rabbi Zaltzman called on his Toronto connections – he'd spent three weeks in the city in 1978 when he was studying at an American yeshiva – and with a list of a few names in hand, he began visiting his new flock.

His technique – one promoted by the Rebbe – was simple and tailored to meet the ingrained skepticism of Russians.

"I took the approach of giving a smorgasbord of Judaism, to put on the table everything I have, give them a plate and let them eat."

If they wanted mezuzahs on their doors, he would arrange it. He would suggest they consider a brit milah, and he would explain its significance and inform them that most non-Jewish Canadian are circumcised. (He estimates more than 4,000 brit milahs have been performed on adult Russian émigrés and today, 97 per cent of the community's infants are circumcised).

He invited families to celebrate Shabbat at his home, exposing them to the rituals of candlelighting and *Kiddush*.

Over the years, Rabbi Zaltzman has met thousands of Russians. If he heard Russian being spoken in a store, he'd walk over, introduce himself and start a conversation.

"That's how I got to know people one-by-one and build a community," he said.

He believes he can point to many successes in re-integrating Russian Jews into Jewish life.

For instance, on Passover in 1981, he led a seder that attracted more than 100 people. "Now we're making seders in seven locations. Many from the early days make it in their own homes."

Today, he added, only "a very small per cent do not have a mezuzah."

In 1983, Rabbi Zaltzman first published a Russian-language monthly, *Exodus*. Its first run saw 1,600 issues distributed. Today, more than 10,000 copies are printed in Russian and 7,000 in English.

In 1985, Rabbi Zaltzman established the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC), to provide a central address for the community. The first Russian synagogue also opened that year in space rented at the Bernard Betel Centre, and from there, the JRCC moved to a small space on Rockford Road that doubled as a house of worship and a community centre.

"It was small," he said, "but it was the first thing that the Russian community could say is ours." Today, the JRCC offers services in seven different houses of worship.

In 1990 the JRCC introduced Sunday schools. That was followed four years later with a preschool program and in 1997, a day school serving the community opened. The JRCC's adult education programs have also proven popular, with 1,000 people a week attending a variety of classes.

During the High Holy Days, the synagogues fill up with 5,000 to 7,000 worshippers. This past March, more than 2,000 attended several Purim celebrations.

Though the community has come closer to Jewish life, ties with the pre-existing, organized community have been subject to disagreements. In 1981, Rabbi Zaltzman recalled, the precursor to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto wanted Russian Jews to integrate into the established community. But that couldn't work, he said, since "it's a different community with a unique mentality. That needs a unique way to deal with it.

"We have to feel we're equal members of the Jewish community. When you're equal, you feel more comfortable to join. If you still feel as a guest, you feel uncomfortable," he added.

In one important respect, Rabbi Zaltzman has introduced Canadian and Jewish values to a key element of community life – fundraising. Both Russian and Canadian Jews contribute to the JRCC.

Igor Korenzvit, chair of the JRCC board of governors, said one of Rabbi Zaltzman's accomplishments has been educating Russians about the Jewish concept of tzedakah (charity) and helping those in need.

That value did not exist in the former Soviet Union, he said.

As a result of Rabbi Zaltzman's efforts, the Russian community has become more self-sufficient. Twenty-five years ago, only about five per centof the JRCC's budget came from funds raised among Russians. Today, as much as 70 per cent of the organization's $4-million budget is raised from Russians.

Korenzvit credited Rabbi Zaltzman with being much more than a fundraiser. He's the glue that binds the community together. Without the rabbi, "it would fall apart and would put a larger strain on the larger Jewish community," Korenzvit said.

During Rabbi Zaltzman's tenure in Toronto, "the community has changed drastically from being disorganized – not even a community – to being an organized Russian Jewish community and part of the wider Jewish community," Korenzvit said.

Rabbi Zaltzman, he continued, does the work of many people. "At the JRCC, you get the biggest bang for the buck."

Rabbi Zaltzman is proud of the work he's done and the services he's introduced to Russian Jews. Hundreds of families have been drawn closer to Judaism, he said, but much work remains to be done, particularly in addressing problems of wayward youth and assimilation.

Still, he said, if you look at Russian communities across the continent, "then Toronto is a very significant success."

## *It was hard to be a Jew in Soviet Union*

There's a joke Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman likes to tell about the most recent addition to his family, two-year-old Batsheva. Sometimes, her nephews – his grandchildren – grab her pacifier and he has to tell them, "You're not allowed to take your aunt's pacifier."

With 14 children and five grandchildren, Rabbi Zaltzman, who recently celebrated his 50th birthday, is a living testament to the Bible's first commandment to go forth and multiply. He counts among his children rabbis, rebbitzens and community leaders.

They practise their Judaism openly – a far cry from his youth in Moscow, where every effort was made to hide the fact he was being raised as an observant Jew.

When Rabbi Zaltzman was a boy, the Cold War was at its height and the Soviet Union persecuted religions. With chassidic blood in his family going back generations, the young Yosef (a popular name in the former Soviet Union) had to grow up "underground."

"Jewish life was under the table, hidden," he said.

Even the source of his given names, Yosef Yitzchok, after a revered Lubavitch rabbi, had to be hidden from authorities. A subterfuge was employed in which his grandfathers argued in a public venue over whether he should be named Yosef or Yitzchok. His uncle found a compromise – give him both names. To snitches in the crowd, sure to inform Soviet authorities, it appeared as if the boy was not being named for the rabbi.

To give him a yeshiva education and keep him from attending secular Russian schools where boys and girls sat at the same desks – something not allowed young Lubavitch boys – another subterfuge was employed. Education authorities in Moscow were told he was at school in Samarkand in central Asia, where one of his grandfathers lived, while school authorities in Samarkand were told he was studying in Moscow.

In fact he was at home, being taught both Judaic and secular studies. It was a practice that could have landed his parents in jail for three years.

To maintain the evasion, the young Yosef Yitzchok did not leave the house for 10 months of each school year, venturing outside only during summer vacation.

In 1966, his parents first applied to leave the Soviet Union. They were refused.

"For Jews, it was hard in Russia," Rabbi Zaltzman recalled. "For someone who wanted their children to grow up Jewish, it was impossible."

In the summer of 1968, when he was 12, he accompanied his grandfather, who had been badly wounded in World War II, to a mikvah in one of the few synagogues that were allowed to remain open. Aware there were informers all about, the young Yosef knew he could not openly say "Amen" during prayers for fear that someone would conclude he was secretly studying the Jewish religion.

In 1971, his family was finally given permission to emigrate and they departed for Israel. They were among the first wave of Russians to leave for the Holy Land. They remained there only a short time before moving to New York, where the revered Lubavitch Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, resided.

Zaltzman studied at the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown, N.J., and during his time in the area, he met the Rebbe five times.

"This was the strongest Jewish experience of my life," he said.

In 1979, while attending his sister's wedding in Israel, he met Chiena, the woman who would become his wife. With the Rebbe's approval, the two were married later that year. In 1980, they became parents for the first time, and in early 1981, they accepted an offer to move to Toronto.

Rabbi Zaltzman subsequently became spiritual leader of the city's Russian Jewish community.

— P.L.

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# Israeli soldiers, activists injured in Hebron clash

**By YAAKOV KATZ and TOVAH LAZAROFF**
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Seventeen police officers and soldiers and seven right-wing activists were injured during clashes in Hebron early Sunday morning.

On Friday and on Saturday night, hundreds of right-wing activists came to Hebron to reinforce resistance to the planned evacuation of three settler families in a building just outside the city's Avraham Avinu neighbourhood. A Palestinian man's claim that he owns the building, which the settlers claim he sold, is currently being reviewed by Israel's High Court of Justice.

The court ordered that the families be evicted early this week.

Close to 1,000 police and soldiers participated in the eviction that began at first light Sunday.

Two Molotov cocktails thrown at police by unidentified assailants exploded but did not hurt anyone. The police were wounded by stones thrown at them, while the activists were hurt in the clashes.

Tires were set on fire in the area and tensions were high in the city over the weekend and into Sunday morning.

Police arrested four protesters late Saturday for allegedly puncturing the tires of police vehicles around the building.

Earlier Saturday, violence broke out between activists and police, with settlers throwing eggs and light bulbs filled with paint at police officers stationed near the house. Police said an explosive device was also thrown at security forces.

***Court orders families evicted***

David Wilder, speaking for Hebron's Jewish community, said he feared the building would collapse during the evacuation.

"We have engineering reports that if several hundred people try to move into the house, it's possible that the ceilings would collapse," he said.

The security forces' decision to carry out the removal, knowing the unstable nature of the buildings, showed "they would be happy if a few Jews were killed," Wilder charged.

The evacuation had originally been scheduled for Friday, but it was postponed because of concerns that if the evacuation lasted until nightfall, security forces and settlers would be forced to violate Shabbat. On Friday, the High Court of Justice gave security forces until Monday to evacuate the building.

The officers planned to give the settlers an ultimatum demanding they leave the building, and if they failed to comply they would be forcefully removed.

Special Forces and additional soldiers were on standby nearby in case the settlers fired at the evacuating force or Palestinians launched terror attacks.

On Friday afternoon, the IDF designated the area as a closed military zone, to prevent additional activists from reaching the structure.

Wilder said more than 100 people, including the three families and supporters from outside the city, spent Shabbat together inside. To demonstrate their solidarity, the rest of the community held prayer services on the street outside, he said.

He said the evacuation was just the "first taste of what many communities throughout the State of Israel will have to deal with."

During the evacuation, the police kept their calm, as did the settlers, who barely resisted the actual eviction. Mothers sat on cots in the sparsely furnished rooms, holding their children as they waited for the security forces.

After climbing the narrow, dark, stone stairwell, security forces knocked on each of the three apartment doors and then pushed them open. Many of the family members calmly walked out, while some of the children held pillows.

The three families moved into the building in early April. According to court documents, the families claim that the former owner of the building sold it to a Palestinian, Hani el-Batash, who then rented it to Tal Investments and Construction Ltd. for three years. The company said it subsequently sublet the building to Yisrael and Tzipora Schlissel and two other families, including six adults and 16 children.

The original owner has denied selling the house, and police maintain that two of the documents relating to the alleged sale are forgeries.

On Thursday, the High Court rejected a petition by the families for a temporary injunction to delay the evacuation until the court decides if the families have a legal right to live in the building.

Hebron settlers distributed cameras among the youth gathered there over the weekend, to document the evacuation and any "unjustified police violence."

Orit Struck, a spokesperson for the Hebron Jewish community, said the fact that the security forces forced Jews to leave a building was terrible, but she nonetheless commended them for following the law during the evacuation.

# Government survives no-confidence vote

*Jerusalem Post*

A no-confidence motion against the new government was defeated in the Knesset on Monday by 50 votes to 28, with 20 abstentions.

Yisrael Beiteinu presented the motion citing the recent rise in the price of bread.

Meanwhile, Knesset speaker Dalia Itzik instructed Knesset members that they were to continue deliberations on the state budget until 11:00 p.m. She added that, starting first thing Tuesday morning until late Tuesday night, they were to discuss nothing but the budget.

The two days of marathon talks come following concerns of some members of the Knesset that they did not have time to study and discuss the budget.

Opposition MKs won a small victory over the government Monday by pushing back the vote on the 2006 state budget by two days.

The budget was scheduled to go to a first reading and vote in the Knesset Monday afternoon. However, following the objections of several Pensioner and Labor MKs to the hike in the bread prices, the Knesset's interim house committee decided to delay the vote to Wednesday.

While Kadima MKs shrugged off the delay, calling it a "generous gesture" to allow other parties to review the budget, others said it pointed to the weakness of Olmert's coalition.

"It's the first week in the Knesset and Olmert's government is already coming apart at the seams," said one Likud MK. "That's what happens when you have a small coalition of the greedy."

In addition to the opposition parties, several MKs within the coalition have also announced that they would vote against the budget in its current form.

In Labor, Defence Minister and Party Chair Amir Peretz called on all members of his faction Monday to support the budget. MKs Shelly Yachimovich, Yoram Marciano and Nadia Hilou have said that they would not vote in favour of the budget.

"We cannot continue to sit here in our posts in the Knesset and do nothing over the fact that more and more children do not have enough to eat," said Hilou. "If the budget is not changed to do more for the weaker sectors of society, I will vote against it."

Several MKs from the Pensioners party also threatened to vote against the budget, and possibly withdraw from the coalition altogether if the hike in bread prices was not revoked.

"This way of thinking is abnormal and unfair," said MK Moshe Sharoni (Pensioners). "Where is the Labor party in all of this, the so-called socially minded party? The government is giving NIS 1.3 billion to Shas, and doesn't have a few million to keep from raising the price of bread!"

Sharoni said that as many as six other members of the Pensioners party could leave the coalition over the issue.

On Sunday, the cabinet approved the NIS 284.2 billion budget, together with the Economic Arrangements Law.

In its current form, the budget is identical to the one prepared by Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu and presented to the Knesset in October 2005.

After an initial reading and vote, the budget will go to the Knesset finance committee for changes and then back to the plenum for a second and third vote.

Government officials said that changes to the budget stemming from promises granted during coalition talks would be made in the Knesset's finance committee.

By law, the Knesset must approve the budget within 45 days following establishment of the new government, or the Knesset is dispersed and the country goes back to elections.

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Employees and Directors of *The Canadian Jewish News*, and their families are not eligible for prizes.



# Hamas armed forces prepare for action

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Hamas' new security force is expected to start operating in the Gaza Strip next week, sources in the Palestinian Authority's interior ministry said Saturday.

Meanwhile, Hamas leaders warned over the weekend of a new intifadah and said they would "chop off" the head of anyone who works to bring down their cabinet. The warnings were made during huge demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza in support of the Hamas cabinet and in protest against U.S.-led sanctions on it.

The 3,000-strong force, which consists largely of Hamas militiamen, was established last month by Interior Minister Said Siam to help PA security forces enforce law and order in Gaza.

The decision to establish the new force has enraged PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who responded by issuing a presidential decree forbidding the interior minister from pursuing his plan under the pretext it's illegal.

However, the Hamas cabinet, which has ignored Abbas' decree, managed to recruit hundreds of militiamen to the new force. Abbas and his aides have expressed fear that Hamas is trying to undermine the PA security forces, whose members are affiliated with Fatah.

Khaled Abu Hilal, spokesperson for the interior ministry, said the new force would officially start operating May 14 by participating in a major security operation against illegal construction along Gaza City's beach.

He said a joint operations room comprising members all of the PA security forces had been set up to supervise the campaign, which is also aimed at "liberating" public land illegally seized by Palestinians over the past few years. Many families, armed groups and senior PA officials are reported to have exploited the state of anarchy in Gaza to grab public land and build houses and businesses on it.

Abu Hilal said the new security force, whose members will wear special uniforms, will assist the various branches of the PA security forces during the operation, the first of its kind since Hamas formed a government in March.

He revealed that the interior ministry is also preparing to launch a similar campaign to confiscate "illegal" weapons in Gaza and is seeking the backing of large clans for the drive. Leaders of several clans have already agreed to co-operate with the ministry by signing a document prohibiting the use of weapons in local disputes.

The spokesperson, however, stressed the campaign is not directed against militias that are fighting against Israel.

"We want to end the chaos of weapons," he said. "The only ones who will be allowed to carry weapons are the policemen who are in charge of law and order and members of the resistance groups who are confronting Israeli aggression."

On Friday, thousands of Palestinians took to the streets to protest against the international sanctions against the Hamas cabinet. The protests were held under the motto, 'Yes to starvation, no to capitulation." In Ramallah, local residents donated more than $60,000 (US) in cash and two kilograms of gold to the Hamas cabinet.

Interior Minister Siam threatened to "turn the table over the heads of all those who are trying to foil the Hamas cabinet." Addressing supporters in Khan Yunis, he reiterated Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist.

"We can't accept the existence of the criminals, executioners and murderers on our blessed lands," he said. "We won't change our position."

Hassan al-Safi, a senior Hamas official in Gaza, warned that the international sanctions would lead to a "third intifadah." He added: "This time it will be a regional intifadah that will change the balance of power in the region."

Addressing U.S. President George W. Bush, Safi said: "We will chop off the head of anyone who tries to bring down our cabinet. The U.S. wants us to succumb and become its slaves, but we won't give in because we are free and sovereign."

# Olmert to crack down on 'illegal squatting'

**Continued from page 1**

"Wherever the law is violated, wherever there is illegal squatting and wherever there are attempts to determine these kinds of facts, we will respond immediately, without compromise," he told the cabinet, a government communique stated.

"We have reiterated that we will not countenance the illegal determination of facts and violations of the law anywhere, certainly not in these sensitive areas."

Olmert has taken a harsher stance than did Sharon in cracking down on illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as was first seen during February's razing of illegal structures at the Amona outpost, a controversial operation that left 200 people injured.

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He also pledged to push ahead with his convergence plan, which would see the forced evacuation of residents from scores of isolated West Bank settlements, while strengthening the major settlement blocs.

Olmert indicated that he will act unilaterally if the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority government continues in its refusal to recognize Israel, renounce violence and accept previous peace agreements.

Defence Minister Amir Peretz told the cabinet that a closure imposed on the West Bank two months ago, as a result of security warnings of impending terror attacks, was being gradually eased. Acting on the recommendation of security officials, Peretz approved the entry of 12,000 Palestinian workers in a move he said was aimed at both enabling the Palestinian population to have a respectable daily life and preventing Israelis from being harmed.

**Olmert enters PM's office with wife Aliza at his side. [Israel Sun photo]**

He did not say if a there had been a decrease in the number of terror alerts that led to the move at this time.

By mid-afternoon Sunday, Olmert's office was already feeding television stations silent footage of the premier at work in his office, where he was seen receiving a military briefing while adjusting the office computer. The office, now bereft of Sharon's chair, which was sent to his Sycamore Ranch, has been adorned with Olmert family photos.

Meanwhile, at the conclusion of the changing of the guard ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office, Olmert tried in his address to office workers to put the best face on the somewhat awkward situation: "You can ask the guys at the Finance Ministry, at the Industry, Trade and Labour Ministry and at the Jerusalem Municipality ... it's not terrible to work with me."

## Israel Briefs

***Independence Day in Israel***

Israel celebrated its 58th birthday. Independence Day was launched last Tuesday night with the annual rally at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, where select citizens lit 12 candles symbolizing the ancient Tribes of Israel. Officiating was MK Shimon Peres, who urged Israelis: "Don't cease to dream about peace." But he also stressed the strength of the Jewish state, which is under threat from arch-foe Iran's nuclear program. "Our might is unmatched," he said. Israelis marked the public holiday by wearing blue and white clothes, attending fireworks displays and feasting at traditional outdoor barbecues. Israel's population is 7,026,000, almost nine times what it was in 1948, at independence.

***Year of Negev and Galilee***

Israel inaugurated its 58th year as the year of "Development of the Negev and the Galilee." The decision is part of the government's plan to make these areas a focus of development and investment, together with the Jewish community abroad. In November, the government approved a $3.8 billion (US), 10-year strategic plan for the development of the Negev, and a similar proposal for Galilee development is planned.

***Fatah creates its own militia***

Gunmen from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' movement said they've formed a militia to counter Hamas police, media reported. The 2,000-strong militia will "protect Fatah's sons and Fatah's institutions against attacks, whether from Israel or from parties" at home, spokesperson Al-Muatasem Billah said. Reuters quoted him as saying the group doesn't want to clash with Hamas police, "but if it happens, we will not stand handcuffed." The move raises concerns, as factional violence wounded 30 people last month.

***Jim Carrey visits Israel***

Comic actor Jim Carrey visited Israel last week. The Canadian-born film star crossed into Eilat on foot from Egypt, where he was vacationing with Israeli friends. Carrey was to be in Israel for several days on a private tour. This past Sunday, he was expected to visit Jerusalem's Western Wall. His visit came after Israel trips by actors Will Smith and Ewan McGregor.

***Synagogue vandalized***

Twenty swastikas, as well as what police described as satanic symbols, were found scrawled over the main synagogue in Petach Tikva last Thursday. The Torah ark and stacks of prayer books were ransacked. Locals said the synagogue had previously been vandalized, but never to such an extent. The discovery last year of a swastika tattoo on an Israeli soldier who had immigrated from the former Soviet Union prompted legislation for a crackdown on neo-Nazis in the Jewish state.

***First woman speaker***

Dalia Itzik was sworn in last week as the Knesset's first female speaker. A former cabinet minister and Labor Party veteran, the Kadima member was sworn in as the Knesset convened to approve Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's new government.

***Peace plebiscite pledged***

Mahmoud Abbas said he would put any Israeli-Palestinian peace deal to a referendum, circumventing the Hamas government. The Palestinian Authority president, who has been struggling to restart peacemaking since the Islamic terror group took power in the West Bank and Gaza, pitched the plebiscite idea in an Israeli newspaper interview last week. "The Palestinian people will decide, and I am certain that there is an overwhelming majority among the Palestinian people for peace, and an overwhelming majority in favor of an accord with Israel," Abbas told *Ma'ariv*. Israel shelved peace talks after Hamas, which seeks its destruction, crushed Abbas' long-dominant Fatah faction in PA elections last January.

– *With files from JTA*

# *One of most renowned Jewish symbols*

**Continued from page 1**

"There's no imminent danger," he adds. "Nothing is collapsing. We're talking about long-term preservation of a World Heritage site."

The imposing, reddish-gold mountain sits directly on the Syrian-African Rift, an active fault line. Since Herod the Great built his luxury palace on the mountain's northern face more than two millennia ago, at least five major earthquakes have hit, causing rock slides and some damage to the man-made structures. Harsh desert weather continues to impose its own disintegrative effect.

"The terraces of the palace were much larger than what they are today," Hatzor says. "There have been failures and erosions since Herod built it. We can see deterioration of the stones due to rain even in the time period we have been involved in preservation efforts on the mountain."

Masada is not one solid rock. It is composed of horizontal layers of sedimentary rock and is fractured by vertical cracks or "joints" formed by tectonic stresses in the earth's crust. These horizontal and vertical joints give the mountain its particular wall-like appearance of huge irregular bricks piled one on top of the other. They also make it vulnerable to seismic tremors.

Work began in 1998, when Israel's National Parks Service began construction of a new cable car to ferry greater numbers of visitors up Masada. They called in Hatzor to evaluate the mountain's stability, something that had never been done before.

Hatzor and his team studied the Snake Path cliff on the mountain's eastern side, which connects the cable car station to an adjoining bridge, and found several large rocks precariously poised. Using a three-dimensional stability analysis, the team determined that some blocks of rock in the cliff face might dislodge even in a relatively small tremor.

Hatzor recommended "cable bolting," an engineering technique he'd studied a decade earlier as a doctoral student at Berkeley. He suggested inserting 60-foot-long steel cables through individual blocks and into the solid rock, so the rock's own weight pushing against the cables would act as a stabilizing force.

Stepping off the cable car one morning last month, Hatzor points to an enormous yellow block of rock that hovers menacingly over the walkway visitors traverse on their way to the ruins.

Following his instructions, 30 anchors were inserted into the rock block before the new cable car was built. Though the enormous block still seems to be hanging in midair, Hatzor says it is now perfectly safe. Rock-coloured covers hide the end of the anchors from view, preserving the esthetics.

Hatzor's monitoring system also showed, for the first time, the effects of climatic change on rock movement.

"Why does a block decide to move?" Glaser asks. "Yossi's preliminary monitoring suggested that perhaps it's due to very small changes in temperature, to expansion and contraction of rock over time."

The findings caused quite a buzz in international geological circles.

After the cable car project, Hatzor's team was asked to study the stability of Herod's palace on the northern side of the mountain. They conducted a computer simulation using dynamic Discontinuous Deformation Analysis, a new numerical method, also developed at UC-Berkeley, for measuring the risk of rock movement. Using data from a 7.1 quake in the northern Sinai in 1995, Hatzor's simulation found that a similar tremor at Masada could cause shards of rock to come crashing down the cliff.

"To ensure lasting preservation of this historic gem, the north face should be reinforced," he says, a project he estimates would require several million dollars.

Eitan Campbell, director of Masada National Park, wants to make sure that happens, even though there is no budget for it yet.

Campbell has worked at Masada for more than 30 years, starting as a teenager hauling bags of cement for archeologist Yigal Yadin, who initially excavated the site in the mid-1960s.

Two years of heavy winter rains have caused significant damage to the 2,000-year-old structures, Campbell says.

"The whole top of the mountain was one big pool of water, I've never seen anything like it. A couple of the walls collapsed," he says.

In mid-August, Glaser expects to arrive from Berkeley with his new monitoring system. He and Hatzor will set up seismic monitoring stations at the visitors centre at the base of the mountain and at the watchtower on top.

Gauges will be installed to measure the effects of temperature, humidity, barometric pressure and tidal pull on the mouths of cracks, "to measure how the crack opens and closes and whether there's any horizontal movement," Glaser explains.

In addition, the scientists will compare movement at the mountain's base to movement at its top, examining, for example, how the rock responds to tidal changes at different times of the day.

The system has not been tried anywhere else.

"This will be its field test," Glaser says.

Masada was chosen, he says, because of its historical and archeological importance, and because Israeli interest guaranteed easy and uninterrupted access to the site.

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As if to make his point, DeOliveira walks a visitor past some of the priceless rock memorabilia hanging on the wall. There's Bob Dylan's autographed guitar from the cover of a 1984 live album and a handmade mariachi suit he wore on tour. There's a pair of sketches by John Lennon, a fur-trimmed purple jacket that belonged to Prince, and an outrageous pair of platform shoes from the closet of Stanley Eisen—better known as Paul Stanley of Kiss. That's not to mention the beautiful custom instrument once owned by Canadian guitar virtuoso, Alex Lifeson, of Rush.

DeOliveira explains that his staff will design exactly the experience a guest is looking for. "You can do a sit-down dinner or a buffet—for instance, our bar and bat mitzvah buffet includes, among other things, lox canapes, spanikopita, caesar salad, roasted chicken and lasagna. We have great sound, great lighting and video monitors throughout the Cafe. We can set up for dancing or karaoke. We can even put together really fun loot bags from our Rock Shop. Whatever you need. Because to us—whether you're a certified public accountant or a certified 13-year-old—you're a rock star."

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# Alternative treatment for sleep apnea

*I was very pleased to see such an overwhelming interest in the article on alternative treatments to sleep apnea printed in the March 30 issue of* The Canadian Jewish News. *The reader response to our office indicates that a significant number of people are unaware that oral appliance therapy is a recognized treatment for sleep apnea. To increase public awareness, I have arranged to reprint the article*

**Dr. Les Priemer.**

Ken Gibbs was lucky if he managed to get two to three hours of sleep a night. Afflicted with a severe case of sleep apnea, Gibbs' breathing stopped 60 times an hour, causing him to wake up and violently shake his bed. Night after night of restless sleep made life difficult for Gibbs, a truck driver who works 12-hour shifts.

"It really affected my day," he said. "I was exhausted most of the time. It takes a toll on your body, and mentally and physically, it burns you out."

Sleep apnea is a potentially life-threatening sleep disorder in which the airway becomes blocked during sleep, leading to an obstruction in breathing. Once a sleep apneic's blood oxygen level starts to drop, the brain realizes that the person is suffocating, causing them to wake up in order to resume breathing

Many sleep apneics are not even aware of having had a sleep disruption. But because they continually wake up, their sleep is fragmented and of poor quality, causing them to feel tired and potentially leading to a host of other health problems. Sleep apnea is associated with depression and memory lapses. Studies report sleep apneics are four to eight times more likely to have a heart attack or stroke.

Oral-appliance therapy, a treatment for sleep apnea, is now being recommended by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine for patients with moderate cases of sleep apnea. Until recently, the Academy had only recommended the treatment, which has been around since the late 1980s, for patients with mild cases. The degree of severity of sleep apnea is diagnosed according to the number of breathing interruptions per hour. Forty or more interruptions per hour is considered severe, 20 to 40 - moderate, 10 to 20 - mild and less than 10 is regarded as primary snoring.

Dr. Les Priemer, a North York-area dentist who has been treating sleep apneics with oral-appliance therapy for 11 years, says there is a lack of knowledge among many patients about the treatment. "Patients walk into my office and say, 'How come nobody ever told me about this before?"' Relief for those with sleep apnea has traditionally come in the form of a device called a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine. A nasal mask connected to a hose is in turn connected to a pump. The pump provides pressure through the mask to prevent the sleeper's airway from becoming blocked.

Although an effective treatment for the condition, the CPAP machine is cumbersome and slightly noisy, the mask can be uncomfortable and it can be less than agreeable to the sleeper's bedmate. And while CPAP has been traditionally recommended as the only first-line treatment for moderate sleep apnea cases, the new the American Academy of Sleep Medicine guidelines mean oral appliance therapy can now be recommended as a first-line treatment as well

Gibbs had severe sleep apnea and oral-appliance therapy has worked well for him. He has been using it for two years and says it's helped turn his life around, estimating his condition has improved by 75 per cent.

"When I got the appliance, it was incredible," he said. "I don't go to bed without it."

Diagnosed with sleep apnea about nine years ago, Gibbs initially used a CPAP machine to manage his condition. Although it helped him, he found the machine cumbersome to travel with and less than ideal for personal reasons.

"You definitely don't want this if you're married because you have a hose in your nose – it's not very romantic," he said.

Oral-appliance therapy consists of a mouthpiece, usually made out of acrylic, that rests on the top and bottom arches of the mouth and which are connected. A hinge allows the lower jaw to be comfortably moved forward, which in turn pulls the tongue off the back of the airway and allows the person to achieve more normal breathing.

Dr. Priemer estimates that around 1.4 million Canadians suffer from sleep apnea. Often associated with overweight males, Dr. Priemer notes "Just because you're a skinny woman doesn't mean you can't have it. Unfortunately there can be a misdiagnosis because a physician might say, 'Sorry, you don't fit the profile.' Obesity is indeed a major factor and there tends to be a higher incidence of sleep apnea among people who are obese."

Getting the condition diagnosed and treated is critical. In Ontario, physicians are obligated to inform the Ministry of Transportation if they have patients with sleep apnea and patients are at risk of losing their drivers' licences if their condition goes untreated.

**1.4 million Canadians suffer from sleep apnea**

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Arts & Travel

# *Meet the man behind the scenes at the National Ballet of Canada*

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

The graceful dancers at the National Ballet of Canada may be the artists who dazzle audiences, but no show could possibly be a success without the talented people working behind the scenes.

Ernie Abugov is at the apex of that esteemed group of people.

The ballet company's stage manager since 1973, Abugov has worked with such notable artistic directors as Celia Franca and Karen Kain and has travelled with the ballet group to such locations as Europe, Israel and the Far East.

"A stage manager is literally the person who runs the show backstage," says Abugov, who has taught theatre students at George Brown College.

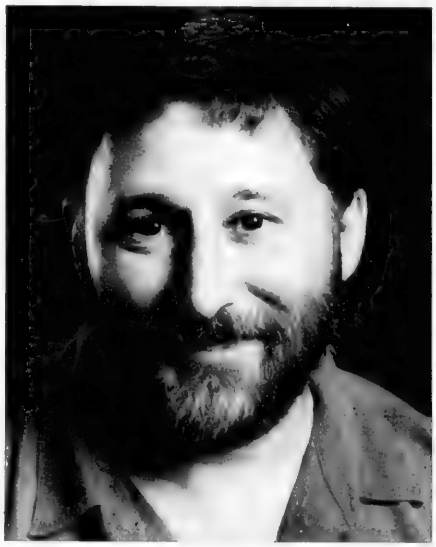
"And that's what I love to do. That's my raison d'etre."

The veteran is slated to don his head set for the Spring Mixed Program which runs until May 14 and for the recent production of *Romeo and Juliet* which just finished.

"*Romeo and Juliet*, to me, is the ultimate story ballet," he relates.

"It's very fitting that we end our time at the Hummingbird Centre with *Romeo and Juliet*, because I think that's how we first started our show at the theatre, when it was called the O'Keefe Centre."

Abugov is particularly excited about the National Ballet's scheduled move to the new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts for the 2006-07 season.



**Ernie Abugov**

"In a word, it's lovely," he enthuses about the new theatre.

Born in Montreal in 1947, Abugov wasn't raised to pursue a career in the arts.

"My dad [suggested]... I become an accountant," Abugov recalls.

"So, in my first year at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia), I was heading towards a bachelor of commerce thinking I was going to be an accountant. That lasted one year and I practically flunked out of school."

Switching gears, Abugov enrolled in general arts and found his calling in an elective class – drama/theatre 101.

**'It's what I love to do'**

"I got into the course in 1966 and spent 24/7 in the theatre," he says.

One of Abugov's teachers caught wind of the eager student's abilities and helped the up-and-coming, stage savvy teen score a gig working at Expo '67.

"I spent that summer at Expo working on all manner of shows," he reveals, noting this included thousands of puppet shows and a wild day and night working on a broadcast of the *Ed Sullivan Show*.

"We were there all night so I was beginning to pile up the overtime," Abugov says.

"At the end of Expo, I bought a BMW motorcycle."

Early success convinced Abugov that the stage was where he belonged, so he honed his craft diligently, including stints with Les Feux Follets, The Charlottetown Festival, La Poudrière Theatre and The Studio Lab Theatre, as well as touring with the famed performer Harry Belafonte.

Over the years, he's been involved in some wacky and humorous events, on and off the stage.

"At one ballet, the curtain was being blown a little bit awkward by the heating and ventilation system," Abugov relates.

"The electrician pushed a button and the curtain went up 10 feet and in front of everybody's eyes, it tore to smithereens and fell down on the stage."

For more information about upcoming National Ballet of Canada events, visit www.national.ballet.ca.

Arts & Travel

# *Festival wraps up with naively optimistic film*

By BILL GLADSTONE
*Special to The CJN*

Seven years ago the Argentine-Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim and his close friend, Edward Said, the late Palestinian-American intellectual, jointly established an orchestra with talented young classical musicians from Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria.

Unable to meet in their home countries, the participants spent several summers making music in Spain, where the experience melted away longstanding mistrusts and forged a temporal cordiality among many of them. "Israelis, to me, were not human even," a Jordanian musician said, recalling his feelings before joining the group.

Under Barenboim's powerful and almost spell-casting baton, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra unified into a cohesive unit and gave concerts in Europe, Morocco, Israel and the West Bank. The achievement earned Barenboim and Said a prestigious Spanish trophy, the Prince of Asturia award, for "improving understanding between nations."

***Miracle in Krakow* is an eccentric romance set in Poland and Hungary and directed by Diana Groo.**

Barenboim also received the Wolf Prize at the Israeli Knesset, but not without controversy. Upon hearing his politicized acceptance speech, cabinet minister Limor Livnat criticized him for using the Knesset podium "to attack the state of Israel" and expressed dismay that he had been honoured at all.

The Knesset award ceremony, which European filmmaker Paul Smaczny filmed as he tracked the orchestra's progress over five years, provides one of the few rancorous passages in this otherwise sugar-coated pill of a documentary, which at 91 minutes may be too large for some viewers to swallow.

*Knowledge Is The Beginning* purports to be about uniting young people of divergent nationalities and ideologies for the higher purpose of music, but politics is a strong sub-theme and the production, which is European-made, seems unfairly antagonistic to Israel. For example, it opens and ends by vilifying Israel's security fence – the so-called "Wall" – but presents only one side of the story.

Barenboim, who aroused strong feelings in 2001 by playing Wagner's music in Israel, receives high praise throughout for his dedication, patience, vision and inspiration; but since the film was co-produced by the Barenboim-Said Foundation, could it have been otherwise? Said, too, is given enormous homage. No attempt is made to counterbalance the voice of the notorious anti-Israel polemicist who was caught throwing stones in the intifadah and fabricating key sections of his autobiographical writings.

*Knowledge Is The Beginning* falls into a naively optimistic genre of film that has been well represented in Jewish film festivals since the Oslo peace accords of the mid-90s. According to the formula, Palestinian and Israeli are thrown together in some common project or purpose, and learn to tolerate and even like each other for the duration.

Now that Oslo is dust, now that Hamas reigns in the Palestinian territories, this cinematic genre no longer inspires hope and has become tiresome. In this light, Barenboim's peaceful overture falls flat and seems an undeserving subject for a film. Its best moments, highlighting the extraordinary musicality of a few gifted youngsters, are few and far between.

*Knowledge Is The Beginning* is being shown at the Bloor Cinema, Sunday, May 14, 9:30 p.m. as the festival's closing film.

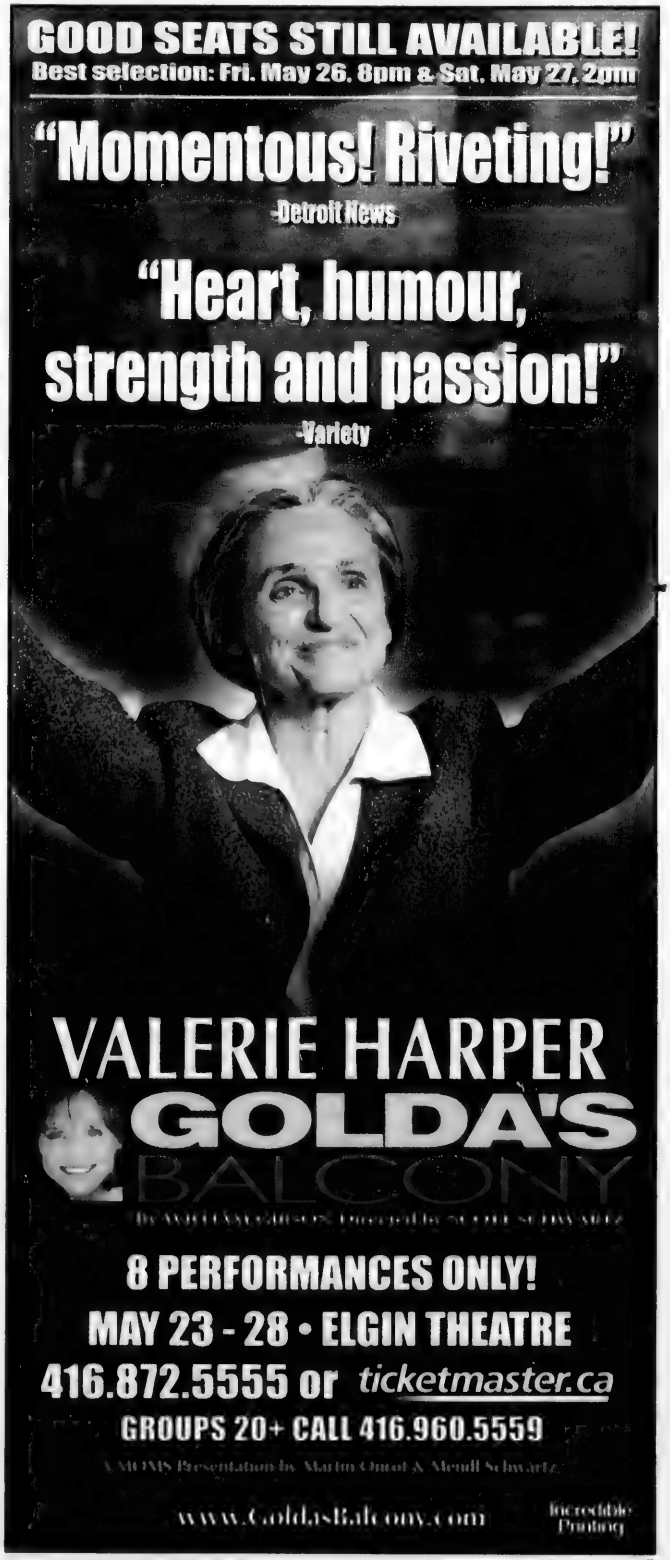
• • •

The Polish town of Auschwitz is known primarily as the site of horrific Nazi death camps, and its previous history as a town with a once-thriving Jewish community comes as a surprise.

Stirred by an old storekeeper's eyewitness account and his precisely drawn map, Israeli Yariv Nornberg mounts an archeological expedition in search of some Torah scrolls and other artifacts buried beneath the floor of the Great Synagogue of Auschwitz before the Germans burned it to the ground.

Yahaly Ga's documentary *A Treasure in Auschwitz* (2005) engagingly chronicles this melancholic mission, which prompted the first site excavation of a Nazi-destroyed synagogue in Poland. As locals and visitors gather and excavators find and carefully lift the synagogue's old clay floor, a few old-timers recall the building's destruction more than six decades earlier.

**Continued on page 48**

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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## PHOTOS SHOW GERMANY AT START OF NAZI ERA

A collection of some 18,000 photographs from the Klinsky Press Agency of prewar Europe have been donated anonymously to the Art Gallery of Ontario, which is planning an exhibit when its much-enlarged photographic galleries open next year.

Included among the rare photographs are more than 400 by renowned photographer **Alfred Eisenstaedt**, who photographed cultural activities and vivid moments in the lives of ordinary people for Berlin magazines in the '30s. His images drew attention to the nazification of German culture in 1933 and 1934; by 1935 the political climate forced him to immigrate to the United States, where he resumed his career with *Life* Magazine and other publications.

The collection also includes works by **John Gutmann**, **E.O. Hoppe**, **Lotte Jacobi**, **Felix Man**, **Willi Ruge**, **Ilse Steinhoff**, **Umbo** and others.

The Klinsky Press Agency operated in Amsterdam from the early '30s with the aim of visually chronicling a critical period in European history. Although the agency did not fall victim to Nazi rule immediately, many of the photographers who supplied it with images were Jewish and fled to Britain and the United States. The agency eventually closed but its inventory, stored outside of Amsterdam, remained intact for nearly 50 years.

"The core of the Klinsky Collection reveals a critical period of European history, with emphasis on 1930s Germany," said **Maia-Mari Sutnik**, the AGO's curator of photography. "The stark realism of the Klinsky Collection stands in sharp contrast to the manipulated images of the late 19th-century pictorialism."

* * *

**Names in the News:** *Cringeworthy*, a new play by Toronto actor-writer **Alex Poch-Goldin**, is a theatrical "yarn of deliciously dark proportions" and "a roller- coaster ride into the darkest of hearts." *Cringeworthy* is set in Edwardian London; Poch-Goldin plays the dastardly Mr. Cringeworthy, who torments the Tarantellas, a young married couple who owe him money.

Currently playwright-in-residence at Canstage, Poch-Goldin previously wrote *This Hotel*, which was Toronto's top-selling theatrical production in 2001, and *Yahrzeit*, which won a Toronto Jewish Playwriting Award. He's appeared in many films, television shows and stage productions, including *Remnants* and *Angels in America*.

*Cringeworthy* opens May 24 at Theatre Passe Muraille Main Space, 16 Ryerson St. (previews begin May 19) and runs through June 11. $25 to $30; previews $15; Sundays PWYC. 416-504-7529, www.artsboxoffice

* * *

**Names in the News II:** Dan Yashinsky, the Toronto-based storyteller and writer, has been named first storyteller-in-residence for the Toronto public library system for the year. Yashinsky, who has represented Canada at many storytelling festivals throughout the world, has been invited to a fest in Brazil this month and another in Austria in June.

* * *

**Musical Notes**

• The acclaimed klezmer fusion group **Beyond the Pale** performs with guest vocalist **David Wall**. Tickets $20, $30, $35. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. Monday, May 15, 8:30 p.m. 416-221-3433, ext. 354

•**The Mark Eisenman Trio**, consisting of pianist Eisenman, drummer **John Sumner** and bassist **Steve Wallace**, perform a 20th anniversary concert with **Pat LaBarbera** on sax and **John MacLeod** on flugelhorn. Tickets $25 in advance, $27 at the door. Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park Cres. May 13, 8 p.m. www.jazzpiano.ca

• **Amy Sky** performs a benefit concert for Kids Can Fly, a local children's charity. Sanderson Centre, 88 Dalhousie St., Brantford. May 17, 7:30 p.m. 519-758-8090 or 800-265-0710; www.sandersoncentre.ca

* * *

**Dramatic Notes**

• One Little Goat Theatre Company and the Nadal Jewish Community Centre present a live reading of two radio plays by Israeli writer **Yehuda Amichai**, translated from Hebrew. Directed by **Adam Seelig**, the readings of *Bells and Trains*, and *Killing Him*, feature **Lili Francks**, **Barbara Gordon**, **Ron Lea**, **Jordan Pettle** and **Gina Wilkinson**. Al Green Theatre, Nadal JCC, Wednesday, May 17, 8 p.m. for one night only.

• *Boygroove*, the "feel-good musical" about boy bands from Michael Rubinoff Productions, is at the Diesel Playhouse, 56 Blue Jays Way, through June 4. $20 to $36. 416-971-5656, www.boygroove.ca

* * *

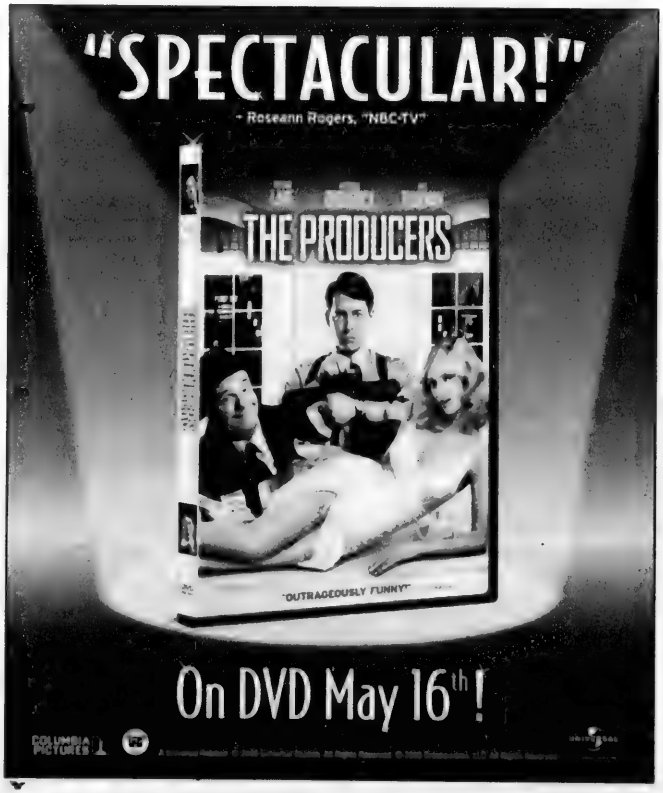
**At the Galleries**

• "The Human Cost of Terror" is an exhibition of photographs by **Jason Schwartz**, showing Israeli victims of terror. Part of the Contact Festival, it's on view at the Nadal JCC, Jacobs Lounge, 750 Spadina Ave. Until May 31.

• "Abstracting Reality: One Soul to Another," an exhibition of mixed media paintings by **Ruth Wolkoff**, is on view at the Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Ave., through May 17. 416-922-3618

• "Nudes," a series of photographs by **Stephen Zeifman**, is on view at Louise Lipman Contemporary Art, 880 Queen St. W., until May 31. Also on display at Lipman is "A Fragile Landscape," a series of paintings by Simon Schneiderman. 416-913-9057, www.lipmanart.com

**Nava Siboni holds a photo of her daughter Liron, 19, who was a terror victim. Part of Jason Schwartz's exhibit until May 31.**



# Hot Docs festival showcases the finest documentary films

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary film festival, ended last week after screening 99 movies from 23 countries, including Canada and Israel.

The five films under review here range from a portrait of the Jewish settler community in Hebron – a flashpoint of Arab-Israeli tension – to a German Canadian's complex relationship with his father, who served in Nazi Germany's armed forces.

Shelley Saywell's 90-minute Canadian documentary, *Martyr Street*, focuses on the West Bank town of Hebron, where more than 100,000 Palestinian Arabs and several hundred Jewish settlers barely coexist.

Indeed, they view each other with unconcealed mutual suspicion and animosity, and occasionally, their conflict degenerates into outright violence.

Saywell made the film over a five-year period, visiting Hebron before and after the eruption of the latest Palestinian uprising. She concentrated her efforts on a once bustling market street that has become desolate and dangerous and, unfortunately, an apt metaphor of the sorry state of Arab-Jewish relations.

As Saywell correctly observes, Jews and Arabs lived together for hundreds of years in Hebron, a Jewish holy site. But with the 1929 Arab massacre of 67 Jews, things were never the same again. Jews returned to Hebron after the 1967 Six Day War, and today, Hebron is the only Arab town in the West Bank with a Jewish community.

In an attempt to understand the religious and political passions roiling Hebron, Saywell interviewed Jews and Arabs, who lead completely separate lives. One Jewish zealot tells her that he wants all Arabs to leave Hebron. Meanwhile, she reports that many Arab families left Martyr Street after vandals painted white Stars of David on their doors. Saywell also talks to two girls from the opposing camps who live next to each other but do not exchange words.

*Martyr Street* is mostly balanced, but a viewer can periodically detect Saywell's antipathy for the settlers.

•••

James Longley's vivid *Iraq in Fragments* portrays the disorder and chaos in contemporary Iraq through the eyes of ordinary Iraqis, including an impressively perceptive boy named Mohammed who works for his mercurial uncle.

This 94-minute film shows a country at war with itself as increasingly serious sectarian violence consumes the lives of Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds.

Divided into three parts to reflect Iraq's endemic ethnic divisions, the film leaves the impression that, from the Sunni and Shiite point of view, the United States invaded Iraq to secure oil supplies and steal its wealth, that the security situation in post-war Iraq is growing worse by the day, that Saddam Hussein exerted far more control than the Americans will ever be able to, and that the liberation of Iraq has turned into an occupation.

The Kurds, by contrast, appear pro-American, but they, too, are weary of the instability caused by the insurgency, which threatens Washington's nation-building project in Iraq.

There is at least one reference to the Kurds' yearning for self-determination. A Kurdish man plaintively asks why his people cannot be as independent and free as the Jews of Israel.

The images that flash across the screen are sharp and evocative. A U.S. helicopter gunship rattles overhead in a show of force. Shiites engage in bloody self-flagellation during a religious ceremony. A blind-folded man complains bitterly about the "new oppression" in Iraq. File footage of Iraq's oppression of the Kurds sends a shudder down one's spine.

*Iraq in Fragments* is a jolting report from the front lines of a nation on the cusp of disintegration.

•••

*Fatherland*, by Manfred Becker, deals with the awful legacy of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

This sensitive 72-minute film, which will be broadcast on History Television on June 12 in honour of Father's Day, pits Becker, a German Canadian filmmaker, against his father, a veteran of Hitler's navy. Becker decides to return to his homeland and talk to his father about Nazi Germany after his son, Jonas, is branded a "Nazi" at school.

Now 86, Becker senior is a dyed-in-the-wool conservative. He claims that the Weimar Republic was a "pigsty" and that Hitler united Germany and imbued it with renewed pride. He denies knowledge of Kristallnacht and cannot believe that Germans could have conceived the Holocaust and commited war crimes. He recants after meeting an old Jewish family friend, a refugee from Nazi Germany.

Becker, the director of the film, equates German patriotism with shame and classifies his father as a member of a lost generation that tarnished Germany's name and reputation.

Charting a course somewhere between his father and grandfather, Jonas expresses annoyance over his father's insistence on German guilt. In the end, Becker is ironically the only one in the family who can't let go of the past.

•••

Jack Silberman's National Film Board of Canada presentation, *Raised to be Heroes*, profiles a group of Israelis, from high school students ready to be inducted into the army to officers in the reserves, who refuse to serve in the territories on the grounds that it perpetuates Israel's occupation.

"You are forced to commit war crimes," says one of the refuseniks.

Silberman also interviews Noam Kaminer, a soldier who received four consecutive 28-day jail sentences for his defiance, and David Zonshine, an officer who once performed his duties without questioning their validity.

*Raised to be Heroes* underscores the fact that Israel's policies do not meet with the approval of some of its citizens.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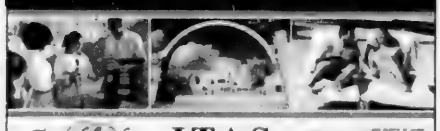
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# Anna's Summer *has an aura of mystery*

**Continued from page 45**

Some Jewish artifacts are uncovered, including crumbling pages of a prayer book and some synagogue lamps, but so are some Nazi artifacts, such as a helmet and gas mask. The Torahs never surface.

While the dig's Israeli organizers are sad at the end of the story, the Polish archeologists are exultant, since the bits and pieces they recovered are "like a voice" for the lost synagogue. Gat's subtitled documentary has more to do with the current Jewish impulse to retrieve and breathe new life into the past than with the adjacent death camps, which are peripheral to the story.

The screening takes place at the Bloor Cinema, Thursday May 11, 1 p.m.

* * *

Inhabited by ghosts, a beautiful old house on a sun-drenched Greek isle is the setting for director Jeanine Meerapfel's meditative, beautifully photographed drama *Anna's Summer*, in which stories from the past overshadow those of the present.

Mourning for her late partner Max, Anna (nicely played by Angela Molina) inherits the large family home but must search through ancestral papers of her Sephardi family for the title deed necessary to sell the property. As she roots through the past, the spirits of her husband, parents and grandparents visit her and replay key scenes of their lives. Anchoring her to the present is her love affair with Nikola, one of the young workmen fixing up the property for sale.

Dreamlike and beguiling, *Anna's Summer* evokes a strongly Mediterranean atmosphere as well as questions about its overall meaning. It seems more sketch than full story, but its aura of mystery only adds to its charm.

**Daniel Barenboim in *Knowledge is the Beginning.***

***

A mystical Jewish book called the Silver Crown is the "pumpkin" – the object that drives the narrative and is the focus of everybody's search – at the centre of *Miracle In Cracow*; this eccentric romance from Hungarian director Diana Groo. Set in the Jewish quarters of Budapest and Krakow, the film spins an improbable tale of two young people, Eszter and Piotr, who need the book for their own reasons. Among other marvels, the book is supposed to contain the kabbalistic secret for bringing the dead back to life.

Eszter's and Piotr's overlapping journey takes them eventually to the darkly romantic figure of an old world rabbi: it's as though these modern Jewish psyches need some good old-fashioned Jewish mysticism (a la the legendary Rabbi Levi of 16th-century Krakow) in order to make their spirits whole again. Filmmaker Groo has said that she loaded the film with personal memories of her own Jewish merchant family; her maternal grandparents had an enormous library in Krakow. "The reason why [*Miracle in Cracow*] features a Jewish rabbi, the Kabbala, the Jewish district in Krakow and District 7 in Budapest is that it's in me," she said in a recent interview. "This is what I've been interested in my whole life."

The screening takes place at the Bloor Cinema, Friday May 12, 3 p.m.

For tickets and info to all films call 416-324-9121 or visit www.tiff.com

# First-of-its-kind Israeli art show

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

A road show highlighting the multi-faceted talents of Israeli artists passed through Toronto last week.

Israeli Art Source, a private consortium representing some of Israel's finest painters and sculptors, showcased original works as well as reproductions.

Their pieces were exhibited at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and the Koffler Centre of the Arts at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre from May 2-8.

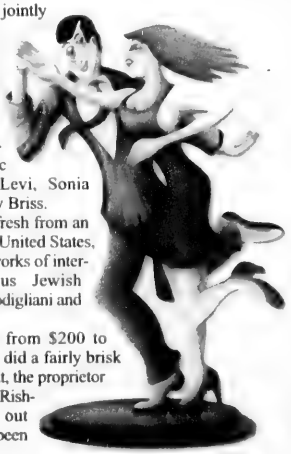
Partially sponsored by Israel's Ministry of Industry and Trade, the show was the first of its kind in Canada and was designed to promote the full spectrum of Israeli art, said Gabi Regev, Israel's deputy trade commissioner in Toronto.

Yossi Porat, an Israeli Art Source official and publisher of art books, said the organization represents more than 70 artists and five galleries.

The exhibition, jointly opened by Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh and Trade Commissioner Ephraim Shoham, was a showcase for artists such as Isaac Maimon, Dorit Levi, Sonia Drabkin and Samy Briss.

But the show, fresh from an appearance in the United States, also featured the works of internationally famous Jewish artists Amedeo Modigliani and Marc Chagall.

Prices ranged from $200 to $5,000. The show did a fairly brisk business, said Porat, the proprietor of an art gallery in Rishon Lezion. Thirty out of 100 pieces had been sold by May 4.



**Yuval Mahler's *Dancers***

The brash and satirical acrylic and metal sculptures by Yuval Mahler explored human relationships and appealed to the child in us all.

In sharp contrast to Mahler's playful sculptures, the oil paintings of Arieh Azene were studies of the colourful canvas chairs once found on the beach in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, the serigraphs of Gregory Kohelet paid homage to the Middle Eastern architecture of old Jerusalem, while the canvases of Michael Gorban focused on light playing on flower arrangements.

There were also the classics – Modigliani's moody *Portrait of a Woman with Hat* and Chagall's uplifting *The Three Candles*.

## Travels with Kolel

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein leads two brand-new learning trips to Israel. " Israel 101," is geared to first-timers or those who have been away a long time. It includes many of the famous sites, new archeological finds, off-the-beaten-track surprises and learning. Travel dates are Jan. 21 to 30, 2007. Free information night, May 16, 7:30 p.m. at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W.

Kolel's Exodus Tour to Egypt to Israel (March 29 to Apr. 10, 2007) starts in Cairo, where tour participants say kaddish at the Pyramids. They also walk into Israel on Erev Pesach for a seder in a desert tent. The tour continues with camels, jeeps, climbing and other family-bonding activities. Free information night at Kolel, June 6, 7:30 p.m.

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## Amanda's lemonade stand aids Heart & Stroke

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

An eight-year-old Toronto girl did it again, fundraising thousands of dollars for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's annual Becel Heart&Stroke Ride for the Heart, which takes place on June 8.

"We [had] pony rides, balloons, hot chocolate and popcorn and an auction – a silent auction and a live auction," said Amanda Belzowski, talking about her eighth annual Lemonade Stand, which drew approximately 250 people on May 7 and raised $7,718.16.

Amanda, a third-grade student at United Synagogue Day School, has helped raise more than $30,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation since 1999, when she was just a toddler.

"All you have to do is think of how you're going to raise the money, then pick a charity, and people will probably come out, cause all these causes are really good causes," she said.

Amanda's grandmother, as well as her great-grandfather, both received artificial aortic valve replacements.

"Heart [conditions] and strokes affect everybody. The Heart and Stroke Foundation is an easy charity to raise money for because [of this fact]," said Lisa Belzowski, Amanda's mother.

"There hasn't been anyone that hasn't been touched, be it a family member or a friend, or somebody with something to do with Heart and Stroke."

At her fundraiser, Amanda, along with her 11-week-old brother, Joshua, offered lemonade, hot chocolate and a variety of entertainment and activities from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**Amanda Belzowski and her 11-week old brother, Joshua, at Amanda's lemonade stand.**

Amanda's annual event has captured the attention of Donald Trump, who wrote her a letter last year, praising her efforts.

"I'm hoping to meet Donald Trump one day. I invite him almost every year," she said.

An autographed photo of Donald Trump was auctioned off this year for $80, along with items from the Toronto Raptors, toys from Mega Bloks and Disney artwork from Animation Connection. About 30 businesses contributed to Amanda's fundraiser.

The carnival-like event featured popular children's performer Dan the Music Man, and world-renowned balloon artist Kenton Kruger. Other highlights included personalized button-making by Star World Entertainment, pony rides from Lionel's Pony Farm and new this year was Dippin Dots ice cream provided by Party Props.

"It is a blast – you would not believe what goes on, on their front lawn" said Elissa Freemon, director of public relations and public affairs for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

"I love the carnival atmosphere. I love that people feel good about going, I love that people feel good about giving to a worthy cause and also just creates so much fun and excitement."

Freemon said fundraisers like Amanda's are necessary since the foundation depends entirely on donations for research. "What's important is that Amanda's creating awareness through the lemonade stand. She's got information there that the public can pick up and learn more about heart disease and stroke. It's twofold – fundraising and awareness."

Amanda's mother stressed the importance of teaching children the value of tzedakah.

"It's important to teach them to give back and to teach them to help out when they can. It's an important thing we should all know and there is no reason to wait until a certain age [to begin the lesson]," Belzowski said.

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, heart disease kills more Canadians each year than any other illness and 80 per cent of Canadians have at least one risk factor for heart disease.

For more information about Amanda's annual Lemonade Stand, visit her website at www.Amandaslemonade4heart.org

For information about the Becel Heart&Stroke Ride for the Heart, call 416-486-RIDE (7433) or visit the website at www.heartandstroke.ca/rideforheart.

**PARTYING FOR A CAUSE: Nadia Baillie, left, event chair Joan Schatz Belisle, centre, and Matthew Baillie, celebrate at the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) gala ball. The event, held recently at the Liberty Grand, raised nearly $120,000 to enhance services to children and their families living with cancer. [Photo courtesy of POGO]**

## Girl donates hair to Locks of Love

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

When it comes to preteens or teenagers and hair, it's very hard to think of one without the other.

That makes the sacrifice of 11-year-old Lauren Schoenberg, a Grade 6 student at Hamilton Hebrew Academy, even more impressive.

In memory of her grandfather and great-grandmother, who both died of cancer, she decided to cut 12 inches off her luxuriant brunette hair and donate it to Locks of Love.

She got the idea, her father Jacques said, from someone she knew who did the same thing.

Locks of Love, a non-profit organization based in Florida, collects donations of hair to make wigs for financially disadvantaged children with medical hair loss, such as from cancer or alopecia areata.

But donating her hair wasn't enough for Lauren. She prepared a dvar Torah explaining what she did that she presented to students in grades 5 to 8 at her school

In it, she asked for donations of money to help in cancer research, and she asked them to join her in other tzedakah projects.

The nearly 200 students at the school – which, her father said, is "like a family" – brought in $300, which was donated to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Lauren's other tzedakah suggestions to the students included going to Shalom Village, a housing project in Hamilton for the elderly; giving to the food bank; and contributing lunches to the Out of the Cold program.

**Lauren Schoenberg and the 12 inches of hair she donated to Locks of Love.**

"The money that I am sending to cancer research will also help put an end to that dreadful disease that kills thousands of people every year," she said in the moving conclusion to her presentation. "I know, because my grandfather and my great-grandmother passed away to cancer and I don't want it touching the lives of my loved ones any more."

For more information on Locks for Love, write 2925 10th Ave. N., Suite 102, Lake Worth, Fla. 33461, or visit www.locksoflove.org.

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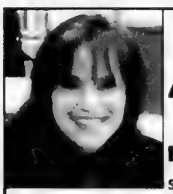

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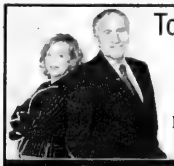

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GTA

# Groups for disabled unite

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Two Vaughan-based charitable organizations that support people with developmental disabilities have joined forces to raise money and find new ways to serve their clients.

Reena, the second largest provider of comprehensive support services to people with developmental disabilities in Ontario, and Alternatives, a grassroots organization founded in 1998 by parents of young adults with developmental disabilities, held a kosher fundraising dinner recently at the Terrace Banquet Centre in Vaughan.

Vaughan mayor Michael Di Biase, honorary chair of the event, called the Together We Belong gala, said in an interview that he takes much pride in the initiative "because two very worthy non-profit charities are bringing their staff and volunteers together in a spirit of co-operation to share some of their history and some of the selflessness of their work."

The two organizations originally joined forces, he said, because funding is a problem for every charity and the two decided to see what they could do together.

"As I worked with Sandy Keshen [Reena president and CEO] and Phyllis Santone [founder of Alternatives], in planning the dinner, I saw very positive results," he said.

"These organizations have clearly benefited from new friendships, new alliances and new relationships. Reena and Alternatives are now sharing ideas, and they are sharing programming ideas which will further benefit children and young people."

Reena chair Carolynn Morrison said her organization welcomes every opportunity to partner with other agencies.

"Although the delivery of our services might vary, we are working toward a common goal to provide the best possible services and programs for our clients."

There are a number of residential homes in Vaughan that clients have been welcomed into, and under Di Biase's leadership, the city has provided them with meaningful employment opportunities that have added value to their lives, Morrison said.

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# Israeli hockey: on ice, not so good; off ice, better

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

There's good news and there's bad news on the Israeli hockey front.

First the bad news. The Israelis were, how to put it delicately, clobbered and pummeled – or maybe clummeled – in five games against Division I opponents in a recent International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) tournament in Amiens, France.

The best the 0-5 Israelis could do was limit Japan to a 7-1 margin and put two pucks past tournament champion Germany, which allowed only four goals in five games. As a result of finishing last, Israel has been relegated to Division II.

That's the bad news. The good news: the food was really good in France.

OK, that's not really the good news.

Although the Israeli skaters were humbled in France – a result that was far from unexpected – there were plenty of positive off-ice developments to put a smile on Alan Maislin's face.

**Sticking to their opponents was not enough for Israel in this 11-2 loss to Germany.**

Maislin, chair of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel (IHFI), professed satisfaction that the country's hockey program managed to even get to a Division I tournament in the first place – he called the calibre of play one level below the NHL – but at the same time, off-ice developments portend well for the future of the Israeli program.

Right around the time the Israelis were tuning up for the IIHF experience with a training camp in Prague, news was released, albeit prematurely, that a deal had been completed that will see construction of an ice centre in the heart of Israel, just north of Tel Aviv. The 5,000-seat winter sports centre will include two rinks – one Olympic-size, the other of NHL dimensions – plus an inline skating facility. The $15 million (US) project in Hod Hasharon, to be built by anonymous private investors from the United States and Canada, is scheduled to open by the end of 2007.

A second off-ice development concerns an international hockey tournament the Israelis could actually win – a resurrected Maccabiah Games event in Israel.

During the IIHF tournament in Amiens, Maislin made contact with two Jewish players on the French national team and got their co-operation to put together a French team for a proposed tournament at the Maccabiah.

Twin brothers Maurice and Francois Rozenthal, 31, told Maislin there are enough Jewish players in France to ice a credible team, should hockey return to the Maccabiah Games.

Hockey has been a Maccabiah sport on only one occasion, in 1997, when Canada was joined by the United States, Israel and Ukraine for a series of games in the Canada Center complex in Metulla. Stocked with ex-pros, AHL, college and junior players, Canada won the tournament handily.

Maislin believes there may also be enough decent Jewish players in Holland and Sweden to ice two additional teams, and with France in and Ukraine out (possibly), there could be six teams competing in Hod Hasharon and Metulla at the next Maccabiah Games in 2009.

Maislin said he has yet to bring his suggestion to Maccabi World Union officials. He was still in the early stages of determining whether there was interest among a sufficient number of countries to bring winter sports, including figure skating, to the Games.

Regardless of hockey's inclusion in the Maccabiah, Maislin is committed to developing the sport in Israel. The proposed new rink in Hod Hasharon "is critical for the [hockey] association in Israel," he said.

To be located in the heart of Israel, the rink gives hockey organizers the population base on which to build a viable development program.

"The potential is unlimited," he said.

Israel already has more than 95 inline skating teams, and these young athletes could make a natural transition to ice hockey. In addition, there is a population base of about one million Russian immigrants to draw from, as well as other expats and sabras who enjoy the sport.

"I think Israelis will come to the sport," Maislin said, pointing to the junior team, which consists largely of native Israelis who first were exposed to hockey in their homeland.

Maislin, who resides in Montreal, said another element of the hockey development program is the search for "conveners" to organize leagues at the new rinks. Other items aimed at improving the calibre of play in Israel include a summer camp in Metulla from July 23 to 29 and a coaching development program put together by former NHL coach Pierre Page.

The summer camp, which was pioneered by the late Roger Neilson, will be run by Israeli national team coach Jean Perron and former NHLer Steve Dubinsky. Sean Skinner, a skills specialist who contracts to a number of NHL teams, will also participate.

On this side of the ocean, Israeli hockey organizers will hold a tryout camp in Toronto for players eligible to play for Israel.

In October, Israel's junior team will embark on an eight city North American tour, with stops in Chicago, Los Angeles, Florida, Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

All these developments give Maislin reason to hope that the next time the Israelis get to Division I, they'll perform much better.

As he explained to his players in Amiens, "You earned the right to get here. You beat five teams to get here. Now you know what it takes to stay here."

# Maccabi Tel Aviv loses Euroleague final, but fans emerge as winners

By DINAH A. SPRITZER
*JTA*

**PRAGUE** — For four days recently, there were possibly more Jews in the Czech capital than at any time since World War II.

They were so full of joy, bursting into song in the Old Town or trading shirts and pins with tourists, that many natives wondered how such a large group of mostly male visitors could be so well-behaved.

Swathed in yellow, head to toe with yellow shirts, hats and face paint, the new Jews in town were 10,000 to 15,000 Israelis who flew in to cheer for what was, until then, the best basketball team in the European League. And even though Maccabi Tel Aviv, with its yellow and blue uniforms, was defeated by CSKA Moscow in a close game in the Euroleague final, the impression made by the fans will last a while.

Their team was a loser, but by all accounts, the Israeli fans were winners.

"This is not what we are used to in sports fans," observed Martina Kucerova, a Prague sportswriter who worked during the Final Four at Sazka Arena, the venue for the tournament. "They don't get drunk, they don't get aggressive, they are just happy and fun. It's so refreshing."

Instead of the belligerent and often drunk carousing associated with European hockey or soccer fans, you could find the Israelis singing everything from *Hatikvah* to Maccabi team songs and exchanging memorabilia with fans of the other three teams in the championship, including the Russian squad that denied them this year's championship.

Sazka stadium holds 18,000 spectators, and in the semi-finals and finals in which Maccabi participated, more than 80 per cent of the seats were filled with yellow-and-blue-clad Israelis who sang, clapped and danced for the entire game.

Frantisek Bouc, a veteran Czech sportswriter, said organizers were hoping Maccabi would make it to the finals.

"It's known all around Europe that they have some of the most loyal fans," he said.

"There is no other European basketball team that can generate such a following," said Iren Harel of Kfar Saba.

Dedication to the team comes also from a desire to focus on something positive and unifying "when there are so many political and security issues that trouble Israelis," Harel said. It was an opinion endorsed by many other fans during the weekend tournament.

The Israeli fervour led to some remarkable scenes in Prague.

After Maccabi won its semi-final, 500 Israelis made their way to the Hilton to welcome Shabbat with Chabad. In a city with only 1,500 registered members of the Jewish community, and typically no more than 200 at any religious event, the spontaneous singing and dancing in the Hilton entry hall was a unique spectacle.

"We came from the March of the Living," an annual visit to the sites of Nazi concentration camps in Poland, "and I cannot think of a greater and more wonderful contrast than to watch this celebration," said Sylvia Camlot of Montreal, a hotel guest.

At the Shabbat dinner, chants of "Moshiach, moshiach" – messiah, messiah – were interspersed with "*tzahov*, *tzahov*," or yellow, in honour of Maccabi.

The Shabbat event was held thanks to Ya'acov Globerman, reportedly the only rabbi in Israel closely associated with a sports team. He is the rabbi of Maccabi coach Pini Gershon, who met him three years ago at a Chabad class that teaches the basics of Judaism to secular Jews.

Maccabi fans range from Orthodox to secular. One fan from Tel Aviv, Ziv Rafalovitz, said more observant Jews are beginning to follow basketball because of Rabbi Globerman's celebrity status.

Even in defeat, the Israelis dutifully waved their flags and sang several choruses of "Maccabi Maccabi."

"We'll be in Athens next year," said a slightly dejected Oren Rosenberg of Tel Aviv, sweating through the yellow-and-blue paint on his cheeks after the game ended "For sure at the finals."

# Media literacy training should start early

ARTS IN FOCUS
By Oren Shefa

Never before have children been as shamelessly manipulated by the devious marketing tactics of media conglomerates peddling their wares as they are today.

There is literally nowhere urban youth can turn to find relief from the constant barrage of targeted advertisements. Multinational corporations design bold strategies that involve reaching children as young as six months old, and yet, to date, media literacy courses and lessons are only introduced in most Canadian school curricula around Grade 10. It has, therefore, become increasingly important for parents to take matters into their own hands by making use of the many resources available on media awareness in order to educate their children as early as possible.

The Media Awareness Network (MNet), a Canadian not-for-profit that assists parents and teachers in educating children, is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world. Established in 1996, MNet monitors television viewing times and Internet usage among children and teens across Canada. The intention is to make parents and teachers aware of not only the health risks associated with overexposure to media, but to highlight the excessive amounts of youth-targeted advertising by companies that see children as nothing more than mindless consumers in waiting.

According to MNet, between 1990 and 2000, youth-targeted advertising increased by more than 20 times to more than $2 billion dollars annually. Commercials, billboards, product placements in films, music videos and the Internet, and celebrity endorsements are but a few of the tools that advertisers use to reach young shoppers. The hope is that by filling children with the desire for popular brand names, they will use what MNet calls "pester power" on their parents. But by taking action at an early age, MNet's mission statement suggests, parents can help children "to become more savvy as consumers and more resistant to the pressures to be 'cool.'"

The good news is that the information needed to protect and educate children is readily available. The MNet website lists a plethora of resources for parents and teachers, including tip-sheets, statistics, surveys and step-by-step lesson plans. Starting education at an early age – by explaining how marketing works, talking to children about misleading phrases and giving them basic lessons in money management – is crucial.

But even with the amount of information available for anyone with the incentive to seek it out, nothing can replace the impact and importance of introducing media studies in the classrooms at a much earlier age than is currently the case. Understanding media and marketing should not be elective education for the interested few, as media and marketing have become so prevalent and have such enormous influence over children. To delay teaching kids about the effects of media and marketing on the way they perceive the world is irresponsible.

Companies are all about, and always will be about, the bottom line. Without effective ad campaigns targeting the right groups, products won't sell and companies will falter. We can't expect, therefore, that businesses will find a conscience and reassess some of the morally reprehensible tactics they use to reach children. At the same time, there is no indication, at this point, that media awareness will be introduced into the elementary school curriculum any time soon. Without active parental involvement in the early stages of childhood development, getting kids to re-examine their consumer habits once they enter high school could prove to be very difficult.

## Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad

- 1 1/2 lb skinless boneless chicken breast halves
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 3/4 tsp black pepper
- 2 garlic cloves, smashed
- 3 tblsps fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsps Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp anchovy paste
- 2 (10-oz) packages hearts of romaine
- 1 1/2 cups croutons

Brush chicken with 1 tblsp oil, then sprinkle with 1/2 tsp salt, 1/4 tsp pepper. Grill chicken, turning over once, about 15 min. While chicken grills, blend garlic, lemon juice, mustard, anchovy paste, remaining salt and pepper in a blender until combined. With motor running, add remaining oil in a slow stream, blending until emulsified. Transfer chicken to cutting board and cut into 1/2" thick slices. Toss chicken with 2 tblsp. dressing in a large bowl. Add romaine, remaining dressing, and croutons and toss. Makes 4 servings.

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**MARCH OF THE LIVING: Three Toronto students on this year's March of the Living are seen as they finish their hike down Masada – from left, Laura Goldenberg, Shayla Young and Adira Winegust. They were among the 500 Canadian teens who took part in this year's march. [Elad Winkler photo]**

# A plea for faith-based schools

Guest Voice

*Below is an edited letter from Eric Lawee, associate professor of humanities at York University, to four Ontario Liberal MPPs, including MP Lorenzo Berardinetti, who recently endorsed petitions that praised Ontario's Liberal government for "implementing a positive plan to improve our public schools" while criticizing Opposition leader John Tory for wanting "to take millions from public education to literally pay people to withdraw their children from the public system and send them to elite private schools."*

Dear Mr. Berardinetti,

I read the petition on school funding that you endorsed with considerable pain.

I do not send my children to "elite private schools." I send them to faith-based schools with potholes for playgrounds.

I do so for the same reason Premier Dalton McGuinty's parents sent their children to Catholic schools: because I want my children to combine the best of a democratic-liberal education with the best of a faith-based one.

The only difference between me and the McGuintys is our faith. Unfortunately, for my kids, that makes a big difference. While your leader and 93 per cent of the families who use faith-based schools in Ontario get a first-class education for their kids for free, my kids, though blessed with fine and dedicated teachers, get a lesser education than their Catholic friends and neighbours – and one that practically bankrupts my family – because we use the seven per cent of faith-based schools that get no government support.

I know you support public schools. So do I. Indeed, I teach at a public university, where I help to train the next generation of public school teachers. I'm not rich. I'm just trying to raise my kids the best way I know how, just like the McGuintys raised Dalton. Among families who send children to non-Catholic faith-based schools, I don't know a single person who doesn't want a strong public school system. Many, like myself, are products of public schools. But we also want fairness, and we can't understand how a party bearing the name "Liberal" not only denies it to us, but seems to revel in denying it to us. So, even as we support the public school system, we are angry that our children are short-changed. Wouldn't you be if you passed by new public and Catholic schools full of better-salaried teachers, fuller libraries and more decent gym equipment, only to drop your children off at a more run-down building with far fewer resources?

I'm not your constituent, so perhaps you can afford to ignore me, and even to score political points by painting my children's schools as "elite" when they are not, and by pretending that the Conservatives want to fund elite private schools when they merely seek to end discrimination against a few of Ontario's minority faith communities.

Even so, can you explain to me how a liberal – with a small "l" – can at once denounce discrimination while voting for it? Or how a sense of liberal fairness allows you to deny to seven per cent of Ontario's faith-based schoolchildren what 93 per cent of them already have?

Would you discriminate against my family when it comes to our health care, or the use of public roads? And if not, then why can you support discrimination when it comes to what your party has rightly stressed is so important: our kids' education?

Finally, if you can't explain your position – because it is so clearly unfair, not to mention subversive of our obligations under international treaty, as the United Nations has ruled – won't you rethink your position, and help us instead of demonizing us, not because it will win you votes, but because it's the right thing to do?

If you do, I, and thousands of other Ontarians, will be in your debt.

More importantly, you will have our children's gratitude.

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YOUR OPINION IS HIGHLY VALUED BY US. In order to provide you with an even better newspaper, we need to know a little about you. To this end we have commissioned Rotenberg Research - an independent research firm - to conduct this survey. Your responses will go directly to Rotenberg Research, will be kept confidential, and you will remain anonymous. *The CJN* will receive only aggregate statistical results.

**Please return your completed questionnaire in the self-addressed business reply envelope. Alternatively, you can fax it to Rotenberg Research at 905-479-5248, e-mail to drron@rotenbergresearch.com** or visit the Rotenberg Research website at www.rotenbergresearch.com to complete the survey online.

If a question doesn't apply to you, please leave it blank. Your answers to the other questions will still be useful.

**1) Which best describes how you normally read *The Canadian Jewish News?***
1. ❑ Read cover to cover
2. ❑ Read almost all the paper
3. ❑ Read about three-quarters
4. ❑ Read about half
5. ❑ Read about one-quarter
6. ❑ Just skim through

**2) On average approximately how much time do you spend reading an issue of *The CJN?***
1. ❑ Less than 10 minutes
2. ❑ About 15 minutes
3. ❑ About 1/2 an hour
4. ❑ About 3/4 of an hour
5. ❑ 1 hour or more

**3) In total *(including yourself)*, how many people *in your household* read or look at *The CJN?***
1. ❑ One
2. ❑ Two
3. ❑ Three
4. ❑ Four or more

**4) How many people *outside your household* normally read or skim through your copy of *The CJN?***
1. ❑ None
2. ❑ One
3. ❑ Two
4. ❑ Three
5. ❑ Four or more

**5) How many times have you visited Israel?**
1. ❑ None **(skip to Question #7)**
2. ❑ Once
3. ❑ Twice
4. ❑ Three times
5. ❑ Four times
6. ❑ Five times
7. ❑ Six times
8. ❑ Seven to 10 times
9. ❑ More than 10 times

**6) When did you visit Israel last? (leave blank if you haven't visited)**
1. ❑ Within the last three months
2. ❑ Within the last six months
3. ❑ Within the last year
4. ❑ Within the last two years
5. ❑ Longer than two years ago

**7) Do you own a home in Israel?**
1. ❑ YES
2. ❑ NO

**8) Do you have parents or children living in Israel?**
1. ❑ YES
2. ❑ NO

**9) How many of your children now attend Hebrew/Jewish/synagogue day school? (elementary or high school)**
1. ❑ None **(skip to Question #11)**
2. ❑ One
3. ❑ Two
4 ❑ Three
5. ❑ Four
6. ❑ Five or more

**10) How many of these children are attending Hebrew *high school?***
1. ❑ None
2. ❑ One
3 ❑ Two
4 ❑ Three
5. ❑ Four
6 ❑ Five or more

**11) In the past, how many children did you have attending Hebrew Day school? (elementary or high school)**
1. ❑ None **(skip to Question #13)**
2. ❑ One
3 ❑ Two
4. ❑ Three
5. ❑ Four
6 ❑ Five or more

**12) Were any of these at the High School level?**
1. ❑ YES
2. ❑ NO

**13) Are you a member of a synagogue or temple?**
1. ❑ YES
2. ❑ NO

**14) What is the *total number* of automobiles (car, van SUV, etc.) owned/leased by people in your household?**
1. ❑ None
2 ❑ One
3 ❑ Two
4 ❑ Three
5 ❑ Four or more

**15) Is there a computer in your home connected to the Internet?**
1. ❑ Dial up
2. ❑ High speed
3. ❑ Don't know
4. ❑ Not connected/Don't have a computer

**16) Within the next two years which of the following are you or anyone else in your household likely to purchase? (check all that apply)**

1. ❑ House or Condo
2. ❑ Swimming pool
3. ❑ Automobile/van/SUV
4. ❑ Large screen TV(40+ inches)
5. ❑ Airline tickets
6. ❑ Cruise vacation
7. ❑ Construction inside/outside home (finish basement, redo kitchen, etc.)
8. ❑ Decorating inside home (paint/paper etc.)
9. ❑ Large household appliances (fridge/stove/washer/dryer etc.)
10. ❑ Furniture (Dining room set/bedroom set/sofa etc.)
11. ❑ Computer(laptop/desktop)
12. ❑ Sports fitness equipment
13. ❑ Kosher products

**17) Which of the following do you expect you or any other person in your household will do in the next two years? (check all that apply)**

1 ❑ Take a holiday in Canada
2 ❑ Fly to a sun destination outside Canada or the U.S. (Mexico/Caribbean/Venezuela, etc.)
3 ❑ Vacation in Florida
4 ❑ Winter in Florida for a month or more
5 ❑ Take a ski trip outside your home province
6 ❑ Visit the Orient
7 ❑ Visit provinces in Canada (other than your own)
8 ❑ Travel to Europe
9 ❑ Travel to Israel
10. ❑ Fly to any U.S. destination
11. ❑ Travel to South America (land tour or cruise)
12. ❑ Join a fitness club
13. ❑ Make a bar/bat mitzvah
14. ❑ Make a wedding
15. ❑ Have a baby
16. ❑ Buy a house

**18) Have you been influenced to purchase a product or service as a result of advertising in *The Canadian Jewish News?***

1 ❑ Often
2 ❑ Sometimes
3. ❑ Rarely
4. ❑ Never

**19) Have you attended a community event, lecture series, theatre that you saw advertised in *The CJN?***

1. ❑ Often
2. ❑ Sometimes
3 ❑ Rarely
4 ❑ Never

***You are almost finished - just a few demographics would be useful to us***

**20) Which category comes closest to your present occupation?**

1. ❑ Student
2 ❑ Labourer (skilled/unskilled)
3 ❑ Self-Employed
4 ❑ Clerical/Sales
5 ❑ Manager/Executive
6 ❑ Professional (teacher/doctor/lawyer, etc.)
7 ❑ Homemaker
8 ❑ Retired
9. ❑ Not Presently Employed
10. ❑ Other

**21) Which best describes your highest level of education?**

1. ❑ Elementary school
2. ❑ Some university/ trade school, technical or vocational school, community college
3. ❑ University, bachelor or undergraduate degree or equivalent
4. ❑ Post-graduate or professional degree
5. ❑ Other **(specify)** _____

**22) Into which age group do you fall?**

1. ❑ Under 25
2. ❑ 25 – 39
3. ❑ 40 - 54
4. ❑ 55 – 65
5. ❑ Over 65

**23) Gender**

1. ❑ Male
2. ❑ Female

**24) Are there any children under 18 living in your household?**

1. ❑ YES
2. ❑ NO

**25) Do you have any grandchildren?**

1. ❑ YES
2. ❑ NO

**26) Which of the following best describes your household's total annual income before taxes?**

1. ❑ Under $50,000
2. ❑ $50,000 to $79,999
3. ❑ $80,000 to 129,999
4. ❑ $130,000 or over

**27) Is the dwelling you live in...**

1. ❑ Owned by you or someone living in your household
2. ❑ Rented

**28) Closest city of Residence**

1. ❑ Toronto
2. ❑ Montreal

***Thank you very much for your time and co-operation in completing this survey.***

**TO BE ENTERED IN THE DRAW PLEASE PROVIDE:**

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# *Cadets throw their hats into new naval ring*

**The Israel Defence Forces last week created a new naval unit called "Snapir." The new unit's members celebrated the announcement at a ceremony in Ashdod. The navy twice last week intercepted boatloads of weapons and explosives headed to the Gaza Strip.** *[Israel Sun photos]*

# Transatlantic rift looming on Iran?

By WILLIAM ECHIKSON
*JTA*

After the acrimony over policy on Iraq, the next challenge for the United States and Europe is Iran.

This time, the transatlantic partners are working better together, agreeing to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding that Tehran stop its nuclear program. Both say the next step could be sanctions against the Islamic republic.

***Analysis***

So far, so good – but what happens if the Security Council can't reach an agreement? Negotiations are continuing this week in New York on a British and French draft resolution that opens the possibility of stiff punishment of Iran.

On May 16, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was to meet with the foreign ministers of the four other permanent members of the Security Council – Britain, China, France and Russia – and Germany for discussions on Iran. But both China and Russia are hesitating to sign a tough resolution, raising the real possibility of a deadlock.

If that happens, European and American leaders who met recently in Brussels at a German Marshall Fund (GMF) conference on transatlantic relations underlined how the transatlantic harmony painstakingly reconstructed in the past few years could vanish.

The GMF is a nonpartisan U.S. public policy and grant-making institution whose goal is to promote greater co-operation and understanding between the United States and Europe. The conference underlined how far the two sides have come – and how they could still diverge.

**Continued on page 30**

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**Most Gaza evacuees have now been compensated — see page 29**

## The News in Brief

### Canada

#### Website Pulled

**TORONTO** — A Farsi-language website that recruited suicide bombers and offered a link to Hamas' website has been removed. It was pulled after the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center contacted Groupe iWeb Technologies, a Montreal Internet Service Provider (ISP), and asked it to terminate the website for violating Canadian laws and the ISP's code of conduct. The site was operated by a registrant from Iran and according to *IranPressNews*, it began operation in mid-February in the United States under the auspices of the global Islamic suicide-bombers security brigade. It was pulled by its American ISP but appeared to have found a new host in Canada until its removal last week.

#### June Hate Trial Set

**MONTREAL** — A Montreal man will go on trial June 12 to 16 in Quebec Court for creating and operating a racist website that included cartoons hostile to Jews and blacks, images of swastika tattoos and Nazi-themed video games. Jean-Sebastien Presseault, 29, was arrested in 2003 and is charged under the hate propaganda section of the Criminal Code. His site, which was still online this month, praises right-wing U.S. extremist Timothy McVeigh, who was executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Presseault's lawyer said the court has no jurisdiction, since the site's host is in the United States, but the Crown said a Canadian court can intervene because the site was run from Montreal.

#### BMO Gives $750,000

**WINNIPEG** — Tony Comper, president and CEO of BMO Financial Group, presented $750,000 last week to Gail Asper of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights campaign. Asper has raised more than $60 million in donations and $140 million from government sources for the $311-million project, slated to open in 2010.

### World

#### Neo-fascist in Cabinet

**WARSAW** — Roman Giertych, who leads a party linked to anti-Semitism, was named Poland's education minister last week. His League of Polish Families, which joined the governing coalition last week, has its roots in Endecja, the ultra-nationalist party his grandfather led in the 1930s that was one of the most anti-Semitic political groups in Europe. Giertych is honorary chair of the All-Polish Youth, a skinhead group whose members have been seen giving Nazi salutes. In the 1930s, it led attacks on Jewish students.

#### Times Editor Dies

**NEW YORK** — A.M. Rosenthal, the longtime executive editor of the *New York Times* who became a staunch defender of Israel in later years, died May 10 at 84. He is credited with revitalizing the *Times* during his tenure as executive editor from 1977 to 1986. After Rosenthal retired as editor, he often addressed Israel and anti-Semitism in his twice-weekly column for the *Times*. The son of a Russian Jewish immigrant, he was born Abraham Michael Rosenthal in Canada.

#### Yiddish Actress Dies

**NEW YORK** — A leading Yiddish actress, Luba Kadison Buloff, died May 4 in New York at 99. She played countless roles in eastern Europe and then New York for decades, including Willy Loman's wife in the Yiddish production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, and often co-starred with husband Joseph Buloff.

#### Berenstain Bears Encounter Civilization

**OTTAWA** — The children's interactive exhibit "Growing Up With the Berenstain Bears" will open at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Que., May 27 and continue through August.

The Berenstain Bears

The show is based on the illustrated children's book series created by Americans Stan and Jan Berenstain. The couple produced more than 200 Berenstain Bears books starting in 1962, which have sold more than 150 million copies. The books follow the everyday life of a typical suburban family – of bears.

Visitors enter the Berenstain Tree House and join Mama, Papa, Brother and Sister Bear on a "paws-on" adventure in Bear Country. The couple's son Mike Berenstain, a co-author and illustrator on the series, will attend the exhibit's opening weekend to present readings and sketch demonstrations.

Since Stan's death last November at 82, Mike and Jan have continued to create new books. The family was inspired by the Berenstain household in suburban Philadelphia.

In his 2002 autobiography, *Down a Sunny Dirt Road*, Stan wrote about growing up Jewish in a lower-class Philadelphia neighbourhood.


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# *Girl, 11, names newly discovered micro-organism*

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

An 11-year-old Toronto girl is the co-winner of a "Name a New Species Contest" sponsored by Maple Tree Press

Hannah Walsh, a Grade 6 student at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, was one of more than 1,000 children from seven to 15 who entered the contest, which required naming a newly discovered salt-loving halophile microorganism. Her submission of "salsolis" ("sal" is the Latin for salt and "solis" is sun) was also entered by eight-year-old Duncan Uszkay of Oakville.

"I was reading *OWL* magazine and at the back there was an advertisement for a contest and it was to name a new species of halophiles, which is a creature that loves salt and sun, so I decided to try and enter and see what would happen," said Hannah. "I didn't think I would win. But I did."

The contest, which ran from November 2005 to March 2006, was open to children across Canada as well as the United States.

"I thought it was pretty cool to be able to name a new species," said Hannah, who in 2003 won *The CJN*'s Purim drawing contest. "I knew that animals had scientific names that are mostly Latin. I used an online dictionary to search for things for what [the organism] likes the most, salt and sun."

Hannah Walsh

Hannah said it took her about 10 minutes to come up with the appropriate name, which she constructed entirely on her own. The newly named salsolis flourishes in water 10 times saltier than the sea and is completely resistant to ultraviolet rays.

Hannah's father, Bob Walsh, was surprised by the news of her win.

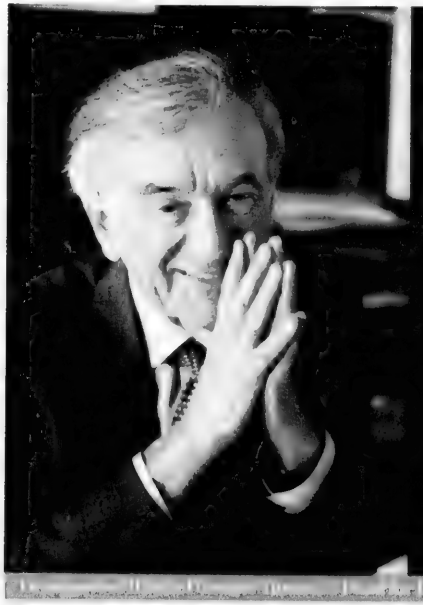
"Carol [Hannah's mother] and I didn't even know until she said, 'Hey, I won the contest,'" said Walsh.

"We said, 'Well, what contest?' She did it completely by herself. She likes to do things on her own. She's independently minded that way."

Walsh is incredibly impressed by Hannah's achievement.

"We're very proud, as you might imagine. It's really kind of neat that by naming a species, you've made your mark in a way," he said.

**Continued on page 17**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# Editors meet again in Jerusalem

*From the editor's desk*

When Yasser Arafat launched his war of terrorism against Israel in October 2000, one of his aims was to bring Israeli society to its knees. Murder by suicide bombers would be too much for the Jewish society whose abiding concern for human life, Arafat believed, was also its Achilles heel.

But Arafat was wrong. Spectacularly so.

Israel suffered horribly from the unprecedentedly cruel campaign of wanton killing of civilian men, women and children. The slaughter was ghoulish. And the grief was great.

But Israeli society did not collapse. Once the nature and extent of Arafat's war was understood, Israel retrenched.

With resolve unmatched anywhere in the western world, Israelis reinvigorated the battle in defence of their lives and their homeland and resumed normal life. It will be to the everlasting credit of Israeli society that it did not collapse, either in panic, hysteria or hatred, under the weight of such existentially searing, frequent mourning.

But it will not be to the everlasting credit of those of us in far-away lands who, because of the terrorism and violence, did not visit the Jewish state between 2000 and 2005. Sometimes it is important to rise above our fears. In the main, however, we did not do so.

Prior to 2000, the World Zionist Organization sponsored and arranged a biannual gathering in Jerusalem of Jewish journalists from around the world. The gatherings achieved two very important results: they provided journalists an opportunity to explore and discuss many of the key issues of the day in a deeper, more comprehensive manner; and they provided an opportunity for journalists to meet new colleagues, share information, exchange ideas, relate to common concerns and establish friendships.

But Arafat's intifadah brought an end to the biannual gatherings. Too few journalists signed up for them. They slipped, eventually, into the category of good memories and things that were good while they lasted.

Last week, however, those good memories of pre-intifadah gatherings of Jewish journalists were revived. Through the efforts of the Israel Press Service and Samin Public Relations in Jerusalem, 27 editors from four continents met in Israel to resume the gatherings and start anew the discussions of years earlier.

The five-day conference began on May 7. *The CJN* was part of a diverse group that included editors from Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Dan Panorama Hotel in Jerusalem was our base. From that pleasant, well-located hotel in central Jerusalem, we travelled on different days south to the Negev, west to Tel Aviv and north to Nazareth, in search of new stories and memorable experiences. We succeeded in finding both.

The program was excellent, if exhausting, and featured in typical Israeli style, no holds-barred presentations by the many people with whom our group met. Over the next few issues, I will record some of its highlights in this space and introduce readers to an editor who flew from Sweden to participate in the conference.

* * *

After registration and introductions, we travelled to where the view of Jerusalem is breathtaking, to Hebrew University on Mount Scopus.

We ate dinner with students from overseas, including three Canadians from Toronto, Hamilton and Victoria, and listened to Prof. Menachem Magidor, president of the university, and to Prof. Robert Aumann, the recent Nobel Prize laureate in economics.

Magidor wanted primarily to introduce the group to the history and present contributions of the university. The university is known far and wide. "It is Israel's most important research institution," he told us, "rooted in Jewishness, excellence, scientific and scholarly research."

As an illustration of the university's far-reaching influence, Magidor told us that some 25 members of the faculty of agriculture at the University of Beijing are graduates of Hebrew University.

He pointedly told us that one of his chief concerns for Israeli society is for its "Jewishness." He clarified his use of the term, not in a demographic sense, but in a deeper sense involving all aspects of its culture, learning and society.

Magidor was the first to speak openly with us. Indeed, all the people with whom we would subsequently meet conveyed only unvarnished opinions.

In direct contrast to Magidor's opinion, though, Aumann said, "Jewishly, we are doing okay. Democratically, we are not." He was expressing his deep disappointment with the public excoriation of a soldier the week before who had refused to shake the hand of the chief of staff while accepting a medal for service beyond the call of duty at a ceremony at the president's residence. The soldier could not, in good conscience, shake the hand of the chief of staff who had directed the removal of settlers from Gush Katif last summer; his family had been among them.

When asked, however, what had been, for him, the most moving moment of the Nobel Prize ceremony, he answered: "Seeing the Israeli flag fluttering next to the Swedish flag."

More next week from the International Conference of Jewish Newspaper Editors, May 7-11, 2006, in Jerusalem.

—*MBD*

SeeJN

## AMBULANCE DONATED

**London Friends of Canadian Magen David Adom recently dedicated a fully equipped, and Canadian-made, ambulance for MDA in Israel. Before the dedication on Yom Ha'atzmaut, donors met for a reception. Following this, those present went outside and stood by the ambulance, where they were welcomed by London CMDA chapter co-chair Lorna Brooke. From left are London chapter CMDA committee members, Marian Sherman, Lorna Brooke, Naomi Sheinbaum, Pepa Livingstone, Vera Schweitzer and Miriam Lazarovits.**

# Israelis committed to more withdrawals: analyst

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Israel's recent election underscored the fact that a clear majority of Israelis are committed to further withdrawals from the territories and favour a humane, sensitive approach to economic policy, says an Israeli political scientist.

In an analysis of the results of the March 28 election, Haifa University professor Gabriel Ben-Dor said that most Israelis want to disengage from the Palestinians while maintaining Israel's security and preserving Israel's social welfare safety net.

Delivering the annual Harry Posen lecture at Holy Blossom Temple, Ben-Dor said the parameters of the election campaign were set by the centrist Kadima party and the left-of-centre Labor party, which, along with other parties, formed a coalition government earlier this month after weeks of wrangling.

For Kadima's Ehud Olmert, the election was essentially a plebiscite on Israel's unilateral pullout from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank last summer and the prospect of more withdrawals from Judea and Samaria.

For Labor leader Amir Peretz, the election was about Israel's social agenda after severe budget cuts by the previous finance minister and the need to throw a lifeline to 30 per cent of Israelis who live below the poverty line.

The election also showed that increasing numbers of Israelis are pragmatic and inward-looking and are alienated from unwavering ideological political causes, such as the preservation and expansion of existing West Bank settlements, Ben-Dor noted.

He said that Peretz, a former trade unionist, faces the task of rebuilding his credibility with his constituents, because he accepted the post of defence minister after making promises to close the widening social gap in Israeli society.

Ben-Dor said that while Olmert, the new prime minister, is "a man of few principles," he is nonetheless a suave politician who knows how to play the political game.

"He just wants to do a good job. What's wrong with that?"

Garbriel Ben-Dor

Ben-Dor said that Kadima, with 29 Knesset seats, fell short of replicating the still unsurpassed feat of the old Mapai party, which won 47 seats in the 1959 election and was thus able to dominate Israeli politics.

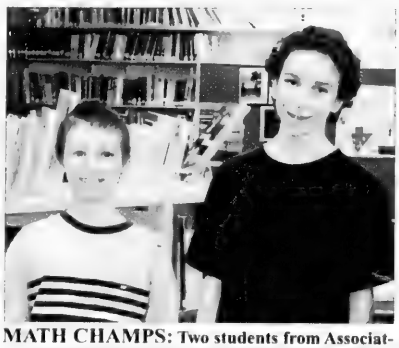
The Likud, under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu, "crashed badly," while the centrist Shinui party disappeared altogether, he noted.

Meanwhile, the Labor party managed to maintain its seat count, while the leftist Meretz party had its thunder stolen by Kadima on foreign policy issues and by the Labor and Pensioners parties on social matters.

According to Ben-Dor, the election confirmed ultra-nationalist politician Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the Yisrael Beiteinu party, as a pivotal figure, even though he was not invited into Olmert's cabinet.

Ben-Dor cited the emergence of the single-issue Pensioners party as the most important development of the election, but he did not elaborate.

Shas, the party that represents the right-wing Sephardi working class, is likely to remain the third largest force in the Knesset for the foreseeable future, he said, adding that the Arab parties, which espouse radical positions, continue to be marginal and are in no position to "dictate" to the Jewish majority.



**MATH CHAMPS: Two students from Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack Middle School on Finch Avenue tied for top spots at the recent Canadian National Mathematics League Competition. Grade 7 student Marky Freeman, right, tied for first place in Ontario, while Grade 6 student Aaron Goldberg, left, tied for third place. Nationally, Associated's Grade 6 students ranked in the top five per cent, its Grade 7 students in the top three per cent, and its Grade 8 students in the top six per cent.**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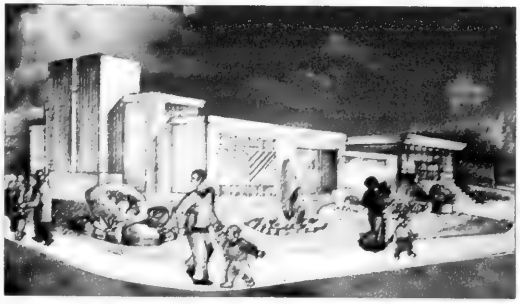
# Chabad Richmond Hill to get its own building

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*



Chabad Lubavitch of Richmond Hill will break ground for a new building on June 4.

It's evident that larger quarters are needed as director Rabbi Mendel Bernstein gives a visitor a tour of the current 3,000-square-foot storefront at Bathurst Street and Elgin Mills Road on a recent weekday morning.

As preschool children are happily occupied with arts and crafts projects, Rabbi Bernstein opens a door into a modest-sized adjacent storage room. "On Shabbos, all the preschool stuff goes in here, and we take out the tables and chairs [for services]," he said.

On average, the Saturday morning service draws between 70 and 90 people, he added. "There is a real mix – Canadians, Russians, and a few Israelis." Services are also held Monday, Thursday and Sunday mornings.

The rabbi and his wife, Toby, moved to Richmond Hill in 1997, and got the local Chabad off the ground in their home, using it as synagogue and preschool.

The 40-year-old father of nine – a native of London, England, who left there at age 15 to study in Israel, New York and South Africa – said he realized Richmond Hill was "underserved" when he ran a Chabad day camp in Thornhill and saw an increasing number of children from the area.

Currently, the closest synagogue in the area is Beit Rayim, a Conservative egalitarian congregation at Bayview and Weldrick avenues, about seven kilometres away, he said. It's expected to move to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 50-acre Lebovic campus, about 3 kilometres south on Bathurst Street, in 2008.

Before Chabad moved to its current Richmond Hill quarters, the organization rented space at Yonge Street and Elgin Mills, but it "wasn't practical," according to Rabbi Bernstein, because most of the Jews in Richmond Hill live closer to Bathurst Street.

Chabad's preschool has grown from 10 children the first year to a total of 100. The organization also runs a Sunday Hebrew school from senior kindergarten to Grade 7 at Silver Pines Public School, with just over 200 students.

The new Chabad Romano Centre will be located diagonally opposite the current location, on the west side of Bathurst, just south of Teston Road (the continuation of Elgin Mills).

The building, which Rabbi Bernstein expects will be open in late 2007, will have 25,000 square feet of space to house a school, a mikvah, and a sanctuary and auditorium that – combined – will accommodate more than 600 people. It will be located on a 2.5-acre site donated by land developer Mario Romano of Castlepoint Development.

Romano told *The CJN* that, when he was growing up in Buenos Aires, most of his neighbourhood friends were Jewish. Today, he added, his friends and the people he works with are also predominantly Jewish.

As well, he said, the Bathurst Street area around the planned centre is "basically... a Jewish community. I wanted to have respect for that."

Chabad's growth in the area is evidenced, among other things, by the recent hiring of Rabbi Shlomo Vorovitch as youth director.

The native of Siberia, who spent the past dozen years working at the Jewish Russian Community Centre, will be responsible for the Hebrew school and youth programs, including children's Shabbat programs and a monthly "Youth Zone" program for children from ages six to 11.

Although he's 38 years old and a father of five, Rabbi Vorovitch, a hockey buff who studied education in Moscow, says he's "still a child inside."

He is, however, planning to institute programs for parents next year as well.

"It's important that parents know what their kids are learning," said Rabbi Bernstein.

For further information about the ground-breaking, go to chabadrichmondhill.com.

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# UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA RENEWS ITS PRESENCE IN CANADA

from left: Ron Yekutiel (Vice-President); Prof. Ada Spitzer (Vice-President of External Relations and Resource Development, University of Haifa); Hetty Shapiro (National Executive Director); Peter Biro (President).

Toronto lawyer, and partner in the law firm Goodman and Carr LLP, Peter L. Biro, was elected National President of Canadian Friends of Haifa University at a recent board meeting held in Toronto

Biro has been active in a number of Jewish and other community and political organizations and has been an outspoken human rights and civil liberties advocate. The boards on which he has served include West Toronto Support Services for Senior Citizens and the Disabled. He has published extensively on legal and political affairs and has chaired, presented and taught at various conferences and academic institutions

Canadian Friends of Haifa University was founded by Ray Wolfe ז"ל in 1973. Commented Prof. Ada Spitzer, Vice-President of the University of Haifa, "We are confident that with Peter's enthusiasm and passion for our cause, and Hetty's professional experience, together with our wonderful group of dedicated Board members, that Canadian Friends will be re-energized and rejuvenated."

"The university is renowned for its academically-challenging programs and pluralistic community of students and faculty," said Spitzer. "With a student body of 23,500, 16,500 are enrolled in under-graduate and graduate programs. We are very proud of our accomplishments, especially the contribution we have made toward peaceful coexistence," remarked Spitzer. "New immigrants, foreign students, Jews, Arabs and IDF officers live and work alongside each other in an atmosphere of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect."

The Hon. Gerry Weiner (Montréal) and Ron Yekutiel (Toronto) were elected as Vice-Presidents and Michael W. Davis was named Chairman of the Board. Ari Kashton was appointed Secretary-Treasurer and Guy Berman was appointed Honorary Counsel. Directors are: Prof. Howard Aster; Oliver Bush; Glenmorris Cohen; Sam Crystal; Dr. Michael Dan; Elham Farah; Deputy Mayor of Toronto, Mike Feldman; Howard Gerson; Juan Gutierrez; Steffi Halton; Ross Hendin; Marvin Sadowski; Prof. Stephen Scheinberg; Stephanie Shaffer; Dory Tuvim; Dr. Edward Wein, and Vivienne Ziner. Hetty Shapiro is the National Executive Director.

For more information please call Canadian Friends of Haifa University 416.972.9400.

photograph by Al Gilbert, CCM.

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is delighted to announce that

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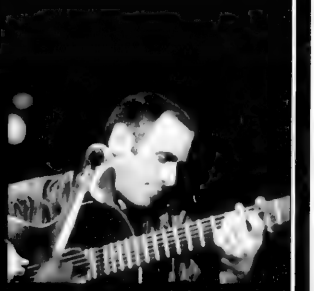

Sunday, November 19, 2006 - Fairmont Royal York, Toronto

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Proceeds from the Tribute Dinner campaign will establish The Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism at the University of Haifa

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Editorials & Letters

Dry Bones B.SHNAIDER!
ISRAEL SAYS IRAN WILL HAVE NUKES IN TWO YEARS.
BUT BUSH SAYS IT'LL TAKE FOUR YEARS!!?!
WELL IT'S OBVIOUS WHAT'S HAPPENING.
BUSH WOULD RATHER HAVE HILLARY DEAL WITH IT.
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# Trickster, hater, demagogue as hero

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was in Indonesia last week to meet with counterparts for discussions on the state of the Muslim world. While there, he went on a publicity offensive, exploiting every opportunity to meet with media to impart his point of view on the key issue preoccupying most of the western world – his country's nuclear program.

"Iran is ready to engage in dialogue with anybody. There is no limit to our dialogue," Ahmadinejad told Indonesia's Metro TV. The Iranian president may indeed be willing to "engage in dialogue" on the subject of his country's nuclear ambitions. But to no end that would be acceptable to the West: for he has repeatedly rejected any restrictions on Iran's right to weapons-grade enrichment of uranium and fumed at the possibility of Security Council curtailment, control or monitoring of his country's true enrichment program. Thus his purported openness for discussion is nothing more than a ruse, a trick to enable him to provide his adoring followers press-clipping proof of moderation and reasonableness in his herculean confrontation with the disbelievers of the West.

The prevaricating president's cause was boosted by the failure of the permanent members of the Security Council to press forward at the United Nations with the world's case against Iran. Russia and China did not allow the United States, Britain and France (and Germany, too, though not a permanent member of the council) to present a tough-minded resolution compelling Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment program. Further discussions have been postponed for a "few" weeks.

The simultaneous intervention of Mohammed el-Baradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, also boosted Ahmadinejad's cause. "The only solution to the Iran situation is a comprehensive package through dialogue, through negotiation. The more we can go back to the negotiating table, the more we can address grievances from both sides," el-Baradei said.

Nothing could more usefully serve Ahmadinejad's phony arguments than el-Baradei's obsequious, if well-intended, pleading. The issue is not, nor has it ever been, Iran's right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This has been made clear to the Iranian government many times. The real and true issue, as is apparent to all who have followed Iran's duplicity through the many stages of its quarrel with the IAEA, is Iran's desire to develop nuclear weapons. The cumulative effect of el-Baradei's remarks and of the Russian and Chinese obstruction is to simply give Iran more time to continue unimpeded with its dangerous program. Ahmadinejad did exclude one country from his general willingness "to dialogue with anybody." To a group of approving students, Ahmadinejad said, "Israel is doomed to crumble." He would not speak with the Jewish state, he told the impressionable youth. Hanging on his every word, they received the smiling demagogue as their hero.

We urge Canada to impress upon the governments of Russia and China the urgency of the situation. When a trickster, hater and demagogue is treated as a hero, we must all worry. We are all under threat.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Philip Habib, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East, was working around the clock to diffuse a missile crisis between Israel and Syria. The crisis stemmed from Syria installing SAM surface-to-air missiles in eastern Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin agreed to give Habib the time he needed to resolve the issue.

## Israeli policy saves Jewish lives

Michael Mandel is on the wrong side of morality ("Israeli policy puts Jewish lives at risk," letter, *CJN*, April 21). The Palestinians chose Hamas, a terrorist organization that despises the West and whose sole purpose is to destroy Israel and the Jews, to act on their behalf. There is no peace with Hamas. Mandel is missing the bigger picture. Islamist countries are waging war against Israel, world Jewry and the West, via the Palestinians. Is he blaming terrorist suicide bombings worldwide on Israel's legitimate acts to defend its citizens? Islamists believe that Israel was given to them by Allah and that Islam should govern all world religions. If he is concerned about his "stake in Israel" and his "responsibilities to it," he should turn his immediate attention and concern to the Iranian president's belief that Israel must be "wiped off the map." He wants all the Jews killed. A nuclear bomb will also kill the Palestinians.

**Rosanne Stein**
**Bracebridge, Ont.**

* * *

## Yom Hashoah memorial program

The recent hoopla over the Yom Hashoah memorial program ("Group of rabbis withdraw from Yom Hashoah event," CJN, April 21; "Why we chose not to attend," *CJN*, April 27; "Yom Hashoah memorial program," *CJN*, letters, May 4) shows how a self-righteous platform can bring about completely perverted judgment. Even a Reform rabbi knows the Orthodox viewpoint that a Jew is prohibited from listening to women sing. Conversely, even Reform rabbis are not prohibited from hearing males-only sing. To publicly boycott a Holocaust memorial ceremony because one's choice of a program is not provided is no less an affront to the entire Jewish nation than Holocaust denial.

**Rabbi Meir Wagner**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Walk expresses our bond with Israel

On May 28, thousands of community members will be crowding downtown Toronto streets to walk with Israel and celebrate Israel's accomplishments.

Although, as Deborah Maes points out in her letter to the editor ("Jewish events promote materialism," *CJN*, April 27), participants can qualify for prizes, the primary purposes of the Walk With Israel are to express the unbreakable bond that connects us with our Jewish state and to raise funds for children at risk around the world. All of our Walk With Israel literature strongly stresses the critical importance of proudly demonstrating our ties to Israel, especially when the world is confronted by evil calls for her annihilation. That is why more than 15,000 people traditionally turn out for the world's largest Israel solidarity walk outside of Israel. It's the most powerful possible response!

We urge every single Jewish community member to join us for Jewish Toronto's most popular annual event.

**Felicia Posluns**
**Nelly Zagdanski**
**Sara Zagdanski**
**Chairs, UJA Federation Walk With Israel**

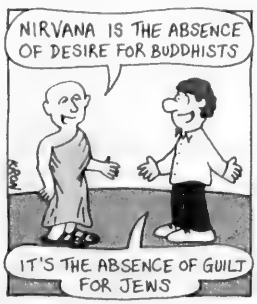
* * *

## We must 'push community leadership'

The letter "Jewish events promote materialism" (CJN, April 27) and Rabbi Flanzraich's guest voice explaining why the Toronto Board of Rabbis withdrew its endorsement of the Holocaust memorial program at Earl Bales Park ("Why we chose not to take part," *CJN*, April 27) are two examples of individuals who have taken personal responsibility and spoken about issues that mattered deeply to them.

We as a people cannot sit by idly about issues that affect our Jewish community. Each of us has a role to play and can contribute to keeping alive the Judaic values that have kept our people vibrant for so many centuries. Each of us must find and express our voices to push community leadership to keep focused on what is important for community unity and Jewish continuity.

**Susan Steinberg**
**Toronto**

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## Ahmadinejad in Germany

It has been widely publicized that Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will be visiting Germany and will be seated in the VIP section while Iran's national soccer team plays. Ironically, the game will be in Nuremberg stadium, just a stone's throw from the very first Nazi marches.

Germany has shown great leadership in enacting laws to prosecute Holocaust deniers and has been generally supportive of all measures denouncing racism and anti-Semitism. Since Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial remarks and his call for the destruction of Israel were made in Iran, in all probability, he cannot be prosecuted in Germany unless he were to repeat his hateful rhetoric while there. Nonetheless, he can only come to Germany on the invitation of the German government. I would ask that all your readers write to the German ambassador to Canada, urging him that Ahmadinejad not be permitted to travel to Germany as a persona non grata.

**Bert Raphael**
**Toronto**

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Perspectives

# 'They will be our witnesses'

By ELI RUBENSTEIN

"We have all just spent a very challenging week in Poland. We have seen the worst level of behaviour that humanity can express, which resulted in the near destruction of Jewish life in eastern Europe. But this evening, when I look out at this sea of young faces, here in our homeland, the land of Israel, and see your commitment and dedication to Am Yisrael, I know that the future of the Jewish People is in good hands."

These words were spoken by Anita Ekstein, Holocaust survivor, hidden child and national chair of the March of the Living, to Canadian march participants, at a special ceremony in Israel held on the eve of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

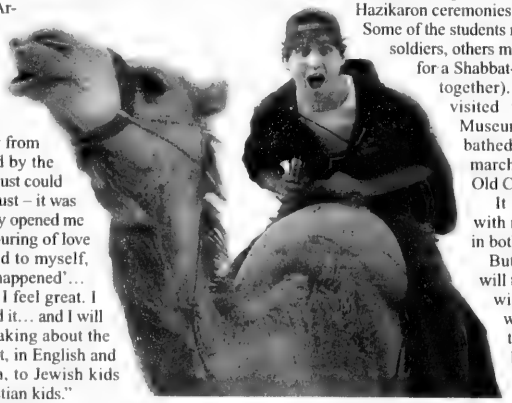
"I am certain that I speak for all of my fellow survivors," she continued, "when I say, that travelling with 500 Canadian Jewish teens to Poland, and being here together with you in Israel – there is simply no better feeling in the world. Your presence with us on the March of the Living fills us, the survivors, with the greatest sense of hope possible and helps us truly believe that *Am Yisrael Chai*!"

The March of the Living was founded in 1988 by two Israeli visionaries, Abraham Hirchson (the current Israeli finance minister) and Dr. Shmuel Rosenman. The initial goals of the program included combating Holocaust denial; educating Jewish youth about the history of the Shoah and the acts of courage and sacrifice that occurred during the Shoah; strengthening the bonds of Jewish youth with Israel, thereby enhancing their sense of Jewish identity; fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of racism; and acquainting the young participants with the richness of Jewish life that once existed in eastern Europe.

But during the 18-year history of the March of the Living, one aspect has become a central element of the program: the transmission of memory from survivor to student, from one generation to the next.

On the 2006 March of the Living, each Canadian delegation was accompanied by one or more Holocaust survivors who shared their experiences with the students.

Bill Glied, a survivor from Toronto, explained his reason for participating. "I am very concerned about the continuation of the history of the Holocaust… I don't want the Shoah to disappear into history like the Armenian genocide. I think I succeeded in helping the students understand their responsibility to make sure that what happened should never happen again."



Ben Younger, a survivor from Montreal, felt transformed by the trip. "For most of my life, I just could not speak about the Holocaust – it was too hurtful. But the kids, they opened me up… When I saw the outpouring of love and affection for me, I said to myself, 'I've got to tell them what happened'…

"Now I feel great. I finally did it… and I will keep speaking about the Holocaust, in English and in French, to Jewish kids and Christian kids."

For David Shentow of Ottawa, a Holocaust survivor (and a former Auschwitz inmate), the experience was "inspiring."

"The young people said to me, 'David you opened our eyes,' because I explained to them what it was like to be a survivor. The students couldn't do enough for me on the trip. For many of them, I was like the zayde they never had… The students told me, 'David, this time you will walk into Auschwitz and then you will walk out with us' and they never left my side…

"To me, the March of the Living is not just a journey – it's a sacred pilgrimage."

The 2006 March of the Living was filled with hundreds of meaningful moments, sad and joyous, painful and uplifting.

At the suggestion of Montreal Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, the participants from that city each placed a stone in front of the crematoria in Birkenau as a memorial to the six million. When they were finished, they turned around and realized that they had created a large mound, a temporary yet eloquent memorial to those who perished there. Later, when the Toronto delegation visited Birkenau, many participants took dust from the land of Israel and spread it out over the ruins of the crematoria, reflecting the Jewish custom of burying loved ones with the earth of the holy land.

In Warsaw, all Canadian groups took part in heartening dialogue sessions with Polish Christian students, and met with righteous gentiles.

In Israel, at the Kotel (the Western Wall), many students put on tfillin or kissed the stones of the Wall for the first time. The Canadian delegations all participated in Yom Hazikaron ceremonies to honour Israel's fallen. Some of the students met with wounded Israeli soldiers, others met with their Israeli peers for a Shabbat-long *mifgash* (gathering together). The Canadian groups visited the new Yad Vashem Museum, climbed Masada, bathed in the Dead Sea and marched through Jerusalem's Old City on Yom Ha'atzmaut.

It was a journey packed with meaningful experiences in both Poland and Israel.

But, as March participants will tell you, their interaction with the survivors is what will be cherished among their most precious and hallowed memories from the trip.

Listening to the survivors' stories of their childhoods in towns such as Warsaw, Krakow and Lublin; dancing with a survivor in the courtyard of the Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin or in Jerusalem; or holding the hand of a survivor while he or she walked through Treblinka, Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau or Belzec – these experiences are a life-lasting legacy from the survivors to each March participant.

Although we hope that every survivor will live the lifespan of our ancestor Moses (120 years), reality tells us that Holocaust survivors will not be with us forever, and their ability to take the arduous two-week journey to Poland and Israel diminishes with each year.

We must try to encourage as many of our young people as possible to participate in this remarkable journey while the survivors can still accompany them.

"I go back because of the kids," said Anita Ekstein, who has participated in six marches, "so I can share my story with them while I still can.

"They should learn what happened to our ancestors, because once we are gone, they will be our witnesses."

*Eli Rubenstein is national director of March of the Living Canada.*

Photos by Ryan Blau and David Zvi Epstein

# Analyzing suicide terrorism

Suicide bombings perpetrated by Palestinian terrorists against Israeli civilians have to a great extent defined the pace and tone of Israeli-Palestinian relationships since they first began in 1993. And since they reached their peak during the early years of the second intifadah, there has been a measurable decrease in the number of successful attacks. Nonetheless, as recently as earlier this month, Hamas' political leader, Khaled Meshal, when addressing a group of students in Damascus, once again declared that suicide bombing is a "natural right" of the Palestinians in their ongoing struggle "to defend themselves."

*Lawrence Hart in Hamilton*

What Meshal's pronouncement underscores is that, despite the retribution and suffering that suicide terrorism has wrought on its own people, Hamas still embraces such extremism as an essential strategy in its ongoing war against Israel. But for many nations, particularly those who have themselves felt the sting of terrorism, this barbaric practice has become an anathema.

Gone are the days when the conduct of the bomber could be defended on the basis that "these are desperate acts" by people "driven to desperation," as was once espoused by perennial Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi, for example. And while desperation, stemming from a variety of sources, is a probable factor that motivates prospective shahids, it is by no means the only variable that steers them in their perverse quest for self-destruction.

This should not be overlooked because, if it is, there follows the trap of acknowledging the bombers as victims, thereby rationalizing their motives and ignoring the misguided framework in which they operate. Rather, the ideology that underpins suicide terrorism should be viewed as a unique example of political exploitation combined with a delusional pattern of behaviour that finds sustenance in the group that nurtures it.

As stated by psychologist Irwin Mansdorf (*Jerusalem Letter/Viewpoints*, April 15, 2003), "It's actually group dynamics that reinforce behaviour within a Palestinian-Arab culture where suicide bombers are viewed as heroes whose faces are prominently displayed on public posters and where families of bombers are showered with both respect and financial reward."

So, when someone like Meshal continues to proclaim the legitimacy of suicide bombing, the world should again be taking note and reacting accordingly. Moreover, as suggested by columnist Bradley Burston last month in *Ha'aretz* (April 21), it's about time that Hamas and their ilk to begin to recognize that "the shahid bomber, [in] soiling the name of Islam as he acts in the name of Allah, has soiled the name of Palestine as no one else, draining the Palestinian people of the abundant reservoir of international goodwill that their cause and their plight enjoyed for decades."

He adds: "There are few acts [that] are more obscenely pornographic than human bombs who target the innocent and the uninvolved."

# Jerusalem, real and imagined

Jerusalem Day, May 25, commemorating the conquest (or, as many would prefer, the "liberation") of Jordanian east Jerusalem and the city's subsequent unification as the united capital of Israel, lies just around the bend. In 1998, the day of celebration was upgraded to the status of a national holiday, sending a clear message to the so-called peaceniks (who were seen as being overly compromising regarding the city) and, of course, to the Palestinians.

*Ross Culiner in Jerusalem*

The annual festivities will be marked this year, as always, by people advancing in droves upon the Israeli capital from around the land and beyond its borders. Long processions of soldiers, schoolchildren, scouts, pensioners, politicians, military units, right-wing political action groups, tourists and Christian friends will strut proudly and defiantly up the mountain and down through the city streets in an impressive demonstration of support for the principle of Jerusalem as the eternal, undivided capital of the Jewish people and state.

The Kotel plaza will be spruced up and jam-packed. In a host of ceremonies and rallies, politicians, mayors, diplomats, religious leaders and government officials will muster all of their rhetorical skills to give fit and moving expression to the enormous significance of the historical return of the Jewish people to the spiritual and political heart of the nation. Meanwhile, in far-off lands at dozens of parallel events in synagogues, churches, embassies and halls of power, distinguished persons, some holding high office, will express their unqualified solidarity with the idea of a united Jerusalem under the Israeli flag.

And then, at day's end, as the sun slowly sets on the fizzling celebrations and the torrent of high-minded declarations dwindles and fades, I will take my customary stroll down the badly littered, depressingly half-vacant streets lined with banners and streamers, streets from which the legions of merrymakers will have already departed. That awesome tide of cars and buses which, like an enormous sea swell, had earlier in the day inundated the city, will by then, with an equal but opposite determination, be withdrawing from it just as fast as their little combustion engines will carry them down the steep and winding mountain highway toward the Elysian fields of the coastal plain,where life, as most Israelis see it and actually want to live it, is to be found.

And I will observe all this and reach the same cynical conclusion – namely, that there is Jerusalem, and there is *Jerusalem*. The first is the city in which some of us live, and the second is more of an ideal than a locale, with a name inscribed in the heavens in bold capital letters, and capable of arousing powerful emotional responses and eliciting statements of firm commitment – but only in an abstract, non-committal sort of way.

For poor old Jerusalem remains the kind of place people fight to the death over, but wouldn't, as a rule, be caught dead living in. And all the Jerusalem Days and Jerusalem Day laws, ceremonies and rallies – with their proud and patriotic speeches about never giving up a square inch of our Eternal Capital because of a thousand quotes and references to it in religious texts, prayers and historical documents – will not, and cannot change one simple truth: that although Judaism and Jerusalem are perhaps inseparable, Jews and Jerusalem, as the dry data show, are certainly not.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand lose its cunning…" and so on. Perhaps. But that does not curb the steady, uninterrupted outward migration of ordinary Jews from Jerusalem to just about everywhere and anywhere else, while the relative proportions of Palestinians and haredim among the city's population grow. And soon enough, all things being equal, we will lose our national capital, not with a bang, but with a whimper.

And if you stick around long enough, to the very end of Jerusalem Day – to when the gleeful Zionist celebrants have all vanished – you, too, will see the municipal work crews of Arabs head into the silent and empty parks to clean up after us, and the haredim come out of their places of hiding from us. And the Holy City will once again be what it always was, and still is.

*Culiner@netvision.net.il*

# Living well is the best revenge

For Jews, and particularly for Israelis, a visit to Russia today is an exhilarating experience and an important reminder that Jewish history is not only about tragedy and disaster.

Walking the streets of Moscow is like visiting another planet. It's difficult to recall that for decades, this was the centre of the Communist empire that Lenin and Stalin created, and that waged war on the Jewish people and Israel. At the time, it seemed like this evil empire was invincible.

*Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem*

For many years, beginning with Stalin's reign of terror, anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism went hand in hand. Synagogues were closed, Jewish activists were arrested and leaders were killed after show trials, while the rest were forbidden from leaving the Soviet "workers' paradise." The armies of Egypt and Syria were armed and trained by the Soviet Union, and on some occasions, Soviet troops, including pilots, were directly involved in attacks against Israel. Moscow also supported PLO terrorists and helped build PLO leader Yasser Arafat's infrastructure during this period.

But suddenly, 15 years ago, Russians, including Jews, were freed from the house of bondage. Synagogues have since been reopened and rebuilt, including the kosher café in Moscow's Marina Roscha Jewish community centre. And old-style Jewish politics have been revived, as rabbis from inside and outside Russia battle for influence with President Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin, while denouncing their rivals.

Many of the new oligarchs – who are very wealthy and powerful – are Jewish, and their lifestyles can be summarized by the phrase "living well is the best revenge." The confidence of successful post-Communist Jews can be compared to the Israelites who left Egypt after the 10 plagues "with their fists clenched" as a symbol of victory over a bitter oppressor and carrying the goods they had earned after generations of slavery.

At the same time, Jews are aware of the ambivalence that Russian society has about its Communist past – the break is not absolute and perhaps not irrevocable.

The images of Stalin have been removed, and while Stalingrad retains its historical importance as the site of the battle against the Nazis during World War II, the city is again known as Volgograd. Similarly, St. Petersburg is back on world maps and Leningrad has been erased.

However, Lenin - the founder of the Communist state – is still widely revered. His body (or perhaps a wax imitation) remains on display in a mausoleum in Red Square next to the Kremlin walls, and a large bust of Lenin is featured at the entrance to the subway stop at the Lenin Library.

And unlike eastern Europe, where the abuses of the secret police have been exposed, disowned and buried, in Russia, the process of revisiting the abuses of the past has barely begun. The KGB headquarters in the dreaded Lubyanka are now occupied by the Federal Security Service – and some of the KGB's feared practices have not changed. But with a massive toy store across the street, the terror evoked by the building's history seems less imposing.

The ambivalence toward the Communist past is also apparent in the behaviour of the former "Jews of Silence," for whom the terror of the Soviet era remains fresh and not entirely buried. For many, the sight of the old police and army paraphernalia, sold as Cold War souvenirs, remains spine-tingling and trivializes the evil of this period. And while Putin is not anti-Semitic (some even refer to him as philo-Semitic), there is a quiet fear that the wealth of the Jewish oligarchs will be exploited in a future wave of Russian anti-Semitism that might accompany the collapse of the fragile capitalist economy. As well, racist assaults in Russia are frequent, and in January, an attacker at the Chabad Bolshaya Bronnaya Synagogue in Moscow stabbed nine people before being subdued.

But the dominant mood in the synagogues and streets of Moscow today is one of optimism and joy at the liberation from bondage. The many teachers and community leaders sent from Israel and the Diaspora to restore Jewish life and learning are visible and busy, despite difficult conditions. To be in Russia today is to touch and be touched by the miracle of a modern Exodus.

The Kirshner File

# Farmers tap potential and promise of Negev

Israel's largest underdeveloped region, the sparsely populated Negev Desert, which comprises two-thirds of its land mass, is surprisingly fertile.

To a Canadian visitor, the Negev looks hopelessly barren and arid, simply unfit for agriculture, but appearances can really be deceptive, as Nimrod Priel and Eyal Izrael can both attest.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Israel*

Priel, 34, manages a vast olive plantation in Revivim, a kibbutz 35 kilometres south of Be'er Sheva where Golda Meir, a former Israeli prime minister, lived at one point in her life.

Izrael, 47, runs a thriving vineyard and winery in the wastes between Sde Boker, David Ben-Gurion's kibbutz, and Avdat, an ancient Nabatean trade centre and caravan stopover.

Innovative and hardworking, they prove the adage that the forbidding Negev is indeed a place of possibilities and promise, as Ben-Gurion tirelessly proclaimed.

"The Negev has huge potential," said Michal Amichai, a young agronomist at the Ramat Negev Desert Agro-Research Centre, more than 30 kilometres south of Be'er Sheva.

Here, close to a military site where Israeli soldiers learn to operate Patriot missile batteries, researchers grow a panoply of vegetables and fruits in greenhouses from tomatoes and peppers to olives and grapes, all irrigated by brackish, or salty, water from local wells.

Revivim, as well as Izrael's farm, is smack dab in the middle of the Negev highlands, where climactic and soil conditions favour agriculture on a commercial scale.

"It's a special part of the Negev," explained Amichai, who has the physique and bearing of an athlete. "The sandy soil interacts well with saline water, and the weather is good."

The Negev highlands are considerably cooler than the Arava, south of the Dead Sea, and the dry weather discourages fungal plant diseases.

"Agriculture is nothing new around here," she added. "Thousands of years ago, the Nabateans cultivated a variety of crops here."

Priel, whose father Victor was raised in Toronto, has been running Revivim's olive plantation since 1995. At 3,500 dunams (about 900 acres), it's the biggest such facility in Israel. "We're a green spot in a very brown environment."

Revivim, which was Israel's southernmost settlement until statehood, produced 3,500 tons of olives last year and will double its output within a few years. Although much of its crop is sold and consumed in Israel, some of it is exported to North America in the form of high-quality olive oil under the brand name of Halutza.

"We have roughly 150,000 trees and several varieties," said Priel. "Barnea, an Israeli type, has quite a strong taste and is flavourful. It makes up half of our yield. We also cultivate Suri, Spanish and Italian olives."

Itzik David, Amichai's colleague at the Ramat Negev Desert Agro-Research Centre, said that the Negev produced 20,000 tons of olives last year, compared with 50,000 tons in the Galilee."Olives can manage with different climates," he said, "but they thrive in the Negev due to the dry air and the low number of insects."

Being aware of the adaptability of olives, the Israelites decided to cultivate them. During that era, immense olive plantations flourished, especially in the western Galilee. Such was their importance that olives are cited in the Bible and rabbinic literature.

**Eyal Izrael, a local winemaker**

Revivim, founded in 1943 as an experimental agricultural station with the assistance of the Jewish National Fund and temporarily cut off by the Egyptian army during the 1948 War of Independence, did not take olives seriously until quite recently.

The earliest settlers cultivated plums, apricots, peaches and avocados. They relied on water from winter runoffs and stored it in a reservoir, knowing that rainfall in these parts measures only 100 millimetres per annum.

With the construction of the National Water Carrier in the 1960s, the farmers of Revivim no longer had to worry about poor rainfalls. But as the price of water skyrocketed, fruit cultivation became economically unfeasible."We had to change to survive," explained Priel. "We looked for a crop that did not require much water and could tolerate salty water."

Olives were the solution.

Thanks to the Jewish National Fund, which has reclaimed virtually all the arable land in the Negev, Revivim became a major olive producer.

Down the road a bit, in a remote gully 600 metres above sea level hemmed in by steep hills, Izrael reigns supreme as the area's premier winemaker.

"We grow beautiful grapes," he said, trying not to sound too immodest.

*[Sheldon Kirshner photos]*

**Agronomist Michal Amichai**

On 24 dunams (about six acres) leased from and developed by the Jewish National Fund, he tends to a boutique vineyard that, he claimed, is unique. "It's planted on a Nabatean vineyard."

Last season, Izrael and his wife, Hana, harvested 30 tons of grapes and bottled 5,000 bottles of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot red wine, each and every bottle for the Israeli market. "We make a good wine," said Izrael, whose brands have won an Israeli gold medal.

A former resident of Haifa who was once an apple farmer on a moshav, Izrael has been here for the past 7½ years, having been encouraged to put down roots by the Jewish Agency, an Israeli institution whose mandate is to settle the land.

"It was like a dream," he said. "I was looking for a project to begin something from scratch. My wife and I both love the Negev. Here you can let your imagination work."

In addition to their vineyard, the Izraels run a six-room bed-and-breakfast inn where guests can sample their homemade jams and pickled olives.

The simple cottages, with atmospheric gravel floors and airy porches, catch pleasant morning and evening breezes. "There is no humidity at all in summer," he said. "People come from Tel Aviv and don't even need air conditioning."

Typically, guests converge on their bed and breakfast to experience solitude, try their wine and tour the farm.

When the Izraels announced their intention to settle in this corner of the Negev, along with about a dozen other families, they were greeted by skepticism.

"People said, 'You're crazy.'"

He, too, wondered whether he could make a success of it.

"We risked a lot of money," he said. "And there were question marks. Would the grapes grow? Could we sell the wine? We were in uncharted territory. It was, like, unknown."

As he readily admitted, the cultivation of wine grapes in the Negev is no small challenge.

"We have to be very accurate in our methods. Conditions are very tough. But you get beautiful results if you take care of things."

He works long hours, aided by his wife and two hired labourers.

"It's never-ending. There is always something to do. We just finished trimming the vines, and now we're preparing the irrigation system.We harvest the grapes in August and September, and wine production lasts from October to December."

Izrael, a rough-hewn man who could have been a poster boy for the kibbutz movement, was interviewed in the first week of March, when spring was in the air and wildflowers were on the cusp of blooming on the desert floor.

In his view, the Negev remains largely neglected due to a lack of national will and budgetary shortfalls.

"The government should channel more funds to the Negev. I hope it will be done."

Meanwhile, he is content with his lot as a pioneer in Israel's last frontier. "It's still very new and very raw. There is work to be done here."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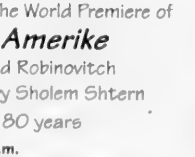



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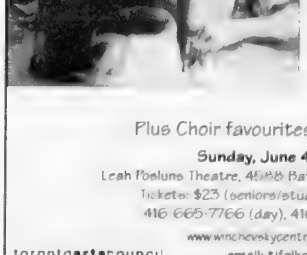

Greater Toronto Area

# Bais Yaakov pays tribute to Rabbi Stefansky

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to the CJN*

*Hakarat hatov* – gratitude – was the message expressed by those who came out on May 7 to pay tribute to Rabbi Akiva Stefansky for his 40 years of leadership at Toronto's Bais Yaakov High School for girls.

In his acknowledgment of the message at the dinner in his honour held at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, Rabbi Stefansky said all he needed to do now was to "figure out what that gratitude is for. [Bais Yaakov] is the effort of many people working *l'shem shomayim* [for the sake of heaven]," he said, adding that his role has been "to serve as a pipeline" for the wisdom of his rebbes and his mother "in the time even before I could understand."

Rabbi Stefansky spoke of the role of Jewish women, as exemplified by the biblical Hannah, from whom Jewish tradition draws the model of how to pray. In her request for a child – "one little soldier" she could give back to God's army – she expressed an attitude and ambition Rabbi Stefansky said typifies Jewish femininity. "This is the model of a Jewish mother."

Hannah's humility, requesting a gift from God purely so that she could return him to God, rewarded her with a son, the prophet Shmuel, he said. "She asked for one little boy to sing in the choir [but was given] a son as great as Moshe and Aharon together."

Born in Vienna in 1925, Rabbi Stefansky originally moved to Israel with his family, but came to New York in 1953 to pursue a career in business. There, he met Rabbi Aharon Kotler, who was a highly respected rosh yeshiva in Lakewood, N.J. Rabbi Kotler told him he was on the wrong path: "You have to go into *chinuch* [education]." After a brief period teaching in Boston, Rabbi Stefansky came to Bais Yaakov in Toronto in 1965.

In a video tribute shown at the recent event, Toronto's Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy said of Rabbi Stefansky: "He should write a book on *chinuch*... He himself is a book on *chinuch*."

Many of Bais Yaakov's over 1,800 alumnae spoke of the influence Rabbi Stefansky and Bais Yaakov had on their lives. Graduate and teacher Sara Bell said that, at first, she thought the rabbi's insular approach was "out of touch" with the real world. Gradually, she said, she realized that "it was I who was out of touch."

The most rewarding part of teaching and guiding students, Rabbi Stefansky said, has been when a student initially resists Torah concepts and gradually, is not only persuaded to accept them, but "comes to firmly defend them as her own."

His message to students and alumnae is that he wants to instil in Jewish girls a deeper love and awareness of their roots and role, a role which differs greatly from that which secular society would have them play. "We have nothing to learn from modern innovators," he said.

"I've been proud to be a conduit of this message in many guises," reaching every student according to her needs, he added.

Standing strong against society's pressure is nothing new for Rabbi Stefansky. Reflecting on the climate in the community when Rabbi Stefansky first arrived in the 1960s, Toronto's Rabbi Mordechai Ochs recalled in the video the struggle to "persuade parents to 'ghettoize' their children" by enrolling them in a Jewish day school.

Today, that struggle continues against influences like the Internet and even university, which many consider a detrimental environment for any Jewish child, boy or girl. In response, Rabbi Stefansky helped create Talpiot College, which offers post-secondary education within the framework of the Bais Yaakov environment and grants degrees recognized by the government of Ontario.

In his keynote address, Rabbi Meyer Schwab of Bais Yaakov in Denver, Colo., spoke of these concerns and praised the tens of thousands of Jewish families Bais Yaakov Toronto has created. "Tzaddikim are not easy to come by," he said, but Rabbi Stefansky is one of "a few planted in each generation."

**SPECIAL SCIENCE CLASS: Grade 3 students Daniella Einhorn, left, and Ariella Serman took part in a special Grade 3 science program recently at Netivot HaTorah Day School with guest science teacher Anita Wein. She taught the students about stability in structures and supervised them as they conducted a series of experiments. [Rebecca Ansel photo]**

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Jewish Life

# Get the gift of the *yovel* – today

**RABBI MORDECAI ZEITZ**

Rabbinic Reflections

I remember times as a child when I pleaded to my friends or even my parents, "Let me do it again!" The third strike in a baseball game or a missed basket in the dying moments of a crucial game, the test I forgot to study for or the investment that might have changed my life – all elicited from me, with full sincerity, the plaintive plea, "That one doesn't count! Let's do it again!"

As adults, we often have the same wish. If only I could do it over again, I know the results would be so much better. I'm sure each of us has had the urge to "do it over again."

Suppose you could start everything all over again. If you could wipe out the past and start fresh, could or would things be different? It's a dream and a luxury we contemplate, but it's a reality that we know in our gut we will never enjoy.

Yet, such a reality is described in this week's Torah reading in the concept of *yovel*, the jubilee year. Everything in Jewish society was based on a 50-year cycle. Nothing was forever. The sale of property and houses, as well as loans, debts and even slavery (where and when it existed) were all valid for a 50-year period. Everything was negotiated in accordance with how many years remained in the *yovel* cycle. In the 50th year, everything returned to the way it was at the beginning of the cycle. Property was returned to its original owner, private debts were cancelled – everything was rewound back to zero, to the original starting point. You literally got to start life all over again.

I can appreciate a second chance being given to members of a new generation who would not be burdened by a past for which they had no responsibility. It's an ideal the Torah sets out as to how things ought to be, but facts in the real world tell us that the same person with the same mindset, confronted with the same situation, would repeat their original action. In other words, for the most part, if we do not learn from our previous mistakes, we tend to repeat the same mistakes, using the same poor judgment that got us into trouble in the first place.

Whether it's in dealing with the recurring challenges of history, or in business decisions, marriages, personal relationships and the rehabilitation of many forms of addiction, we have a tendency to repeat our previous actions. So there appears to be no sense in winding back the clock, because we would merely end up in the same situation. It would only be yesterday, repeated again today.

And so while the dream of "If I could just do it again" appears to be a pipe dream, we should not despair. There is a unique interpretation of the *yovel* experience that can make a difference. Adopting the true *yovel* spirit today can actually spell the difference tomorrow.

We declare daily: "*Hamchadaish betuvo b'chol yom tamid*" – God affords us the opportunity to change direction through our actions every day. The more realistic plan is to modify what happened yesterday by starting fresh the next day with a fresh outlook. Every day is a new day and not a repeat of the past. *Yovel* is not so much about wiping out the past as it is about providing for the beginning of a new chapter. Planning for, and truly believing in, a better today without being overwhelmed by yesterday will set the stage for a more successful tomorrow. *Yovel* tells us that we are not shackled by the missteps of the past. We can have a fresh start every day.

What power! What privilege! What opportunity! But the potential of starting fresh every day and realizing the vast potential of each new day as a great gift given to us by the Almighty is not a dream, and it need not wait for 50 years. The gift of *yovel* can be applied to the here and now by starting every day as if it was the first day of your renewed life. So meet the challenge of daily life by improving today for an even better tomorrow.

*Rabbi Zeitz is spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal.*

# Whither Conservative Judaism?

**By ELLIOTT MALAMET**

Midrashic Moments

All denominations are riddled with cliches foisted on them by others, as is the case with the classic perception of Conservative Judaism.

Summaries of the movement quickly revert to the thesis that it stakes out a "middle ground" between Reform and Orthodoxy, and that it both believes in the binding nature of halachah and the evolution of the same. By definition, an intermediate position means enduring the pull from both ends, and that seems to be a hard place to survive in. And as is well known, the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey found that Conservative Judaism is losing ground, and perhaps even losing its way. Synagogue affiliation is dipping and the movement seems to lack a sense of united purpose and passionate vision.

Testimonies from Conservative thinkers late last year well articulate the problem.

In his keynote address to the United Synagogue convention, Rabbi Neil Gilman of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the movement's flagship rabbinical college, argued that Conservative belief has always been associated with relativity and uncertainty. And Rabbi David Wolpe wrote that Conservative Judaism is "crying out for renewal and revitalization," and that in synagogues that define themselves as Conservative, "the congregants often expect halachic observance from their rabbis, yet they are not moved to emulate them. Conservative Jews are increasingly confused and uncertain about their spiritual direction."

I do not cite these speeches with a feeling of triumphalism. The confusion of any Jew is hardly something to be cherished, unless it's the prelude to clarity and a search for truth. But there is a ring of accuracy to the statements made by these two scholars, one that has profound implications for Jewish education, both on a philosophical and a practical level.

Can there be an "in-between space" in Judaism, where halachah is seriously attended to but not ultimately seen as the last word in one's life? For students, whether they be of preschool or university age, the ideology of the middle ground can be both comfortable and, paradoxically, unsettling. Talking about the need for halachah without really owning it in a genuine way – the 1990 NJPS survey indicated that a vast majority of Conservative Jews do not buy only kosher meat or keep Shabbat – can create a feeling of connection to Jewish tradition, but also a lack of coherence in one's religious outlook.

Of course, coherence is not always attainable or even desirable, in a complex world. But if, after genuine struggle, halachic consistency cannot be achieved, it should at least be an *a priori* goal. I have never understood how personal comfort can be a religious benchmark in any meaningful sense. Isn't the purpose of Torah to challenge people to transcend their present level of spiritual commitment and direction? Is Judaism there to "fit" our already-determined path, or is it meant to draw us into a different, fuller and, yes, sometimes more difficult, set of negotiations with reality?

Ironically, argues Rabbi Jerome Epstein, it may be that some of the gravitation of Conservative Jews toward Reform congregations is precisely because of the former's maintenance of certain standards – for instance, what Epstein calls "a more demanding religious education" or the relatively limited participation in Conservative ritual that is allowed for intermarried families.

Caught between the desire for tradition and the embrace of modernity, young people, as always, will play out the endgame of the Conservative future.

Jewish Life

# Examining religion scientifically

***Breaking the Spell: Religion As A Natural Phenomenon* by Daniel C. Dennett, Viking.**

**Books**
***Bernard Baskin***

The author of this complex and controversial book is a university professor of philosophy and a convinced Darwinian. He asserts that religion plays such a primary role in modern society that it should be examined in a scientific manner.

He asks questions such as these: Why does religion exist? Is it the product of blind evolutionary instinct or rational choice? Do the traditional reasons offered for God's existence make sense? Are religious ideas beneficial? Do religious beliefs provide the best avenue to a life of truth, justice and altruism?

The very title of the volume makes it clear that the author views religion as a kind of pernicious spell that must be broken. He writes: "We should not set aside our traditional reluctance to investigate religious phenomena scientifically, so that we can come to understand how and why religions inspire such devotion, and figure out how we should deal with them all in the 21st century."

A confirmed atheist, the author finds the idea of God unreasonable and even the source of contention and evil. But what about the belief in God? Many people, he is convinced, don't believe in God, but feel that the concept is beneficial because it leads to ethical behaviour.

But is this the case? No, argues Dennett, there is no evidence whatsoever that religious believers are generally better-behaved than non-believers. "I have uncovered no evidence to support the claim that people, religious or not, who don't believe in reward in heaven and/or punishment in hell are more likely to kill, rape, rob or break their promises than people who do."

He points out that the prison population in the United States shows Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims and others – including those with no religious affiliation – represented in about the same proportion as they are in the general population. Others with no religious affiliation exhibit the same range of moral excellence and turpitude as born-again Christians, but, more to the point, so do the members of religions that de-emphasize or actively deny any relationship between moral behaviour on earth and eventual reward and punishment after death.

The author asserts that "plenty of deeply spiritual people – and everybody knows this – are cruel, arrogant, self-centred, and utterly unconcerned about the moral problems of the world. Indeed, one of the truly nauseating side effects of the common confusion of moral goodness with 'spirituality' is that it permits untold numbers of people to slack off on the sacrifice and good works and hide behind sacred masks of piety and moral worth."

Not surprisingly, Dennett is dismayed – even fearful – of the influence of the religious right in the United States and their apocalyptic teachings that include the coming of Armageddon, which will separate the blessed from the sacred on the final Day of Judgment.

Their views are dangerous because they give allegiance to creed ahead of commitment to democracy, peace, (earthly) justice and truth. Moreover, they are willing to take political action to bring about those conditions they think are requisite for the coming of the end of the world

What Dennett seems to lack is any sense of reverence for the sacred. There is no consideration of the consolation of religion in overcoming grief and depression, the role of ritual that acts out and dramatizes the human condition, the warmth of tradition, the expressive and emotive feelings that flow from myth and narrative, or the wisdom and values they contain.

*Breaking the Spell* is provocative, mind-expanding and often convincing, but hardly the last word on a subject of infinite variety and immeasurable depth.

# The readers recommend

**By MARK MIETKIEWICZ**

Once again, I turn the tables and let readers recommend their favourite Israeli and Jewish websites.

Michael Mirsky wants to put Israel into perspective – literally. Mirsky and his family have created a website to convey how large (or small) Israel really is. By overlaying maps of the same scale, this site lets you compare the size of Israel to famous metropolitan areas including London, Berlin and Washington D.C. For example, the distance between the Mediterranean (near Herzliya) and the West Bank is roughly the same as Manhattan and the Bronx. A bit closer to their home in Thornhill, Ont., Michael points out "that the narrowest point of the Green Line is the same distance as from Lake Ontario to Sheppard Avenue." **[http://sizeofisrael.com/]**

Everyone needs a bubbe. Gail Goldstein of Montreal wrote to tell me about a favourite site of hers, Bubbe's Back Porch. Back in 1998, women from around the world shared stories about their amazing grandmothers. Those stories have now found a permanent place at this site. You can find bubbe anecdotes about birth, leaving a homeland, romance, assimilation and, of course, food.

"Bubbe Ida had no recipes. Everything she cooked, baked or stewed was in her head. She never measured anything, either. My father would tease Bubbe. 'How much flour did you use in your teyglach?' he would ask. 'Oh, a glass full,' said Bubbe. 'What size glass?' asked Dad. Enough teasing yelled my mother. She knew you could not push Bubbe too far. I watched her cook. The glass size was always different, yet the end product was pure perfection." **[www.bubbe.com/]**

Yariv Abramovith wrote to tell me about the Israeli environmental organization, Zalul. Zalul (which means "clear" in Hebrew) was founded in 1999 and has successfully fought for the removal of fish farming in the Gulf of Eilat. The gulf's fragile coral reefs have been threatened by pollution caused by the waste runoff from commercial fish farms. But Zalul says the gulf still faces dangers posed by illegal fishing practices, an oil pipeline and tourism. You can read about their other projects at Zalul's bilingual site. **[www.zalul.org.il/en/]**

I received an e-mail about a new podcast titled Chareidio, a clever title combining the words "*chareidim*" and "radio." Without taking themselves too seriously, this podcast presents interviews about such topics as "Science and Torah," and a description of what life will be like after the arrival of the Messiah. I found the humour a bit forced but was interested to hear how this segment of Jewish society is making use of new technologies. **[www.chareidio.com/]**

I regularly get notes from Lawrence Grossman in Benicia, Calif., one of the unsung heroes of the Jewish Internet. Grossman is the creator of the Jewish Webcasting Guide, the best list of Jewish and Israeli radio and television offerings on the web. You'll find everything: links to Israeli radio and TV, audio Jewish classes and programs about Yiddish, Jewish history and music. **[www.jewishwebcasting.com/]** Never one to let a challenge pass him by, Grossman has added a new section to his site where he lists more than 40 podcasts. **[www.jewishwebcasting.com/podcasts.htm]**

We currently are in the seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot, during which we count the "omer," originally a barley offering made in the Temple in Jerusalem. Nowadays, the count is increased by one each evening until we reach the number 49 on the night before Shavuot. There are many calendars, programs and e-mail services available to help keep track of that day's proper count. **[http://tinyurl.com/ed56k]** But my friend David Rothbaum in Kochav Ya'ir, Israel has alerted me to a unique one that uses movie titles of all things. The Movie Lover's Sefirat Ha'Omer Counter uses posters of movies with numbers in their titles to help keep track of that day's count. For example, click on Day 10, you get this: "Today is 10 days (accompanied by a poster for the TEN Commandments), which is one week (ONE Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest) and three days (THREE Amigos) of the Omer." **[http://bangitout.com/movieomer/10.html]**

Do you have a favourite Jewish or Israeli website, blog or podcast? Or have you created one yourself? Tell me about it at the address below and I may mention it in a future column.

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*


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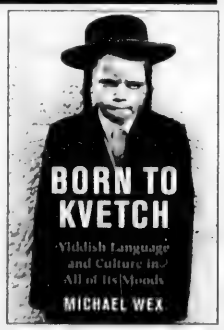


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# U.S. anchor discusses his Judaism

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

When former CNN anchor Aaron Brown was 13 years old, his rabbi in Minneapolis, Minn., told him that a reporter's job is "to give voice to the voiceless."

"Think of our history and all of those centuries when no one heard us," said the rabbi, whom Brown counts as a significant figure in his life. "Think of how different Jewish history would be if in all the times we had been stifled, someone heard us."

It's a principle the veteran U.S. journalist said has guided him throughout his career – and particularly as he's covered the Middle East, even if it's sometimes alienated him from his fellow Jews.

Both Palestinians and Israelis are entitled to a voice, he told the annual UJA Federation donor dinner, May 4 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

"I've done that knowing that neither side would embrace me, and that the rejection of one side, particularly, would be especially painful," he said in a 30-minute speech to 450 guests. "In the end, we all want the love of our families, and I'm no exception. I want to be embraced by my people, because I'm one of them."

Brown – who was once CNN's lead anchor and host of *Newsnight with Aaron Brown,* but was replaced last year by Anderson Cooper – said he has often felt pressured by other Jews to stifle what could be seen as criticism of Israel.

"There is no tougher issue to report on than the Middle East," he said.

Brown recalled doing a story about checkpoints in Israel that examined both the Israeli and the Palestinian positions.

Soon afterward, he received two e-mails almost simultaneously. The first was from "someone of Arab descent," who wrote, "You are a Zionist pig. Just another tool of the Israelis."

The second came from a Jewish doctor, in Denver, Colo. "'You are,' he said to me, 'not better than a concentration camp kapo, selling out his people for money.'"

Brown wrote back: "'At worst, what we have here is an editorial disagreement about the decision I made. That's the worst thing that we have here, and your words were offensive beyond the pale.' And to his credit, he wrote back and apologized, and we remain in touch today."

Brown also spoke of growing up in Hopkins, Minn., near Minneapolis, as one of only a few Jews. "We weren't particularly theologically Jewish, but we understood what it meant."

His maternal grandparents came to the United States from Ukraine and settled in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

He said he's made it a tradition to take his 17-year-old daughter each year to Ellis Island in New York City, where they sit in the Great Hall and talk about how his grandparents "came here, how they lived, how they made their lives, what it must've been like, the courage that they had, the fierceness it must have taken."

He added, "Someday, I hope, she will take her children there and tell the story of her great-grandparents that she never knew."

Referring to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Brown said that "the Israeli side is easier to understand," since Israelis "see their future not in a pipe dream of a greater Israel, but in a two-state solution that will ultimately provide the security that they need and that they deserve."

He said Hamas' victory in recent Palestinian elections was not about most Palestinians favouring Israel's obliteration, but rather about a desire for change in the Palestinian Authority, which was "rife with corruption, slow to deliver social services, health care, education… and had no security."

Brown said the Palestinians voted for Hamas because of their situation, which they felt could not be worse.

"Of course, Hamas could be worse. And they turned out to be worse," he said.

"How can it be that young Arabs find more hope in a suicide belt than in democracy?" he asked. "Hamas understands really well what it means not to be in power. Now all of a sudden, they own a store – they have keys to the store. They don't know how to run foreign policy and they don't know how to run a country either. They do know how to run social services, however, and they certainly know how to run suicide bombers."

Speaking of the anti-Americanism, that is rampant in the Middle East, Brown said the Arab world hates the West because of its foreign policy, but not because of its freedom.

He noted that the United States has supported corrupt governments that have denied citizens basic rights.

"And that has to change," he said.

Brown added that Iran has become further radicalized since 9/11, and "whacking Iran will make attacking Iraq seem like child's play."

In an interview after his speech, Brown said both Palestinians and Israelis have a common desire for peace, but "no one is quite willing to start the process."

He added: "The end is quite clear. The Palestinians will get most of the West Bank and it will be less contiguous than it probably ought to be, certainly than they want. East Jerusalem needs to be dealt with. But by and large, I think both sides know what the final map will look like

"It's totally backwards to how every negotiation works. In every negotiation, starting is easy and ending is hard. This one, you know the end and you can't start it."

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# ש'שאר י'ניגן

## גידי קורן וחברים

**שמור על אמא**

הטיקטוקים יצרו את האימרה הנפלאה "אלוהים לא יכול להיות בכל מקום, לכן הוא ברא את אמא". לתגוג את יום האם זה הרגע ההולם לעצור לרגע ולחשוב כמה האמהות של חיינו עשו אותנו למה שאנחנו. אני רואה אותן בבית החולים ישבות ימים ושבועות ליד ילדיהן, כשכל מה שמבחוץ-קרירה, פינוקים, חיי חברה-הכל נמחק כשחייו של ילד נמצאים בסכנה. הרבה פעמים גם סבתא נמצאת שם. אבא וסבא בדרך כלל באים לבקר אחר הצהריים.

אומרים שהאם היהודיה שונה מכל האחרות. אין לי ספק שאמהות בכל העולם רוצות את הטוב ביותר לילדיהן, אך האם היהודיה תעשה את כל שביכולתה שהילד יקבל השכלה וימצה את יכולתו.

ביום יום שלי-אני משמש בין השאר כפרופסור מנחה לסטודנטים שעושים דוקטורט-רובם מצטיינים ומבריקים מכל התפוצות והצבעים. אבל יש ביניהם לא מעטים עם דימוי עצמי די ירוד, שמביא לחוסר ביטחון ולעתים-לאי יכולת מיצוי אישי. ילדים יהודיים-יש להם בדרך כלל- מה זה ביטחון עצמי ודימוי אישי גבוהי אפילו כשהם בינוניים למדי-ברור שכל ילדותם עמדה שם אמא שהיתה בטוחה שהם איינשטיין או שפינוזה, והיא גם אמרה להם את זה. וכך הם גידלו עמוד שידרה שנושא אותם הכי גבוה שאפשר.

לפני מספר חודשים תגגה אימי הפרטית יום הולדת שמונים, ולכבודה כינסתי את כל שירי האמא שכתבתי ושהוקלטו על ידי זמרים ישראליים, כולל שלמה ארצי, האחים והאחיות ואחרים. בטורונטו נכנסתי לאולפן עם גיטרת שובל וביתה המדהימה תותי דרויאן והקלטנו מספר שירים חדשים לאמהות של חיינו. התקליטור "שמור על אמא" מופץ בישראל. בקרוב נקליט בטורונטו גם דיו.ח.די לכל המשפחה באותו נושא.

או הינה מבחר קטן:

*לוז משולם לוי קטן*
*שאב ונאר אנייר לא*
*שבקנאב מיטו שם כתפ*
*לשלומים ווא אכתפ:*

*שלומים שאנר יא שאנב*
*שלומים שאנר יא שאנב*
*שאנר שלי את פשאנ*
*שלומים שאנר יא:*

*ספנתא רשבא*

*ספנתא רשבא ספנתא רשבא*
*מיא פשאנא יא שאנב*
*מיא פספנתא יא שאנב*
*לכפוים כמסת נריאנ.*

*אי פרוספ מתעא רשבא?*
*כאשן רק ספנתא רשבא*
*מיא נאפב לשני פאן פנים.*
*רש שב פנים, נפנים שם נינים.*

*מיא שפאת בשוא שאתפ.*
*מיא יחדות שם לספר הנימים.*
*אפ נשאר יא ספנתא רשבא?*
*-ספיא בן אוחם שבשב*

**שר ביטחון**

בארץ טוערות הרוחות על מינויו של שר ביטחון שלא היה קצין בכיר או רמטכ"ל. עמיר פרץ נחשב בעיני האצולה הצבאית לאזרח, למרות עשירית בדרגת רב סרן בצנחנים ואף נפצע בזמן שירותו.

מספר כתבים צבאיים ציינו ששרי הביטחון הטובים ביותר של ישראל היו דווקא אזרחים -משה ארנס, שמעון פרס. האין הדבר מפליא-כי איש צבא שבא "מתוך התנגרה" ושרת שלושים שנה במערכת- יהיה לו הרבה יותר קשה כשר ביטחון להביא לשינויים קיצוניים, גם אם הם הכרחיים.

אבל שישאר בינינו.

# Jews in canoes paddle down the Don

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to the CJN*

Graham Fraser, left, Ellie Goldenberg and Sol Isaac tackle some rough water.

For the Jews of the Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario, weekends are about more than bagels and lox – especially perfect, sunny Sunday mornings like May 7, which dawned clear and cool.

For them, it was a great day to canoe into the heart of Toronto.

"It's gorgeous weather. I love canoeing," said Mosaic president Norm Abrams. "It's right up our mandate!"

In two rented canoes, Abrams and five other Mosaic members looked like all the other expectant paddlers waiting to start the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) annual Paddle the Don, a 2½-hour trip down the Don River that includes three portages and several patches of rough water. The event is so popular that the TRCA schedules launch windows for each canoe so the event doesn't turn into a free-for-all.

This was the first trip down the Don for all six Mosaic members, but event leaders Lynne Morris and Graham Fraser weren't worried – they have plenty of canoeing experience, and many Mosaic events include instructional and safety components to help newcomers get off on the right foot.

Mosaic's goals are four-fold: get outside, get active, help the environment and do it all in a Jewish way.

The group, which is affiliated with the Florida-based Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America, has 125 members, plus hundreds more who receive e-mail updates and participate occasionally (most events, except weekend trips, are open to non-members).

Almost every Sunday, all year round, there's something going on – day hikes, bike rides, and canoe trips in the summer; and skiing, snowshoeing and skating in the winter. There are also social events such as dances.

"It's amazing that someone like me, who loves the outdoors, didn't know about this," says Abrams, who only joined a few years ago. As a non-profit organization, Mosaic can't advertise extensively, so word has spread slowly about the group, which is now almost 10 years old.

Mosaic's official Jewish content ranges from Havdalah services at weekend retreats to a discussion on "Talmud and Trees." Most events are held on Sundays, and Abrams rhapsodizes about socializing with other Jews while getting outside and being active.

"There's a common bond, especially when you're hiking," he says.

For singles, Abrams says, Mosaic is "a very non-threatening way to meet." Morris adds that in the six years she's been involved, "quite a few couples have come out of the club."

But Mosaic isn't just for adults. Many events are appropriate for older children who can keep up with an easy hike, or an easy bike or canoe trip (participants under 19 must be accompanied by a parent).

Mosaic's trips are vetted carefully to make sure everyone has the best possible experience. A family-friendly first was planned this year for Lag b'Omer, May 15, at Wilket Creek Park. It featured an easy walk around the park, followed by toasted marshmallows, songs and stories.

A little farther afield, an upcoming July 9 day trip to Rockwood Conservation Area, near Guelph, Ont., will give parents and kids the chance to canoe and hike together – and pick up hiking or canoeing skills, if it's their first time out. Non-members are welcome, and children can take part free with an adult.

Fraser, an experienced Mosaic paddler, said the Don River event in particular helped the group "put environmentalism in a Jewish context" and spread awareness about urban ecology.

Running from the Oak Ridges Moraine north of Toronto into Lake Ontario, the Don is considered one of Canada's most degraded urban rivers. Individual canoeists and kayakers, along with corporate teams, collected pledges to raise funds for the regeneration of the Don watershed. Projects in key sites are restoring wetlands and making the river more fish-friendly.

As an outdoor experience, the Don may look tame, but Morris cautions against judging it too quickly. "It was harder than we thought. There was quite a bit of whitewater… one canoe got quite wet, actually."

But there was lots of sun later in the day to dry everybody out, and Morris says the good weather at most Mosaic events is only natural: "We have a line in with the Boss: He likes Jews getting out."

Membership is $35 per year, while non-members usually pay $6 per event, and children are free. Other fees, such as canoe rental, may apply. Visit www.mosaictoronto.org for more information.

# Paul Penna student names new halophile species

Continued from page 3

"And to have done it at the age of 11 is pretty amazing."

Hannah's Grade 5 classroom teacher and Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School principal Janet Nish-Lapidus agrees. "She is a very interesting, curious, intelligent young woman," said Nish-Lapidus. "I taught her last year and I know that she's a deep thinker, I know that she's a critical thinker. She's very thoughtful, and it would be all those qualities that enabled her to look at that task from different angles."

Hannah was rewarded with a copy of *Strange New Species: Astonishing Discoveries of Life On Earth* by Elin Kelsey.

The halophile species was discovered in the Great Salt Lake in Utah by science student Ashlee Allred. She is a member of a scientific team, led by biochemist Bonnie Baxter, that is conducting research on life in extreme environments on earth as well as other planets.

In a statement, Baxter, who also served on the panel of contest judges, said, "I think researching Latin and applying it should be rewarded. Other kids did look to Latin roots, but this combination is a smooth word, and I can imagine using it in the lab.

"Since this is the most UV-resistant organism that we've tested, I wanted to have something about its ability to survive sun exposure in its name."

Baxter added that studying the salsolis can possibly lead to greater understanding of how to prevent UV damage in humans.

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# Kislowicz tapped for top job with UIAFC

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The Montreal Jewish community is losing one of its most senior professionals, Linda Kislowicz, to Toronto where she will become executive vice president of UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC).

Kislowicz, 54, has been executive director of the YM-YWHA, Montreal's Jewish Community Centre, for the past 4½ years, and has worked for the Jewish community for a total of almost 35 years.

She will assume the UIAFC job, generally regarded as the most powerful within the Jewish bureaucracy, on Sept. 1, continuing at the Y until August. She is replacing Maxyne Finkelstein, another Montrealer, whose appointment as the Jewish Agency for Israel's North American CEO was announced in December. Finkelstein assumes that post, which is based in New York City, this summer.

"I have mixed feelings about leaving Montreal, but I am excited about the opportunity to live and work in a new place," she said.

Kislowicz sees her selection for the job as part of a trend in North America and especially Canada of women being hired for top management positions within the Jewish communal service. "More women are interested and more women are getting the positions," said Kislowicz, who has watched the glass ceiling slowly crack during her career.

Women are still under-represented on the boards of Jewish organizations, she thinks. "We have a dearth of strong female leadership on the lay side. It's an area to be developed."

At UIAFC she will be working with a president from Montreal, Stanley Plotnick, a former president of FEDERATION CJA. Before going to the Y, a federation agency, Kislowicz was executive director of Jewish Family Services of the Baron de Hirsch Institute, another federation constituent.

Plotnick, who chaired the selection committee, said in a statement that Kislowicz was chosen after an extensive search.

"We are delighted that someone with Linda's strong background and experience, knowledge of the federation system and passion for Israel will follow in the footsteps of Maxyne Finkelstein, our current, exceptionally talented EVP."

Kislowicz will be relocating with her husband Joe, a management consultant in information technology. They have two grown sons: Howard in Ottawa, who has just graduated in law and will be clerking at the Federal Court of Appeal, and Barry, a rabbi in Cleveland. They have one grandson.

Kislowicz said she is looking forward to working with Jewish communities across Canada and on Israel-related activities, including the approaching 40th anniversary of UIAFC's fundraising on behalf of the state.

Kislowicz said she does not see her new job as being a fundraiser, but more of representing Canada in its Israel and international affiliations.

UIAFC is the umbrella organization of 10 Jewish federations and regional communities from Vancouver to the Atlantic provinces. It is a national Jewish fundraising organization and community planning body established in 1998 as a result of the reorganization of United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc. and the Council of Jewish Federations of Canada.

Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canada-Israel Committee and the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy are among UIAFC's responsibilities.

# Vandals strike Winnipeg shul

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Worshippers arriving for Shabbat morning services at the Askkenazi Synagogue on May 6 were greeted with smashed windows and stones on the floor of the sanctuary as a result of an attack by vandals overnight.

The synagogue's gabbai, Sol Spitz, reports that altogether 81 panes of glass were broken as a result of the attack and a follow-up assault the next night.

The Ashkenazi is Winnipeg's oldest standing synagogue. The current building was erected in the late 1940s after the previous building was destroyed by fire. The congregation was originally formed in 1915 when the neighbourhood around it was the centre of Jewish life in the city. Today, there is very little that remains of Jewish life in the impoverished area outside of the synagogue, the Chesed Shel Emes and a Jewish seniors home a couple of blocks away.

Nonetheless, the old synagogue still has a daily morning minyan, a Sunday evening minyan and Saturday services. The rest of the week, the congregation combines with two other struggling congregations in the north end for evening services at the other synagogues.

Spitz reports that he has been getting estimates on repairs. Thus far, the estimates raise as high as $5,100.

"This is the first time that this sort of thing has happened here," Spitz said. "A neighbour came over and said that she heard the glass breaking and went outside to see two kids in their early teens running away.

"It's sad that this happened, but what can you do."

The damaged windows haven't disrupted the services. Except for Shabbat morning, the services are held in a smaller chapel area on the side of the main sanctuary.


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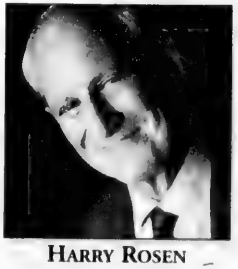

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Coast to Coast

# Buffett's investment part of larger, untold story

Stories about Israel's economy don't often make news in Canada in the face of the usual intense focus on conflict-driven issues. But last week's announcement that Warren Buffett – the second-richest man in the world (after Bill Gates) and widely recognized as the most successful investor in the world, possibly in history – had bought an 80 per cent stake in an Israeli firm captured the attention of the *National Post* and the *Globe and Mail*.

Both the *Post* and *Globe* carried an Associated Press story on April 8 about Buffett's $4-billion (US) purchase of Israeli industrialist Stef Wertheimer's Iscar Metalworking Company in the northern Galilee. "The deal was the talk of the day in Israel… with the news media devoting more attention to the colossal sale than to the evacuation of Jewish squatters in the volatile West Bank city of Hebron," wrote Amy Teibel.

That Buffett chose an Israeli firm for his biggest investment outside the United States was seen in Israel as a great coup. It gave a large boost to the Tel Aviv stock exchange, while Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was ecstatic: "[Buffett] is the greatest investor in the face of the earth. He is not Jewish. He is not a Zionist. He is only saying that he supports the Israeli economy and sees in it what we, even in our dreams, hesitate to say."

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

Maybe so. But one careful observer of Israel's economy disagreed somewhat with Olmert's interpretation of Buffett's investment. Jim Lederman, senior Israel analyst for Oxford Analytica reflected in a telephone conversation about the meaning of Buffett's move: "He bought an Israeli asset to make money for his shareholders. He did not buy into Israel. The importance of this fascinating deal is more psychological than financial. Buffett is a businessman. What this deal does say is that since Buffett is renowned for purchasing companies with long-term prospects, this is a message to other investors that, despite what they may read about violence affecting Israel, he believes that Israel is a stable environment for the long-term."

Lederman cautioned against the spin that sees Buffett supporting Israel's economy for the sake of Israel, even if the result of his investment is exactly that. This may seem like splitting hairs, but Lederman insists it's a significant difference, and that appreciating the real meaning of Buffett's investment makes Israel even more appealing to other potential foreign investors, including Canadians. Investing in Israel makes good sense in purely business terms.

As isolated as Israel may feel in its immediate neighbourhood, the fact that investors such as Buffett – and companies such as Intel – are prepared to plough billions into the business sector shows that Israel is increasingly becoming part of a globalized economy as it forms alliances with other companies and countries far beyond its borders.

In turn, according to Lederman, Israel needs to take foreign investor attitudes into account in determining certain of its own domestic priorities. Foremost among these is its policy toward the West Bank, and even humanitarian aid to the Palestinians in Gaza.

This process has actually been underway for some time as the pragmatic centre of Israel, led by the business community, has asserted its political will. This is a largely untold story that deserves, and in fact requires, further exploration and understanding.

* * *

In the May 7 *International Herald Tribune*, Jimmy Carter, the former U.S. president and current peace activist, revealed an abysmal ignorance of Hamas' core rejection of Israel when he wrote that "Hamas leaders have refused to recognize the State of Israel while their territory is being occupied."

The "territory" that Hamas considers occupied includes primarily Israel, a point Hamas has consistently reiterated. It's astonishing that someone of Carter's intellect cannot seem to understand that for this extremist Islamic movement, the recognition of Israel and the existence of Israel in "occupied Islamic land" are inherently irreconcilable.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

## Hundreds recall rabbi who was struck by train

More than 400 people packed the main sanctuary of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham for a moving yahrzeit memorial in honour of Rabbi Levi Bialo, who was killed last May 16 when his car was struck by a GO train as he headed to shul for morning davening.

Rabbi Bialo, 25, was Chabad of Markham's young adult co-ordinator and a Grade 5 teacher at Cheder Chabad. He was survived at the time by his pregnant wife Shira and their son Schneur Zalman. Subsequently, Shira gave birth to their daughter, Chaya Mushke.

Rabbi Avraham E. Plotkin, director of Chabad of Markham, opened the May 4 event by noting how Rabbi Bialo changed the lives of so many of his students during his own very short life.

Rabbi Dovid Schochet, senior leader of the Toronto Lubavitch community, drew a parallel between Rabbi Akiva, whose final recitation of the Shema was interrupted by the Romans, and the tragic accident of Rabbi Bialo on the way to Shul.

He reassured the many members of Rabbi Bialo's family who had gathered from all over North America that his work would be continued, as was Rabbi Akiva's, by those who love him and by his students around the world.

Richard Steyn, president of Chabad of Markham, spoke of the work Rabbi Bialo did with young adults in the community and of his inimitable, soft-spoken manner, which he used to influence them in a positive way.

One of those young adults, Daron Odes, spoke of his personal relationship with Rabbi Bialo. He described how he and his friends had initially resisted the rabbi's overtures and how eventually Rabbi Bialo won them over, earning their respect and admiration. He spoke of how painful Rabbi Bialo's death was to him and his friends, and of their firm commitment to continue his work.

Dovi Bialo, the rabbi's brother, appealed to the crowd to participate in the writing of a special new Sefer Torah that is being produced in honour of Rabbi Bialo.

Rabbi Boruch Zaltzman, principal of Cheder Chabad of Toronto, spoke about the individual attention that Rabbi Bialo gave to each child in his class, and he introduced one of the rabbi's students, Sruly Steiner, who conducted a siyum, the conclusion of a tractate of Gemara, in Rabbi Bialo's honour.

The evening featured a talk by Rabbi Yossi Jacobson of New York on the topic of "When bad things happen to good people."

The evening concluded with an announcement by Rabbi Plotkin that the new wing being now being added to the existing Chabad Lubavitch of Markham building will be named the "Rabbi Levi Bialo Youth Wing," in memory of a man who dedicated his life to helping youth in his community.


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# Board of Jewish Education shaliach to receive award of merit

## *BJE's Natan Kandler chosen from 876 colleagues*

By CARLA LANCIT

A Toronto-based shaliach (Israeli emissary) has been chosen from among nearly 900 colleagues posted throughout the Jewish world for a special award of merit.

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, recently named Natan Kandler, who is currently working at UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE), Shaliach Mitzvayen, meaning that he's the best in the world. The award is given annually to one shaliach in recognition of devotion and work to fulfill the mission and goals of JAFI.

"He exhibited several areas of excellence," says Julia Koschitzky, a prominent member of Toronto's Jewish community and co-chair of JAFI's education department, pointing to Kandler's ability to represent Israel in both formal and informal settings and his role in helping the Toronto Jewish community reach out to the city's Russian and Israeli-Canadian communities.

The Toronto Jewish community is well aware of the jewel in their midst.

"We are all particularly proud of Natan and his achievements in helping bring our community together, and for his efforts connecting students, leaders and educators alike to our Federation, the State of Israel and their Jewish souls," says Ted Sokolsky, president and CEO, UJA Federation.

"Natan's first class in bringing Israel to the Jewish community," says the BJE's vice-president, Jewish Education & Identity, Yael Seliger. "He's so dedicated and very creative. He has a vision and he implements it."

Kandler's professional colleague Dani Fine, who directs the BJE NOAR program which is helping to integrate formal Jewish education with informal Jewish education, and at camps and youth groups, concurs. "For some people what they do as a profession is their vocation, but with Natan, it's his avocation," says Fine. "It's not just a job, it's his passion. Being the emissary from the Jewish Agency to Toronto is for him an all-encompassing life's mission."

"This is a great encouragement for the work we're doing here," says Kandler, who is the coordinator for Toronto's 41 shlichim—the largest delegation in the world.

*Natan Kandler, (r), the Board of Jewish Education's shaliach enjoys a recent chat with Omer Eshel, shaliach of Habonim Dror Youth Movement.*

Over the past year-and-a-half, Kandler has been working with Toronto-area schools, youth movements, and camps to "turn Israel into a major component of our identity."

The award-winning shaliach believes that the best way to promote Israel is to present it realistically. "By showing young people the challenges we're dealing with, they see ways they can contribute to helping Israel."

According to Kandler, this approach is more effective than the traditional idealized version of Israel as the land of the kibbutz and pioneers. "Our students are well updated and have access to all the information. We have to make it make sense for them, make it meaningful for them," he says.

This is Kandler's second posting in Toronto. From 1996-1999 he was a shaliach at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Shelley Friedman, who was the principal of CHAT at the time, recalls Kandler's "tremendous relationship with the kids and with the staff."

"There isn't that much difference between what he says and what he does," says Friedman. "You don't find that in too many people."

While Kandler, his wife Orit, and their five children will be in Toronto for another year-and-a-half, home is never far away. "Walking down the halls of Toronto's Jewish schools, you feel Israel."

# Affordable rental program a win-win situation

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

Several members of Toronto's Jewish community are benefiting from a joint initiative between UJA Federation and Kehilla Residential Programme designed to better their living conditions and, by extension, their lives overall.

Launched in 2004, the Community Affordable Rental Program (CARP) is providing clients of Jewish agencies in the Greater Toronto Area with reduced-rent housing in four apartment buildings situated on or near the Bathurst Street corridor. Grover Realty is the landlord involved in the project. CARP is a five year, thirty unit pilot project.

"This is a way of putting people in more affordable housing immediately," says Nancy Singer, executive director of Kehilla. "It's a win-win situation. Landlords had vacancies and people had housing needs."

*Nancy Singer, (l) executive director of Kehilla Residential Programme and Lisa Lipowitz, Kehilla's director of community initiatives, stand in front of one of the four apartment buildings participating in the Community Affordable Rental Program.*

Singer notes that in addition to providing affordable housing, the program brings people back into the heart of the Jewish community, where they have access to schools, shopping, and Jewish institutions.

Some of the beneficiaries of this UJA Federation-funded program include a single mother of a 16-year-old daughter who was living with an abusive spouse, and a single, Russian mother of one.

"I have more money left now for food and more privacy, too," says Lena, (not her real name) a recent immigrant from the Former Soviet Union. "Before this, I couldn't have my own apartment because I had no choice but to share."

"If I wasn't here, I would be on the street," adds Yossi, an Israel-born divorced male, who is currently receiving social assistance.

Another positive byproduct of CARP is that a number of these clients are now more involved in Jewish community life than ever before, including 16% who have joined a synagogue since their move, 37% who now attend a Jewish Community Centre, and 27% who either use or volunteer for Jewish organizations.

"In an innovative example of public/private partnership, Al Mintz and his partners at Grover Realty saw an opportunity to work with the community to improve the lives of vulnerable Jews in our community," says David Engel, chair of the board, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "They share with us a commitment to the core Jewish values of *Tzedakah, Tikun Olam* and *Chesed*. The impact of the program for participants has been positive, with both social and financial benefits."

# Israeli expert mothers ancient tree

By HOWARD ENGLISH

Elaine Solowey may be the only living woman today with a 2000-year-old offspring. Not only that, but her creation could truly bear fruit.

Solowey, a resident of Kibbutz Ketura in Israel's southern Eilot region, which is partnered with Toronto's Jewish community, is the "mother" of Methuselah - a date tree, grown from a 2000 year old seed, discovered on Masada.

*Methuselah - a date tree from a 2,000 year old seed - is being grown on Kibbutz Ketura in the Negev.*

Actually, several ancient date seeds were found during an archaeological dig on the north side of Masada and they were turned over to Solowey because she is one of the world's most respected experts on rare plants which she raises and nurtures at the Arava Institute supported by UJA Federation – on the kibbutz.

As you might imagine, planting seeds that date back so many centuries isn't quite as easy as it sounds. "I first had to rehydrate the seeds," said Solowey, during an interview with Jewish Toronto. "I had to try to wake up any part of them that was still living."

And, at first, even Solowey was sceptical. "I've never tried seeds this old," she admits. "As a matter of fact, when my research partner said 'Now try to sprout them,' I said 'You want me to do what with them?'"

Most of the seeds didn't respond to Solowey's treatment of water and a special acid to wake up any part of the shoot that was left in the embryo. But one seed sprouted after being planted last year on Tu B'shvat (the traditional Jewish New Year for trees)
and Methuselah was born.

Solowey's next challenge is to determine whether her fledgling tree is male or female – an important distinction because only female trees can, one day, produce edible dates. However, there is no genetic test to identify the gender of a plant like this, so it's just a matter of wait and see.

"We're hoping that it's a female and that, in four years, we'll get flowers that we can pollinate," she says.

And if Methuselah does eventually produce dates, what will they taste like? "I think they might be quite different," answers Solowey. "Apparently the Judean date was a very, very tasty date with medicinal properties." In the meantime, Methuselah lives in isolation, away from machinery that could mistakenly knock it down or the prying hands of curious tourists. "We don't want people taking pieces off it for souvenirs," cautions Solowey. "Methuselah has turned into a very famous tree, much to my astonishment."

**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

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# Walk attracts Jews from GTA and beyond

## *Solidarity motivates participants from many communities*

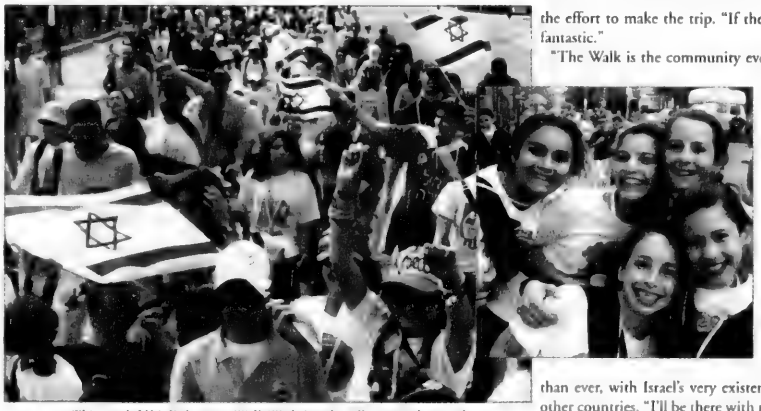
By CARL LANCIT

It's a bit of a trek from Barrie to Toronto, especially with three kids aged 4-10, but for Julie and Sam Smith, the UJA Federation Walk With Israel is well worth the journey down Highway 400.

"It's important," says Julie Smith. "The Walk With Israel brings Jewish people together from inside and outside the GTA, even those of us who may not live in the traditional Jewish areas. One thing about Jews is that no matter where they live, we share a love for Israel, and we want to show that love and our support for Israel whenever and wherever possible."

"The Walk With Israel has always been that one huge, fun-filled family event that we can always count on as a way to show that support," says Smith. "I've been going to it since I was a little girl, and now my two little girls are doing it with my little boy, and I hope that in 15 or 20 years, they'll be taking their own kids. No matter where you live as a Jew, it's important that we always come together for Israel."

This year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel will be held – rain or shine - on Sunday May 28th, beginning at 9:30 am at Coronation Park (the corner of Strachan and Lakeshore) and ending with the RioCan Carnival at Ontario Place.



*This year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel, will attract thousands from across the GTA and beyond.*

The Walk is chaired by Nelly Zagdanski, Sara Zagdanski and Felicia Posluns, who is encouraging Jews like the Smiths, living outside of the heart of the Jewish community, to participate in the event. "We want them to come and meet new people," she says. "It's always good to feel the connection to the Jewish community."

Posluns notes that since the Walk is a whole day affair, it's worth the effort to make the trip. "If they can make it here, it will be fantastic."

"The Walk is the community event of the year, so if you have to pick one to go to, this is a great choice," says Sara Zagdanski. "There is a synergy that is created when we join together as a community to show our support for Israel. The pride, the enthusiasm and the *ruach* (spirit) is palpable in the overwhelming crowd that always turns out."

For Aurora's Carl Williams, a participant in the Walk With Israel for some 40 years, the annual event is more important this year than ever, with Israel's very existence again being threatened by other countries. "I'll be there with my wife and two girls, no matter what," says Williams. "We are Jews, regardless of where we live. What's an hour drive when it comes to supporting Israel, while having a great day with friends and family. My girls can't wait for May 28."

Each Walk With Israel "Nosh Stop" will feature music, carnival games and activities. Participants will be entertained by DJs from five different companies: Corey Mandell Entertainment, Superior Sound, Mint Events, Magen Boys Entertainment and Sole Power. Throughout the route, replicas of Arr-yeah the Lion will lead children on the Office SuperCentre Treasure Hunt.

The annual event raises money for at-risk Jewish youth in Toronto, Israel and around the world.

# Paper Clips a hit at Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Shelley, Gerry and Andrew Richler made a slight detour while driving down to Florida this winter. What moved the Torontonians to stop off in Whitwell, Tennessee, a town with a population of 1,200 of all places? A movie called *Paper Clips*, which ran as a week-long series of student screenings sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto during the recent 14th annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

*Paper Clips* is the story of a middle school in Whitwell, Tennessee. In an attempt to educate the students from this small, homogenous community on cultural diversity and tolerance, vice principal David Smith taught them about the Holocaust. When a student asked "what is six million?" the paper clip project was born to help them grasp the concept of that staggering number. "We must show our students that they can make a difference in this ever-changing world," says Smith.

*The movie* Paper Clips, *sponsored by UJA Federation at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, was based on a project at the Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee.*

Each paper clip collected by the students of Whitwell Middle School represents a life lost in the Holocaust. The end result is a memorial that incorporates a rail car used to transport Jews to death camps.

"The film is powerful because it starts in Whitwell where they knew nothing," says Cheryl Landy, director of operations of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. "What people see is a film about a town that has no cultural diversity. They didn't know what a Jew was, what the Holocaust was. To see the complete transformation, how knowledge has transformed this town, is amazing."

Landy notes that while Jewish audiences are generally knowledgeable about the Holocaust, this movie is an effective way to reach non-Jews, especially children. "This movie shows that there are people who don't know about the Holocaust. We bring in children who may not know anything about the Holocaust, and they go through the same cycle of learning."

Jewish audiences also found *Paper Clips* moving.

"I found the movie very emotional. Thinking about it, I get choked up," says Shelley Richler. "Anti-semitism is so rampant, and then you see this little community, how they embraced this, and how it has affected not only their community but the entire state of Tennessee."

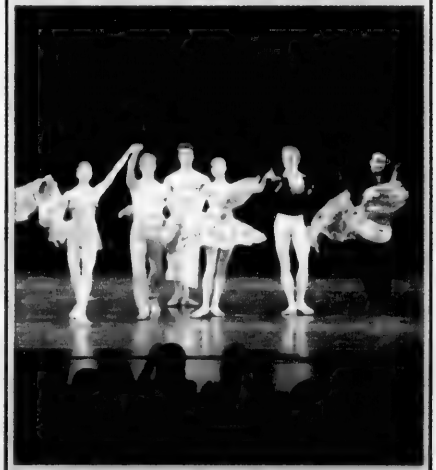
According to Richler, Whitwell "was just the way you see it in the movie. It's a little town, all white - real middle America."

Richler's son Andrew, 13, was deeply moved by the visit. "It was wonderful to see his reaction," says Richler. "He walked around, put his hand on the inside of the rail car. He said 'I just wanted to feel the people who went through this.'"

Honey Carr, past co-chair of UJA Federation's Holocaust Education Week, and a child of Holocaust survivors, says that *Paper Clips* showed her the potential even one conversation can have in teaching people about hate and anti-semitism.

"I've always firmly believed that education is the key component in helping to stop this ongoing cycle of hatred," says Carr. "Look at the tremendous accomplishments started by one teacher and a small class of kids who knew little or nothing about the Holocaust. Just by discussing history, they came up with this unbelievable project which became almost infectious."

# Stars of the 21st Century a dancing delight



*The Koffler Centre of the Arts recently presented its fifth annual Stars of the 21st Century Gala featuring a number of superb performances from dancers from around the world including Guillaume Cote, principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada. (Photo courtesy of Hudson Taylor Photography)*

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On Campus

# Hillel honours staff, students

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Forty-five students and staff were recognized for their commitment to Jewish campus life, and University of Toronto staff member Nouman Ashraf was honoured for bringing culturally diverse programs to campus, at Hillel of Greater Toronto's annual awards night last week.

The awards ceremony, held at Ryerson University and hosted by Avi Shack, began with a speech from Hillel of Greater Toronto board of directors president David Rosenbaum, who congratulated the recipients for creating a community for the thousands of Jewish students on Toronto-area campuses.

"This evening is very special because it presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase the great leadership and talent of our students in the Jewish community, the faculty, and the administration in universities and colleges around Toronto," Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum made special mention of Ashraf, U of T's anti-racism and cultural diversity officer, who received Hillel's Founding Friend of the Campus Award, and thanked him for his work to create quality culturally diverse programming on campus.

Hagai Kuperman, president of Hillel at U of T and himself the recipient of two awards, presented the award to Ashraf, with whom he worked closely on a program called "Spirituality and the Student Experience."

He said that with Ashraf's help, the program was able to "offer [Muslim and Jewish] students the opportunity for all to learn from one another and discuss relevant issues over delicious meals. Although there are many differences between [Muslims and Jews], there are also many similarities and this series allowed for a collaborative effort between the Muslim Students' Association of the University of Toronto and Hillel to explore areas of interest and create a safe place to allow for students to get out of their accepted comfort zones."

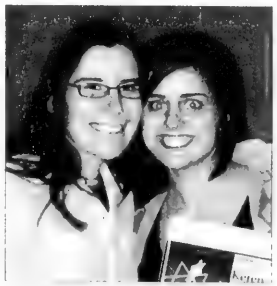
Upon accepting his award, Ashraf congratulated the students and Hillel staff, whom he recognized for their role in fostering a campus community that is tolerant of other cultures.

"It is through leadership that we are able to bring students of diverse backgrounds to come together and celebrate both our differences and similarities," Ashraf said.

Zac Kaye, Hillel's executive director, said that although Hillel engages about 6,000 students a year in Jewish programming, there are still about 12,000 that have yet to be reached.

"We're reaching out and connecting with as many people as we can and we hope more and more people will become involved with the community," he said.

As a testament to the hard work of Hillel students and staff, a montage of music and photography was presented to highlight the many events and programs organized by Hillel, such as a trip in January to Mississippi to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina, as well as IsraelFest and Shabbat dinners.



**Tilly Shames, left, and Karen Katz [Sheri Shefa photo]**

* * *

Campus awards were presented to:

• University of Toronto students Shayna Rogizinsky, Stephen Kraft, Robbie Burko, Rachel Malach, Daniel Cooperman, Steven Goldreich, Matthew Simon, Ari Brodsky, Ilan Mitchell, Shaby Ranganathan, Melyssa Lantsman and Lia Katz;

• York University students Jeff Justiz, Rotem Stark, Lauren Viner, Margot Bychutsky and Rafi Brass;

• and Ryerson University students Tamara Winegust, Isaac Elfaks and Carolina Rzeznikiewiz.

The following awards were also presented:

• Brauna Doige, Sara Greenwood and Ariella Kleinberg, the UJA Federation Award for Enhancing Jewish Identity;

• Ninat Friedland, the Jacobivici Family Award for Arts and Culture;

• Orly Cohen and Avi Shack, the *Canadian Jewish News* Award for Communication;

• Sarah Nasser and Michal Brosh, the Sidney Mendick Memorial Award for Building Pluralism and Diversity;

• Michael Furman, the Gropper Family Award for Outstanding Leadership;

• Allison Mason, Alan Richter and Etta Abramson, the Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Inc. Award for Special Involvement in Jewish Campus Life;

• Elise Loterman, the Hillel of Greater Toronto Award for Creative Programming;

• Keren Katz, the Lapowich Family Award for Israel Advocacy on Campus;

• Hagai Kuperman, the Hillel of Greater Toronto Award for Ongoing Commitment to Jewish Student Life;

• Jaime Reich, the Price Family Tzedek and Social Justice Award;

• Hagai Kuperman, Jonathan Vandersluis, Adam Hummel, Liran Kandinov, Kim Guigui and Hanna Belopolsky, the Hillel of Greater Toronto Hadracha Award;

• Isaac Kessler and Aaron Simon, Hillel of Greater Toronto Student Engagement Awards.

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# *Know each day and let it dwell in your heart*

By SHELLEY MILLMAN HERMAN

On one of the especially idyllic spring days that we have been enjoying lately, as I was doing my daily speed walk in a particularly beautiful park, a thought came to me. I was looking around at the budding trees, inhaling the fresh air, smelling the delightful floral scent of the flowering bushes, and I thought to myself, "I want to know this day."

It occurred to me that the word "know" is not commonly used to describe our feelings about a day. Yet the language of my thought was very specific – I wanted to know the day! As I continued to walk, I pondered the words that had come to my mind. I remembered that when the Torah speaks of a man and woman having relations, it is described as "and he 'knew' her."

Each day since that day in the park has been equally beautiful. We have been blessed with a spectacular spring season.

The Shabbat following my day in the park, I was praying the Minchah service, and the words on the page jumped out at me. "You shall know this day, and cause it to dwell in your heart… [speaking of the Shabbos day]." Later on, when I was reading a fantastic book titled *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt Convincing Evidence of the Truths of Judaism*, by Rabbi Shmuel Waldman, it reiterated the same words, "You shall know this day…"

When I am in nature, I feel a reaffirmation of life, and of my existence. I feel God's presence as closely as I do when I am in synagogue praying. I look at the sky and all of the beauty around me, and I know that there is an ultimate creator – there is a God, one God who created this most incredible, beautiful, sophisticated world for us to enjoy and in which to feel His presence.

With each passing day of this season, my favourite season, when things are growing, when there is hope and a childlike optimism that everything will be all right, I long to know each day intimately. I want to possess the day, experience its joys and natural wonders – to take hold of it and make it my own.

How does one do this? I guess it's a personal choice. I have been spending more time bike riding and sitting outside watching my children play, and of course walking, for exercise as well as leisure. One day, my daughter and I walked arm in arm around the block, casually, relaxed, lovingly talking and sharing moments of each of our experiences of the day. We have to notice the day, from its early-morning gentleness and sparkling midday sun to the happy sounds of children playing outdoors after school, the slow retreat of the sun, and the quiet reappearance of the moon.

Each and every moment of the day has its own identity. How sad if it goes unnoticed. Do you want to feel alive? Go outside and experience God's splendour. After all, He created it all for us. Live it. Love it. Experience it. Know it. Know the day. Each and every day. It is ours to behold.

*Shelley Millman Herman is a life coach. She can be reached at shelley@globalrecruit.com.*

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# MDA plans Jerusalem Day fundraiser

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Robert Pilon, who played the lead roles in the Toronto productions of *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables*, will headline a Jerusalem Day event sponsored by Canadian Magen David Adom.

The program will be held May 25 at the Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St., at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 each or $18 a couple.

Robert Pilon

A media release calls Pilon "one of Canada's most respected and sought after vocalists." He has released two CDs and has a third in production. Pilon starred in the award-winning television special *A Canadian in New York*, and has appeared as a guest star on other shows.

He sang *O Canada* at the Canada Loves New York rally held in New York City in the wake of Sept. 11, and has performed for such dignitaries as former New York mayor Rudolph Guiliani and Queen Elizabeth II. He has been asked to participate in the fifth anniversary memorial of 9/11 in Central Park this September.

For the past five years, Pilon has performed for the corporate world across North America and in the Caribbean, as well as for various charities in Canada and the United States.

The Jerusalem Day event's goal is to raise funds to purchase at least 200 computerized blood shakers and scale machines for Magen David Adom, which provides more than 95 per cent of all blood and blood components to hospitals in Israel and Israel Defence Forces medical services.

The equipment to be purchased shakes the blood donated (thus eliminating coagulation), monitors its weight and volume, and connects directly to the Central Blood Databank. The machines record all pertinent donor data for safety and quality assurance. Each blood donation is linked directly to its unique donor so that it can be tracked for future reference.

The keynote speaker at the event will be Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada. Also appearing in the program is comedian and story teller Allan Gould. Well-known actor Harvey Atkin will be master of ceremonies.

A limited number of tickets is still available. For more information or to reserve, call 416-780-0034 or e-mail cmda@interlog.com

## Correction

The article "Amanda's Lemonade stand aids Heart & Stroke" (*CJN*, May11) gave the wrong date for the Becel Heart&Stroke Ride for the Heart. The event takes place on Sun., June 4, at 8 a.m. A separate in-line skating event begins at 7:45 a.m. To register, call the RIDEline at 416-486-RIDE (7433).

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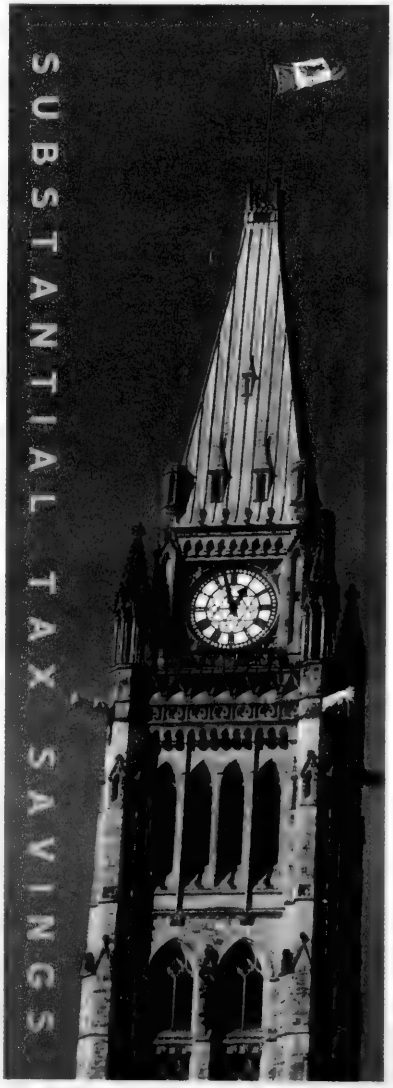


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# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Mazel Tov on your 60th Anniversary**
*Harry & Molly Lewkowicz*
with love, Paul, Geri, Helen, Dave, Alyssa, Mara, Brad, Rob and Rick.

Mazel tov to Mollie & Paul Finewax on your 58th wedding anniversary, married on May 9, 1948. From your children, grandchildren, family and friends.

A child arrived just the other day - April 24 - Noah River Porter-Rosensweig to his blessed parents Miriam & Avrum. He is a gift to our world.

Happy second birthday to Jarod, son of Maria & Ronald Struminger. Grandparents, Betsy & Lou Fruitman and Leny Struminger. Great-grandparents, Mary & David Dale.

Maria & Ronald Struminger and brother Jarod announce the birth of Phoebe. Grandparents, Betsy & Lou Fruitman, Leny Struminger and great-grandparents, Mary & David Dale.

### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to:
The CJN, Family Moments,
1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
North York, ON. M3B 3K4.

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: Thursday, May 18, is the deadline for the June 1 issue and Monday, May 29, is the deadline for the June 8 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, May 18

**ESTATE AUCTION**

Join Toronto Hadassah-WIZO for an auction at Adath Israel Congregation. Patron preview 6:30 p.m. Couvert $36. General admission 7:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit learning disabled children. RSVP to 416-630-8373.

**MELTON MODEL CLASS**

The Melton Adult Mini School holds an information night at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 7:30 p.m. 416-789-7400

**AN EVENING OF SONG**

Associated and USDS are hosting "An Evening of Song," a concert with **Sam Glaser** accompanied by the choirs of Associated Hebrew Schools and United Synagogue Day School. 7:30 p.m. at Beth David Synagogue. $18, children $10. For tickets, call **Missy**, 416-787-9988.

**LAURA BLUMENFELD**

Beth Sholom Synagogue presents **Laura Blumenfeld**, author of *Revenge: A Story of Hope*. 8 p.m. 416-783-6103

## Friday, May 19

**WATER TECHNOLOGY**

The University of Toronto Department of Public Health Sciences and Canada International Scientific Exchange Program present **Booky Oren**, chair of the board of Mekorot Water Company, Israel's national water carrier, on "Israel's Water Technology and Related Projects." 12-2 p.m. at the Public Health Sciences Building, 155 College St., 6th floor. RSVP to sspetgang@sympatico.ca or 647-293-7256.

## Sunday, May 21

**SINGLES WALKING GROUP**

Join Walk and Talk Etc. to hike the trails in Wilket Creek and Sunnybrook parks. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Serena Gundy Park parking lot, enter through the Wilket Creek Park west off of Leslie, north of Eglinton Ave. Registration and info at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

**WALK IN THE PARK**

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club Events for a walk through Edward's Gardens and Wilket Creek Park. Children welcome with an adult. No dogs. Meet at 2:15 p.m. at the benches just south of the snack bar at Edward's Gardens. $6. For info, contact leahp03@yahoo.ca.

**AFTERNOON TEA**

Beth Radom Sisterhood invites women of the community to an afternoon tea with the Kol Rina Women's Choir. 2 p.m. $18. Proceeds in support of JACS Toronto. RSVP to 416-636-3451, ext. 31.

## Monday, May 22

**SHULY NATHAN CONCERT**

Beth Emeth Synagogue celebrates Yom Yerushalayim with a concert by Israeli musical icon **Shuly Nathan**, **Aaron Bensoussan** and the Dafina Orchestra and **Mickey Lewin** and the Ultimate Sound Band. 7:30 p.m. Preferred seating $72, reserved $40, students $20, Tickets at synagogue, 416-633-3838, Aleph Bet Judaica, 416-781-2133, and Matana Judaica, 905-731-6543.

## Tuesday, May 23

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**Rabbi Avraham Feder** speaks about **Philip Roth**'s novel *The Plot Against America* at Beth Tikvah. Lunch 12:15 p.m., learn 1 p.m. By pre-paid reservation only. $10. 416-221-3433, ext. 352

**MUSICAL LUNCHEON**

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood Musical Luncheon features **Cantor Avichai Zehavi** accompanied by **Yisroel Idels** on guitar. 12:30 p.m. $8.50. To reserve, call **Ruth**, 905-731-6660.

**Continued on page 27**

The Toronto Heschel School
10th Anniversary Gala 2006

Honouring longtime friends and supporters
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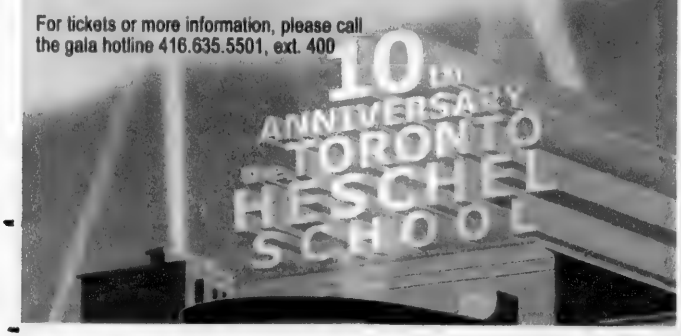
Paying tribute to Heschel's five founders:
Gail Baker, Ellen Kessler, Judith Leitner, Baruch Rand and Rachael Turkienicz

Monday, June 12, 2006 at 6:30p.m.
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder Avenue, Toronto.

Entertainment includes the hot new group from L.A., RebbeSoul, along with a raffle, live auction, hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception, and more!
"RebbeSoul is world beat and Jewish roots music on the cutting edge." Check out rebbesoul.com to hear a sample of their music.

For tickets or more information, please call the gala hotline 416.635.5501, ext. 400



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**Wednesday May 31st, 2006**
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**Call Circle of Care at**
**416 635-2900 ext. 723**

What's New

**Continued from page 26**

**BELONGING IS BEAUTIFUL**

Na'amat Canada, Toronto, invites the community to hear **Susan Jackson**, executive director of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, on "'Belonging Is Beautiful: Learn How You Can Make a Difference." 8 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. Free. Call 416-636-5425 for tickets.

**ETHICS OF THE FOUNDERS**

Beth Tzedec Congregation continues Four Practitioners on Ethics of the Founders with **Paul Franks,** professor of philosophy, U of T, on "Pirkei Avot as the Literature of Philosophy." 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 34

**STARS OF JEWISH HISTORY**

Temple Har Zion concludes its series with **Eric Lawee** on early European Jewish thinkers and philosophers. Tonight, "Don Isaac Abravanel." 8 p.m. 905-889-2252

## Wednesday, May 24

**NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE**

The Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital is hosting a free information session on naturopathic medicine, with **Teresa Tsui**, naturopathic doctor. Topics include how to avoid the side effects of prescription drugs, avenues to prevent or manage chronic diseases, acupuncture, botanical/herbal medicine, healthy diet and natural health products. 2-3:30 p.m. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374, to register.

**JOKERS & HUMOUR GROUP**

The Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets at the Antibes Community Centre at 7 p.m. 416-661-2541

**WHO'S IN CHARGE?**

Oraynu Congregation presents "Personal Health Care: Who's In Charge? The Ethics of Decision Making" with **Dr. Jerald Bain** in the board room, Wagman Centre. 7:30 p.m. Fee for non-members. RSVP, 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

**JEWS FOR JUDAISM**

Acquire the essential knowledge to effectively respond to anyone who challenges your Jewish beliefs. The Jews for Judaism "Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar," presented by **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, begins tonight at 8 p.m. and runs for six consecutive weeks at Adath Israel Synagogue. Admission is free. For information and/or to register, call 905-761-0040.

**CHUG HATANACH**

**Prof. David Novak** leads a study group in a discussion of *The Book of Proverbs*, chapter 13. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m.

**JEWISH HISTORY**

Join **Rabbis Shlomo Jakobovitz** and **Leo Davids** for the series "Moments in Jewish History," running through June 14. Tonight, Rabbi Jakobovitz on "Origins of Medinat Yisrael." 8 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. 416-633-4193

## Other news

**NCSY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The NCSY Golf Tournament takes place Thursday, May 25, at Copper Creek Golf Club. Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Individual golfer $295, includes brunch, on-course BBQ and dinner. To register, call 905-761-6279 ext. 32.

**FIGHTING TERRORISM**

**Ron Motley**, a trial lawyer representing victims of 9/11 in a lawsuit against banks, corporations and Islamic charities that have been implicated in financing Al Qaeda, speaks on "The Alien Torts Claims Act: A New Frontier in the War against Hamas." Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m. at Beth Torah Congregation. 416-782-4495, ext. 24

**SEX IN THE BIBLE**

Temple Har Zion Sisterhood presents **Selma Sage** on "Sex in the Bible." Thursday, May 25, 7:30 p.m. Guests $5. 905-889-2252

***MITZVAH OF LUCIO BURKE***

Beth Emeth Synagogue presents **Dr. Steven Hayward**, of John Carroll University, talking about his novel *The Secret Mitzvah of Lucio Burke*, Thursday, May 25, 8 p.m. 416-633-3838

**UJA WALK WITH ISRAEL**

Join the community for the UJA Walk With Israel on Sunday, May 28. The walk begins 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park ending at Ontario Place, where the celebration continues with fun for the whole family. Visit www.ujawalkwithisrael.com.

**EISEN ON VOLUNTEERS**

Circle of Care presents the Selma Eisen Memorial Program with **Susan Jackson** on "A New Tradition of Caring: Tomorrow's Volunteers." Wednesday, May 31, 7 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. Register by May 23 at 416-635-2900, ext. 723.

**PLAY COMPETITION**

The Toronto Jewish Theatre Committee is accepting submissions to the 2006 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition. Winner receives a professionally directed staged public reading in the Between Stages Playwright's Series. Plays should have a Jewish focus. They should be no less than one hour and no more than two hours in length. Due no later than May 31. For more information, contact **Esther Arbeid**, 416-924-6211, ext. 606, or esthera@mnjcc.org.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. 416-630-6481.

Family to Family: Volunteer to connect with a newcomer family. Call **Allison** at ext. 28.

JIAS weekly activities for youth ages 8-12 and 14-18. Call **Allison** at ext. 28.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800, ext. 215, or register online at www.jfandcs.com.

One Family, Two Homes: Three sessions for families experiencing separation and divorce. Begins Wednesday, May 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

## FOR SENIORS

**PAL Seniors Group at Earl Bales** go to see *Ragtime* at the Performing Arts Centre on Sunday, May 28, at 2 p.m. Mohawk Casino and Raceway, Wednesday, June 28. For tickets, call 416-398-2424.

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, May 21; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 14, 28; Bridge, Thursdays 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 18, dinner; May 25, bingo. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Wellness lecture: "Sun sense: Prevention and Early Detection," Wednesday, May 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. with pharmacist **Ivan Tyono**. Guests $2.

Lunch and Learn with **Peter Pavolotsky**, doctor of Chinese medicine, Tuesday, May 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. A dairy lunch served. $5, guest $7. Reserve at ext. 2267.

Dr. Flea's Flea Market, Sunday, May 28, departing at 10 a.m. and returning at 3 p.m. $5, guest $7. Reserve at ext. 2267.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

*Golda's Balcony* at Elgin Theatre, Wednesday, May 24. $55/$65.

Self-management of chronic conditions, a six-week course. $35, Starts Thursday, May 25.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Manual," a show by **Peter Flemming**, is on at the Koffler Gallery.

BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

The Koffler School of Music presents "Opera Sundays," Sunday afternoons through June 18 in the Koffler Loggia, 1-5 p.m. For info, call ext. 228.

Register now for Centre Camp, Toronto's largest Jewish day camp. Call ext 378.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca

"The Human Cost of Terror" exhibit: Photos by **Jason Schwartz** are on display in Jacobs Lounge through May 30.

Jewish meditation with Michelle Katz every Sunday 4:30-5:30 p.m., $15.

Sisters of Sheynville, Thursday, May 25, 8:30 p.m. $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Call ext. 606.

Registration for Mini-Me Camp this summer, ages 3-5. Call **Risa**, ext. 128, or e-mail risaa@mnjcc.org.

## People In the News

**DR. MICHAEL GORDON**

**Dr. Michael Gordon**, vice-president of medical services and head of geriatrics and internal medicine at Baycrest, received the Canadian Geriatric Society, Distinguished Service Award recently at the society's annual meeting in Vancouver. The society gives this honour to individuals who have made significant contributions to the health care of older adults in Canada.

**PETER BIRO**

Toronto lawyer **Peter Biro** was elected national president of Canadian Friends of Haifa University at a recent board meeting.

**MARVIN MALAMED**

**Marvin Malamed** was named 2005 Canadian compounding pharmacist of the year by the Professional Compounding Centers of America during a banquet at their recent symposium in Calgary.

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 19***

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# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David Rappaport | Apr 30/06 | 2075 Bayview Ave |
| Rose Jacques | May 1/06 | 33 Wilmington Av |
| Joyce Abrams | May 1/06 | 25 Dempsey Cr |
| Brina Harris | May 1/06 | 19 Bowerbank Dr |
| Sally Miller | May 4/06 | 70 Daphnia Dr |
| Jane Katz | May 5/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Bessie Neuman-Meloff | May 5/06 | 8 The Donway E |
| Cecile Sliwin | May 6/06 | 104 Heathcote Av |
| Belle Solomon | May 6/06 | 6 Carmel Ct |
| Shawna Wolfe | May 7/06 | 3 Concorde Pl |
| Vera Usprich | May 6/06 | 6 Denlow Bl |

Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Meyerowitz, Murray | Apr 30/06 | 7 Hammok Cres |
| Gurevich, Iosif | May 1/06 | Private |
| Wynston, Irwin Robert | May 2/06 | 14 Wendy Cres |
| Rabinovitch, Gregory | May 3/06 | Private |
| Fletcher, Jack | May 4/06 | 2075 Bayview Av |
| Baum, May | May 5/06 | 319 Betty Ann Dr |
| Schusheim Beigel, Hannah | May 5/06 | 131 Torresdale Av |
| Baril, Julius | May 5/06 | Private |
| Landa, Mikhail | May 6/06 | 5 Fisherville Rd |
| Kulcsar, Irma | May 6/06 | 400 Walmer Rd |
| Urbach, Nathan | May 7/06 | Private |
| Grunfeld, Avery | May 8/06 | Toronto |
| Senior, Estera | May 9/06 | 222 Honiton St |
| Lipworth, Marlene Lynette | May 9/06 | Victoria, B.C. |
| Feldman, Martin Paul | May 10/06 | Private |
| Zarecki, Riva | May 10/06 | 5935 Bathurst St |

**DR. MAURICE (MOSHE) B. WEINBERG,**
In Jerusalem on Friday, May 5, 2006. Beloved husband of Rose, father of Bathsheba and Mordechai Shor, Yitzhak & Sarah Weinberg (Passaic, NJ.), Brian & Miriam Tova Weinberg, Daniel Weinberg, Eli & Chavie Weinberg and devoted grandfather and great-grandfather. Brother and brother-in-law of the late Dr. Fred and Joy Weinberg and Helen and Jack Friedman of Toronto and Phyllis and Moshe Pollack of Jerusalem. A unique and spiritual person who dedicated his life to healing the sick, community work, Jewish education and to his beloved wife Rose and family. The funeral was in Jerusalem on May 5th and shiva was in Jerusalem and in Toronto.

HEDREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David Alexander Stokes | Apr 23/06 | 8 Rean Drive |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**DAVID STARR** ז"ל
loving husband of Molly and cherished father of
Trudy Bleier and Rita Drutz
will take place
**Sunday, May 21st at 11:00 a.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Sunnyside Lodge Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**VERONIKA MEISELS** ע"ה
will take place
**Sunday, May 21st, 1:00 p.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Pride of Israel Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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# *Water buffalo meat ruled kosher by chief rabbi*

By MATTHEW WAGNER
*Jerusalem Post*

How about throwing a water buffalo steak on the barbecue to impress your friends?

Chief Sephardi Rabbi Shlomo Amar would not object, and he might even dig in himself.

After two years of deliberations, Amar ruled last week that water buffalo (*jamoose* in Arabic) is kosher.

But before ruling the buffalo fit for the most pious Jew's table, the chief rabbi meticulously investigated the bovine's culinary history, anatomy and eating habits with the aid of Zohar Amar (no relation) and Ari Zivotofsky of Bar-Ilan University.

Shmuel Friedman, head of the Agriculture Ministry's grazing division, also helped Rabbi Amar reach the bottom of the water buffalo quandary.

As required by the Bible, in Leviticus 11, the water buffalo has split hooves and chews its cud. Also, Rabbi Amar knew, with Amar's and Zivotofsky's help, that Rome's Jewish community had an ancient tradition of buffalo eating (and that water buffalo milk is used to make the finest Mozzarella cheese). He was also made aware that veteran Israeli shochets slaughtered water buffaloes in Israel for popular consumption as late as the 1940s.

But despite this evidence, Rabbi Amar was cautious and strict.

He wanted to know whether water buffaloes have upper front teeth, since the Talmud says animals with them may not chew their cud.

The red deer has such teeth. Because of them, Rabbi Amar has ruled that the red deer is not kosher. His decision torpedoed an attempt by farmers to market red deer meat in Israel.

As the Agriculture Ministry's Friedman explained, "trying to market meat without rabbinic approval is a no-win situation. That's why we went to great lengths to get [Rabbi] Amar's approval before allotting more grazing land to buffaloes."

But six months ago, another piece in the water buffalo's kosher puzzle was solved. While touring the Hula Valley, Israel's largest grazing range for wild buffalo, Rabbi Amar was presented with a water buffalo skull that lacked the incriminating teeth. This last piece of evidence seemed to clinch the decision to rule the buffalo kosher.

But Rabbi Amar wanted to cover all his bases. He felt the skeleton was not good enough and wanted a freshly slaughtered head, not a skeleton.

Last week, three water buffalo heads were delivered to his office in the Chief Rabbinate. The buffalo was subsequently declared kosher.

The chief rabbi's decision was a blessing for Buffalo Farm, located on Moshav Bitzaron near Gadera. Buffalo Farm began marketing buffalo milk and cheeses less than a year ago in supermarket chains across the country under the kosher supervision of a local rabbi.

Buffalo Farm CEO Avi Zaltz said Rabbi Amar's halachic decision paves the way for the marketing of buffalo meat.

"We are negotiating with a few different people and we should start selling the meat in stores in a few months."

Zaltz said buffalo meat has a lower fat content than beef and would likely cost more.

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# Most Gaza evacuees compensated

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Most of the evacuated families from last summer's Gaza withdrawal have received full compensation, and more than 80 per cent have re-established their communal settings in new locations, Disengagement Authority director Yonathan Basi told the Prime Minister's Office last week.

Basi told PMO director Ilan Cohen that in the past seven months, some 1,200 new housing units have been built at 24 sites throughout Israel, and the authority has dealt with more than 3,500 claims for compensation.

Basi said the challenge facing the government is the need to resettle evacuated families in permanent housing while maintaining the communal networks they had in Gaza.

The meeting, convened to review the massive operation that relocated thousands and redrew Israel's borders, also discussed ways to deal with residents' lack of co-operation and uncertainty.

Cohen and Basi instructed government bureaucrats to keep investigating matters and submit their conclusions to decision-makers. These lessons will be useful if Prime Minister Ehud Olmert implements his plan to define Israel's final borders, which would require relocating thousands of West Bank settlers.

The government's current plan, whose timeframe has yet to be clearly defined, includes building new housing ahead of the settlers' relocation so they can move directly from their current residences to new homes.

Meanwhile, several greenhouses belonging to the former Gaza settlement of Morag were destroyed over the weekend in an attempt by dozens of gunmen to take control of the area.

The Palestinian Company for Economic Development, which is in charge of thousands of greenhouses that used to belong to Morag and other settlements, said the May 12 attack was the latest in a series that began almost right after the settlements were evacuated.

The company said hundreds of greenhouses and other agricultural installations have been sabotaged over the past few months, and it expressed its outrage over the phenomenon. The company also urged Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and Interior Minister Said Siam to intervene to halt the attacks on lands belonging to the former settlements.

> ***Gunmen try to take control of land in abandoned settlements***

"These greenhouses and other installations and projects provide a source of income for over 4,500 families," company officials said. "We are very disturbed by the recurring attacks and thefts. Such actions jeopardize the largest agricultural project carried out by the Palestinian Authority after the Israeli withdrawal."

In response to claims by some families about ownership of the lands, the company noted that Abbas had issued a presidential decree on the eve of the withdrawal to establish a special committee that would look into each claim if owners provided relevant documents.

The May 12 attack on the greenhouses, the biggest since the Israeli withdrawal, was carried out by dozens of gunmen from a number of families in the area. PA security forces opened fire on them, killing 21-year-old Rami al-Masri and wounding four others.

PA forces managed to regain control over parts of the greenhouses, PA security sources said, adding that the attackers caused heavy damage to most of the greenhouses before leaving.

"In the past few months there has been a sharp rise in attempts by local families and gangs to seize control over the lands. We are doing our utmost to protect these lands, which belong to all Palestinians," one officer said.

After the clash, hundreds of gunmen took to the streets in nearby Khan Yunis and opened fire on PA police. Four officers were wounded, one seriously, and three police stations were set on fire.

Militia from various groups in Gaza have set up training bases on some of the evacuated lands, further escalating tensions. Most of the camps belong to Fatah, Hamas and the Popular Resistance Committees.

PA interior ministry spokesperson Khaled Abu Hilal urged all the groups to evacuate the training bases "for their own safety." He strongly condemned the attacks on PA security forces and said a special committee has been set up to probe Masri's killing.

"We will find all those who attacked the police and we will punish them," he said. "We won't allow anyone to attack policemen and security installations. We will use weapons against anyone who carries weapons."

**ISRAELI ICON DIES: Actor, musician and writer Yossi Banai, an Israeli cultural icon, died May 11 at 74 after a serious illness. He was a pillar of Israel's leading entertainment family and a giant of the Israeli stage and recording business. He was best known for the melancholy nostalgia of his songs in the style of French raconteurs, often describing his childhood in Jerusalem. His greatest hit was his version of Naomi Shemer's *Al Kol Eleh*, (For All These Things).**

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The Canadian Jewish news

# Israeli Arabs voice their anger after immigration law upheld

BY DAN BARON
*JTA*

**JERUSALEM** — Israeli Arabs are upset after Israel's top court upheld a controversial law that prevents Palestinians married to Israeli Arabs from living in Israel.

By a vote of 6-5, the High Court of Justice on Sunday rejected petitions filed against the Citizenship and Entry Law.

While acknowledging that the law violates the human rights of the thousands of Israeli Arabs married to Palestinians, the High Court said national security must take precedence.

At least one of the Palestinian suicide bombers to have struck since 2000 was a resident of Israel through marriage, and Israeli Jews are all the more suspicious of Palestinians since they voted in a Hamas government earlier this year.

"The Palestinian Authority is an enemy government, a government that wants to destroy the country and is unwilling to recognize Israel," wrote Justice Mishael Cheshin.

But Israeli Arabs, who make up 20 per cent of the country's population, voiced their opposition to the decision.

"On this day, the High Court effectively approved the most racist legislation in the State of Israel – legislation which bars the unification of families on the basis of national belonging, Arab Palestinian," Adalah, the legal centre for Arab minority rights in Israel, said in a statement.

Adalah likened the ruling, which means that many Israeli Arabs will either have to live apart from their Palestinian spouses or move to the West Bank or Gaza Strip, to South Africa under apartheid. Israeli officials have long rejected such comparisons as false, given the open conflict with the Palestinians and other constitutional rights generally enjoyed by Israeli Arabs.

First passed in 2002 at the height of the terrorist attacks, the Citizenship and Entry Law all but banned residency rights for the Palestinian spouses of Israelis.

An amended version in 2003, when the High Court petitions were first filed, loosened the law to allow eligibility for female candidates older than 25, and men older than 35 – ages at which Palestinians are statistically far less likely to take up arms.

Then-justice minister Tzipi Livni said national security justifies the law. But she also cited growing fear of an influx of Palestinians seeking the better life on offer in Israel, some of them through fictitious marriages with Israeli Arabs.

"There is nothing wrong with looking to safeguard Israel's Jewish majority by law," she said at the time.

Her successor, Haim Ramon, said he would seek to enshrine the Citizenship and Entry Law in Israel's Basic Laws.

"The High Court ruling appears to apply to a certain population sector, but I intend to make a law that will apply to everyone," he told Army Radio. "Under the law, a citizen of a hostile country won't be able to adopt Israeli citizenship, except under certain circumstances that the state will determine."

# Divisions expected to emerge

**Continued from page 1**

First, there's good news. Conference participants spoke of how the United States and Europe are working together in Afghanistan, how they agree on freezing out the Hamas-led Palestinian government and how they are united in standing up to what they called Russian energy "imperialism."

When skeptics attempted to find holes in this harmony such as detention of terrorist suspects in Guantanamo Bay or the dangers of global warming – U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried said: "The discussion of U.S.-European differences is so very 2003. We have done that. The U.S.-European relationship is at work and in action."

"No more talking of the problems between us," agreed Javier Solana, the European Union's high representative for foreign and security policy. "Transatlantic relations are in a good period. The patient is the rest of the world. Global problems would be in a better state if we co-operate."

Both Europe and the United States believe Iran has been lying when it says its nuclear program is not for developing a weapon. Both find intolerable Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial and his threat to "wipe Israel off the map."

The United States has allowed Europe to take the lead in trying to negotiate away the Iranian nuclear danger, and both of them support the International Atomic Energy Agency finding that Iran has enriched uranium and defied a Security Council order to halt all enrichment activities.

The problem is what to do in response to Iranian defiance.

"The Security Council should impose multilateral sanctions," said U.S. Senator John McCain, "including a prohibition on investment, a travel ban and asset freezes for government leaders and nuclear scientists."

Europeans can accept such moves, but only if the United Nations imposes them. At the Marshall Fund conference, Solana insisted that the only coalition Europe would accept "is inside the Security Council."

In contrast, the United States is willing to work outside the United Nations. Rice has talked about imposing sanctions with a "coalition of the willing." The Europeans may not be willing.

Conflict across the Atlantic could become worse if the United States contemplates more dramatic action. When McCain refused to rule out military action – "the one thing worse than military action would be a nuclear-armed Iran," he said – Solana became agitated and said force should not even be considered.

The lessons may be grim. Yes, the United States and Europe have moved beyond their bitterness over Iraq. They share the same values and goals, in the Middle East and beyond.

But expect divisions to emerge on Iran. No one wants nuclear-armed ayatollahs, but the explosive, unresolved question is how far to push. If diplomacy fails to budge Tehran, the danger will become real that there could be a renewed transatlantic crisis, with Americans frustrated over European sniping and inaction and Europeans accusing the United States of imperialism and warmongering.

*William Echikson is bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires and a longtime correspondent in Europe.*

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## Israel Briefs

***More Iranian threats***

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad predicted Israel's eventual destruction. Speaking to students while visiting Indonesia last week, he called Israel "a tyrannical regime that will one day be destroyed." He also said Iran will press ahead with its nuclear program despite threats of UN sanctions. Earlier in the week, in a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush, he said the Iranian people don't understand "the phenomenon of Israel."

***Israel sets deadline for talks***

Justice Minister Haim Ramon said last week the Palestinians have until the end of 2006 to show they are legitimate peace partners or Israel will begin setting its final borders unilaterally.

***Hamas, Fatah clash***

Three Palestinians were killed and nine wounded in May 8 street battles between Hamas and Fatah militias. The clashes in southern Gaza were the bloodiest between the factions since Hamas crushed Fatah in January elections.

***Soldier disciplined for snub***

An Israeli soldier was stripped of his position for a politically motivated snub of the military chief of staff. The soldier, an Armored Corps sergeant who identifies with the religious settler movement, received a citation during Independence Day ceremonies but refused to shake Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz's hand in protest over last year's Gaza withdrawal.

***Welfare of the Palestinians***

Israel bears responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinians, although both sides are to blame for the human rights crisis in the Mideast, says Louise Arbour, a Canadian judge who is the UN high commissioner for human rights. The Palestinian Authority "has the urgent duty to do everything in its power to maintain law and order, prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, investigate those attacks that have taken place, and bring to justice those responsible," she said in Geneva. However, "as the occupying power," Arbour said, Israel bears responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinians, and she called on Israel to facilitate the entry of goods into Gaza.

***Zeevi's assassins charged***

An Israeli court has charged four men in the assassination of Rehavaam Zeevi. Israel snatched the men, who belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, from a Jericho prison in March after the newly elected Hamas government said it would release them. Palestinians had detained the men since soon after Zeevi, an Israeli cabinet minister who advocated transferring Arabs from Israel and the West Bank, was killed in 2001, but they were never tried.

***Buffett buys second firm***

Investor Warren Buffett has bought a second company in Israel. In a $5- to 10-million (US) deal, CTB, a subsidiary of Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, bought a 60 per cent interest in Israel's Agrologic, which designs and manufactures systems for agricultural use, *Ha'aretz* reported. Buffett made big news in Israel this month when Berkshire Hathaway took control of Iscar, an international metalworks consortium based in Israel, for $4 billion (US).

***Israel saved Abbas?***

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas recently cancelled a trip to Gaza after being told by Israel that he and an allied leader of his Fatah faction, Mohammed Dahlan, could be targeted by Hamas for assassination, Britain's *Sunday Times* reported. Israel and the Palestinian Authority had no immediate comment.

***Olmert to address Congress***

Ehud Olmert will address both houses of the U.S. Congress. The rare joint session, slated for May 24, will cap Olmert's first visit to the United States as Israeli prime minister. He will also meet with U.S. President George W. Bush. Olmert is seeking U.S. backing for his plans to unilaterally withdraw from portions of the West Bank.

*– with files from JTA*

# Unlikely trajectory brings two men together

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

**LOS ANGELES** — With his muscular build, missing teeth, goatee and shaved head, Tim Zaal still has the appearance of the skinhead street brawler he was in his youth. So, it's fair to say he stood out like a sore thumb at a barbecue hosted by Matthew Boger for a group of his closest gay friends.

Zaal's presence at the party sparked plenty of questions: What was he doing there? What was his connection to the host and what were all those tattoos on his arms?

Zaal and Boger – a Hollywood writer could hardly have scripted an odder couple – are colleagues now, friends even, and so Zaal's presence at Boger's home was only a natural development in their relationship. But some 20-plus years ago, things were a lot different.

Zaal and Boger told their hopeful, yet stranger-than-fiction stories to visitors at the Museum of Tolerance (MOT), the educational arm of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. They often lecture young people about escaping the poisonous effects of intolerance.

Zaal was a very angry young man, pumped up in a steroid rage, running with skinhead street fighters, looking for gays to bash.

Boger was a 13-year-old runaway, thrown out of his home by his Bible-quoting mother after he came out and told her he was gay.

Zaal grew up in eastern Los Angeles county but at an early age, his family picked up and moved when the neighbourhood's character threatened to become more racially diverse.

He idolized his older brother, who rode a motorcycle and was the epitome of cool. When the family moved, his brother chose to remain in the neighbourhood.

He already felt prejudice towards African-Americans because of his parents' influence; that attitude was reinforced when his brother was shot. "I was led to believe that the majority of African-Americans went around shooting people," Zaal recounted.

He developed a fear of minorities, coupled with toxic feelings of anger and resentment.

As he entered his teen years, he developed a taste for punk rock music, which, with its slam dancing and abrasive in-your-face lyrics, fed his violent tendencies.

Violence was part of the scene, he said. As if slamming into each other on the dance floor wasn't enough, after concerts, punks often started fights with each other.

It suited his personality at the time. "I was a very angry person. The best way I can describe my mindset was that anybody who got in my way was a possible victim," Zaal said. "You had a chance of getting hurt."

Zaal's anger and resentment towards minorities led him into the racist skinhead movement and at one point, he served as one of white supremacist leader Tom Metzger's main lieutenants in California, responsible for recruitment and propaganda.

Gays were a favourite target for skinheads, and he and his buddies knew where some gays boys hung out – a local hamburger joint. One night, Zaal and his buddies decided to pay them a visit.

Boger picks up his story with a description of an unusual youth in northern California, near San Francisco. His father was a Hells Angel, one of the group's key organizers in northern California, and all his uncles were bikers.

He described his neighbourhood as white and religiously conservative.

One of five boys and two girls, Boger and a brother were sent at age 12 to a performing arts school in San Francisco. There he discovered other youths like him and he became aware for the first time why he was different – he was gay.

**Matthew Boger, left, and Tim Zaal [Paul Lungen photo]**

Discovering many other gay boys was a revelation "and I felt good about it."

When he returned home, he told his mom the good news. She responded with unexpected severity. "My mother said, 'If you're going to live your life in sin, you can't do this in this house,'" Boger recalled.

Thrown out at 13, he headed to San Francisco where he was homeless. "I did things on the street to survive of which I'm not proud," he said.

A few months later he drifted to L.A. where he continued his life on the street. "Even as street kids were trying to survive, we were planning how to get out," he said. "We knew we were throw-away kids."

He and his gay street friends would socialize at a hamburger stand and fantasize about meeting nice Jewish men. "We heard they were caring and would take care of us."

They knew there was a skinhead group out there that bashed gays, and they tried to avoid them. But one night at the hamburger stand, the skinheads found them.

Boger recalls seeing the skinheads "coming at us with so much anger in their eyes."

Although he tried to escape, he was caught and beaten.

"The last I remember was a steel-toe boot to the head."

He was unconscious for some time – it could have been a minute or 10, he can't be sure – and when he came to, he was a bloody mess.

Calling the police was not an option. He knew if they got involved, he likely would have landed in foster care until he was 18, a fate he wished to avoid.

Instead, he found a service station washroom, and cleaned himself up as best he could.

The physical healing took months, the psychological healing took longer, he said.

For years he lived in fear of public places and only in the last few years, the 40-something Boger was able to go out normally.

In 1998, he heard about a 22-year old gay man, Matthew Shepard, who was lured out of a bar, beaten, tied to a fence post and burned alive. Shocked by the murder, Boger eventually approached the MOT as a volunteer, hoping to do something to promote greater tolerance.

Zaal, meanwhile, recalls the hamburger stand incident differently. Where for Boger the incident developed slowly as if he was moving in molasses, for Zaal, it felt like an adrenaline rush. "For me, it went really fast. It was literally like a drug," he said.

It was a jolt to his system that "made me feel better. I believe it made me feel good about myself."

He recalled that his family had belittled him and that was one way of dealing with the anger.

The gay men he pounded were nameless and faceless victims. "They weren't human beings."

For Zaal, the incident at the hamburger stand was not an epiphany. There was no sudden realization that he was on a dead end path.

Instead, a gradual evolution drew him away from the skinhead movement. Becoming a father was a key development. He became concerned when his son's first words were mommy, daddy and heil Hitler.

"I knew in the back of my mind I was destroying this child," he said.

He broke up with his wife and moved for a few years away from the entire California hate scene. Eventually he met and married a Jewish woman and moved back to LA. He contacted the MOT after he saw one of his former skinhead associates speak for the museum.

It was at the MOT that Zaal and Boger – now the MOT floor manager – met again and exchanged stories. They quickly realized they had both taken part in the same incident so many years before.

"We came full circle here," Zaal stated. "By being here, I'm apologizing on a daily basis, not only to Matt, but to society."

"It's not easy to forgive," Boger said. "But to move on and heal, I had to let go."

And include his new friend at the barbecue.

*Paul Lungen recently visited the Simon Wiesenthal Center offices in Los Angeles as a guest of the Center.*


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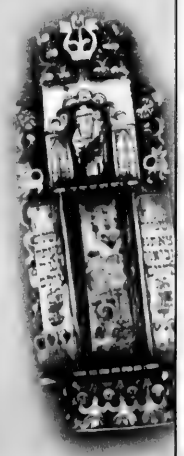

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# Sixteen-year-old Israeli singer set for stardom

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

It's safe to say that Liel Kolet, a 16-year-old Israeli who grew up on Kibbutz Kinneret by the Jordan River, will likely be the next big international singing star.

It's not every day that a 13-year-old gets to sing in front of 18,000 people, as Liel, who goes by her first name, did in Salt Lake City three years ago – and that was just the beginning.

"I think that was my first big experience outside of Israel," says Liel, at a coffee shop in Toronto, on her way to Rochester where she performed for the local UJA.

Since then, Liel has performed for the Monaco royal family, Pope Benedict XVI, former U.S. president Bill Clinton, German President Horst Kohler and Elton John and recently performed with Andrea Bocelli.

At Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres' 80th birthday three years ago, "I sang *Imagine* [by John Lennon] and asked Bill Clinton to join me on stage, and luckily he said yes, and it was a really unforgettable performing experience," she says. "Since then, he's stayed in touch with us."

In 2004, Clinton invited Liel to sing at a Democratic party fundraiser. "He invited me personally and, I'll tell you, it's like a fairy-tale movie or something… [The function was at] this huge castle, just like in a movie," she says. "I sang there and I said, 'Don't worry, president Bill Clinton, I'm not going to ask you to sing with me.'"

Later this month, Liel will represent Switzerland as part of the group six4one at Eurovision, in Athens, Greece. The European singing contest, which is watched by more than 400- million people, launched the career of Ofra Haza, who represented Israel in 1983. Celine Dion, another contestant, represented Switzerland in 1988.

Six teenage singers from Europe come together to represent Switzerland for the contest, "to send the message of a better world," Liel says. Wowed by the idea, she says she "wanted to do it because it is really what I'm trying to do with my music."

Liel's first CD, *Unison*, was recently released in Switzerland and thousands of copies have been sold there.

The first single to be released from the CD, *Lost In You*, a rousing pop number with an Arabic influence, is being played on major radio stations and the album is being released in France and Spain, Liel's manager, Irit Ten-Hengel, says.

"We're lucky that she's having an album being released everywhere. It's really phenomenal, 'cause normally they release it in one country, and if it works, then they release it in another country."

Liel says her upbeat Middle Eastern sound in *Unison* is an attempt to bring her "roots – the Israeli sound, the Arab violins and the Arab drums – into the rock and pop melodies." She adds that her sound is "still familiar because it combines the rock and the pop and the European and the American sound that everyone knows with my own kind of style."

Liel caught the attention of Ten-Hengel, at 11, after winning first prize at a European talent contest in Italy.

"My manager was working at Sony Holland and it was always her dream to take an Israeli artist and to make them big all over the world," says Liel.

"[No one] could really do it except for Ofra Haza. They say I remind them of her a little bit, with my ethnic voice. At the competition, I sang one of her songs [*Le'Orech Hayam*]. I really connected to her after I won this competition."

But a strong voice, Eurovision, religion and nationality are not the only things Liel has in common with the late legendary singer. Liel also has North African roots, with three of her grandparents hailing from Egypt, Yemen and India.

Liel says the singer she admires most is Celine Dion. She recalls that Ten-Hengel, who took her to see Dion in Las Vegas, said, "Liel, if there is one person you need to listen to and learn from, it's Celine Dion."

Liel, who is away from Israel 60 to 70 per cent of the time, has no desire to emigrate.

"Life in Israel is a different life. Of course, you hear all over the news about the hard situation, but it's not always true. But, these days, any place is rarely safe. In Israel, you should know where not to go," she says.

"I live in a peaceful place on the Jordan valley and I love it. I don't know anything else. [My kibbutz] is on the Jordan valley near the Kinneret Lake and many kibbutzim are around, so I have many friends at the Mat Gan Kibbutz and the Ganya Kibbutz. It's not really a closed life."

Liel will be in Toronto, June 18, performing for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center at the York Event Theatre. Tickets start at $100. For more information, contact Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center at 416-864-9735 or e-mail swcmain@pathcom.com.

Liel will return on Sept. 6, to perform at the UJA Toronto Campaign Launch at the Sheraton Theatre. Tickets are free. For further information, contact Herschel Perlis at 416-631-5717.

For more information about Liel, visit her website at www.liel.net.

Liel Kolet


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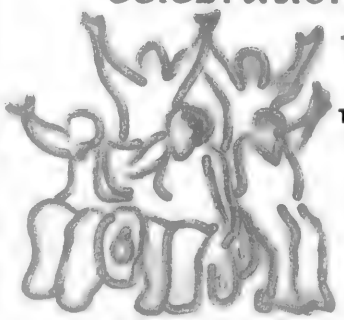

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Arts & Travel

# Tradition and rebellion clash in *La Petite Jerusalem*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Karin Albou's *La Petite Jerusalem*, set in a heavily Jewish suburb of Paris known as Sarcelles, explores the dichotomy between tradition and rebellion.

Scheduled to open in local theatres on May 19, the film also delves into the topics of thwarted love and anti-Semitism.

In her debut as a feature film director, Albou handles these diverse themes deftly and with sensitivity.

Laura (Fanny Valette), the scion of a Tunisian Orthodox Jewish family, shares a crowded apartment with her mother (Sonia Tahar), older sister Mathilde (Elsa Zylberstein), Mathilde's husband Ariel (Bruno Todeschini) and their children.

**Fanny Valette and Hedi Tilette de Clermont-Tonerre star in *La Petite Jerusalem*.**

In the opening scene, Laura, 18, is reading a Hebrew text, but appearances are deceiving. Laura is torn between her rigorous religious upbringing and her devotion to modern philosophy.

By contrast, Mathilde is serenely comfortable in the unchanging world of Torah. Mathilde, however, is concerned that Laura is straying from the fold by studying philosophy and paying insufficient attention to what she refers to as HaShem.

"Focus on Torah and the world won't be so ugly," Mathilde advises. "Pray more and it will be all right."

But Mathilde's admonitions have no effect on Laura, a precocious philosophy student attuned to Kant.

Much to the disappointment of Laura's family, she not only continues moving away from the strictures of Torah, but falls in love with Djamel (Hedi Tilette de Clermont-Tonerre), a Muslim refugee from Algeria living furtively in France without papers.

As these themes unfold, Albou shines the spotlight on Mathilde, who suspects that her pious husband is carrying on an affair. In a bedroom scene foreshadowing and perhaps clarifying Ariel's infidelity, Mathilde coldly turns her back to him when he tries to make love to her.

At the mikvah, Mathilde, having poured her heart out to a wise attendant, learns a valuable lesson in how to "pleasure" her husband. She discovers that good sex does not conflict with piety or modesty.

Albou addresses these issues with unbridled frankness.

As well, she touches fleetingly on the theme of anti-Semitism.

In a clear reference to the anti-Jewish incidents that have shaken France of late, Ariel talks about a recent attack against a synagogue and then urges Laura to stop her nightly walks in their mixed Jewish-Muslim neighbourhood.

Anti-Semitism comes up yet again when shadowy hooligans assault Ariel and a bunch of Jewish boys playing soccer.

Albou does not suggest that the assailants may be Muslims, who have been in the forefront of the anti-Semitic violence for the past six years.

As Laura's evolving but unlikely love affair with Djamel develops, he introduces her to his ethnocentric relatives. The meeting is extremely awkward, and when they finally realize that Laura is Jewish, Djamel's uncle urges him to drop Laura or, at the very least, to persuade her to convert to Islam.

*La Petite Jerusalem*, which was screened at last week's Toronto Jewish Film Festival, reaches its denouement as Israel and aliyah are brought into the equation. But here, too, Mathilde and Laura find themselves in opposite camps.

Graced by convincing performances from the entire cast, this is an intelligent and sensuous film that will appeal to many viewers.

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Arts & Travel

# TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

## ISRAEL LAUNCHES UNDERWATER MUSEUM

One of the world's first underwater museums opened in April off the coast of the Israeli port city of Caesarea.

Visitors may dive beneath the water and tour the sign-posted remains of the large harbour that King Herod built some 2,000 years ago to honour his Roman patron, Caesar Augustus. The underwater park was developed with funding from the Caesarea Development Corporation.

In the days of the Caesars, Caesarea was a major Roman port. A team of excavators from the University of Haifa's Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies worked on the site for some 30 years. Submerged artifacts include a Roman shipwreck, a ruined lighthouse, an ancient breakwater, anchors, pedestals and the port's original foundations.

"This port was built as the state-of-the-art port of the Roman Empire and made the other ports of the time – including those of Rome, Alexandria and Piraeus – look small and out of date by comparison," Sarah Arenson, a Haifa maritime historian, told the Israel 21c website.

According to Arenson, Caesarea's submerged harbour is the world's only ancient port that has significant remains on view and is accessible to ordinary divers. Four marked underwater trails connect 36 sign-posted sites in the harbour, all near the beach and between seven and 29 feet deep. The trails are considered appropriate for beginning divers, and one is even for snorkellers.

The port foundation was constructed with pozzolana, a type of hydraulic cement made from lime, rubble and volcanic powder found near Mount Vesuvius. The mixture, which hardens after contact with water, was poured into wooden frames, which were lowered into the water to solidify into the foundation stones.

Roman Caesarea was built on the ruins of Straton's Tower, a Phoenician town. It was built by King Herod, a prolific builder of magnificent structures, including the Second Temple of Jerusalem. The fortified city served as the capital of the Roman province of Judea for six centuries.

* * *

**Bike Riding in Israel:** Cycling aficionados may be keen to experience the Israel Ride bike tour, which offers two-week journeys that take in various natural, historic, archeological and cultural attractions as well as world heritage sites such as Masada, Tell Hatzor and Jerusalem. Three regional routes are offered: the Northern Circle, Mediterranean Breeze, and Mythology & Mystery.

A former environmental activist, Israel Ride's acting manager Yoram Asidon has pledged 10 per cent of company earnings to organizations that encourage cycling in Israel and abroad.

"This modest donation will be my contribution to the growing need of reducing motor vehicle dependency while promoting sustainable development in Israel," he writes. For details, please visit the website www.TheIsraelRide.com.

* * *

**China Through Jewish Eyes:** Hatriet Morton's "China – A Journey through Jewish Eyes – in the Year of the Dog," with artist Ian Leventhal, takes in Jewish sites in Beijing, Harbin, Kaifeng, Shanghai and the Three Gorges valley. Travel dates are Oct. 16 to Nov. 2 (*not* as cited in last month's column). For details, please contact Morton at 416-928-3113, ext. 273, or visit www.newwavetravel.net

Arts & Travel

# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK BY SHARON ABRON DRACHE FROM OTTAWA PUBLISHER

Ottawa-based publishing house L'Dor Vador has published its second children's book.

*The Lubavitchers Are Coming to Second Avenue* (for ages 9 and up) is written by **Sharon Abron Drache** and illustrated by **Jayne Lemon.** It offers a Chanukah story set in downtown Ottawa's Glebe in the 1970s. The book sells for $11.99 and its launch date is May 28 at the National Library and Archives of Canada.

L'Dor Vador's earlier publication, *The Magic Pot*, also by Drache, is a children's picture book set in Toronto's Annex in the '50s. Acclaimed in these pages as "a moving story about the magic of love between generations," it sold several thousand copies. Drache's books for adults include *The Mikveh Man and Other Stories* (1984), *Ritual Slaughter* (1989) and *The Golden Ghetto* (1993).

**The Sisters of Sheynville perform on May 25 at the Al Green Theatre.**

Keeping in step with Canadian multiculturalism, L'Dor Vador's mandate is "the publication of literature about Jewish children who live in Canada." Its postal address is P.O. Box 4402, Station E, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B4.

* * *

***Ragtime* Returns:** Encore Entertainment presents a concert-style version of the popular musical *Ragtime*, which interweaves the stories of three remarkable families with historical characters and events of the ragtime era in turn-of-the-century America; based on the novel by **E. L. Doctorow**. The songs tell of a time of scandal, racism, immigration and love, all punctuated by the quest for justice. The 20-person cast is led by **Sarah Haley** and **Shawn Henry**.

Producer and stage director **Merle Garbe** noted that Encore is bringing *Ragtime* back to the place where Garth Drabinsky's Livent first presented it to the world about a decade ago. "Although our concert version is very scaled down, without the large cast and large set, and all the grandeur of the Livent production, our goal is to bring this powerful music to life and to give people another opportunity to experience *Ragtime*," she said.

Toronto Centre for the Arts (Studio Theatre), 5040 Yonge St. $30-$28. May 26 to June 4, 8 p.m.; Sunday matinées 2 p.m. No performances Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening. 416-733-0558

* * *

**Names in the News:** Yiddish novelist **Chava Rosenfarb**, longtime resident of Montreal and Toronto — and winner of the 2005 Jewish Book Award for *Survivors*, her collection of short stories – is slated to receive an honorary degree from the University of Lethbridge on May 31. As another honour, the English translation of *The Tree of Life*, Rosenfarb's acclaimed three-part novel about life in the Lodz Ghetto, has been shortlisted for an Alberta Book Award.

* * *

**Comic Musical Returns:** The Civic Light Opera Company presents *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the **Stephen Sondheim** musical that combines classic vaudeville schtick and slapstick comedy. **Larry Gelbart** and **Burt Shevelove** wrote the theatrical book after deriving inspiration from ancient Roman comedies.

Since the show's first Broadway opening in 1962, **Zero Mostel** and **Phil Silvers** have been among the countless funnymen to star as its Roman slave protagonist; a recent revival featured **Nathan Lane**. Fairview Library Theatre, North York. $20-$17.50. May 25 to June 11. 416-755-1717, www.CivicLightOperaCompany.com

* * *

**Names in the News II:** Vancouver-based musician, educator and choral conductor **Elizabeth Wolak** has won an award from the British Columbia Choral Federation for her achievements as an outstanding choral director and vocal teacher.

For 25 years, Wolak has been conductor and musical director of the **Shiron Singers,** a choral group dedicated to traditional and modern Jewish music. A Holocaust survivor who spent the war years in a Soviet labour camp, she was born in Krakow and came to Canada in 1963.

* * *

**Dan David Prize:** Endowed with $100 million (US), the five-year-old Dan David Prize is a joint international enterprise, headquartered at Tel Aviv University, that honours individuals and institutions making unique contributions to the fields of sciences, arts, history and technology. Three prizes of $1 million (US) and 20 scholarships of $15,000 (US) each are awarded annually. This year's ceremony is at Tel Aviv University on May 21, with Israeli President **Moshe Katsav** in attendance.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• **Sisters of Sheynville**, Toronto's "Yiddish swing-klez chick band" consisting of **Lenka Lichtenberg**, **Isabel Fryszberg**, **Fern Lindzon**, **Lorie Wolf**, **Kinneret Sagee** and **Rachel Melas**, perform at the Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. Tickets $12 in advance, $15 at the door. Thursday, May 25, 8:30 p.m. 416-924-6211, ext. 133

• **The Shevchenko Musical Ensemble**, featuring a choir, mandolin orchestra and dancers, gives a concert with the **Toronto Mandolin Orchestra** on the occasion of the latter's 50th anniversary. Adults $25. Leah Posluns Theatre, Sunday, May 28, 2 p.m. 416-533-2725


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# The German army's role in the Holocaust

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

***The Wehrmacht: History, Myth, Reality* by Wolfram Wette, Harvard University Press.**

A photographic exhibition titled "War of Extermination: The Crimes of the Wehrmacht: 1941-1944" opened in Hamburg, Germany, in March 1995, challenging a mantra about the German army and igniting a nationwide debate.

The gruesome photographs, which were subsequently exhibited in 32 more cities in Germany and Austria, showed ordinary German soldiers rounding up and killing Jewish men, women and children in eastern Europe.

As a result of the exhibit, the notion that the Wehrmacht had emerged from World War II morally unsullied was irretrievably shattered. The assumption had been that SS killing squads, in league with local collaborators, had perpetrated the Holocaust, and that the Wehrmacht had merely confined itself to fighting the war.

German historian Wolfram Wette uses the furor surrounding the exhibit to demolish this cherished idea. In *The Wehrmacht: History, Myth, Reality* (Harvard University Press), a first-class work of scholarship, he discloses that the Wehrmacht was, in fact, a willing partner in Adolf Hitler's genocidal plans for the "racial restructuring" of Europe.

That this was the case should come as no surprise. Long before the Nazis appeared on the scene, the German army was a hotbed of highly prejudicial views of Jews as well as Slavs.

At the turn of the 19th century, the officer corps generally displayed what Wette describes as "a fundamentally anti-Semitic bias."

Senior officers regarded Jews as socially inferior and politically unreliable and held their military abilities in low esteem. This attitude was particularly prevalent in Prussia, the state with the largest Jewish population in Germany.

Such was the atmosphere that, of the 26 Jewish reserve officers in the army in 1911, all had converted to Christianity. Despite the army's aversion to Jews, it placed no obstacles in the way of Jewish converts.

During World War I, Jewish men flocked to join the German army and acquitted themselves with honour. Twelve thousand Jews were killed in action, while 35,000 received decorations of various kinds. Nonetheless, Jewish soldiers were regularly passed over for promotion and anti-Semitic propaganda claimed that Jews were "cowards" and "shirkers."

**In his new book, *The Wehrmacht*, historian Wolfram Wette implicates German officers and soldiers in atrocities against Jews.**

In the autumn of 1916, the Prussian ministry of war issued an order that data was to be gathered on the number of Jews serving in the army. Jewish organizations were aghast, claiming that the "Jewish head count" was discriminatory. The ministry countered that it was not singling out Jews, but the decree fed into anti-Semitic beliefs, Wette suggests.

With Germany's defeat in the war, Gen. Erich Ludendorff, who had been the army's quartermaster, propagated the stab-in-the-back calumny that Jews had been disloyal to Germany. The theme was taken up with relish by the Nazis and milked for all it was worth.

The rising tide of anti-Semitism in Germany inundated the Steel Helmet, a conservative veteran's organization with a considerable membership. In 1924, a good 12 years before the exclusionary Nuremberg Laws rendered Jews second-class citizens, the Steel Helmet's leadership voted to exclude Jews. Theodor Duestenberg, one of its leading officials, supported the ban on Jews, But when he learned that his grandfather had been a Jew who converted to Christianity in 1818, he submitted his resignation.

Wette points out that the officer corps of the Reichswehr, as the German army during the Weimar Republic period was called, was riddled with anti-Semitic sentiments. After Hitler's accession to power, company commanders were required to obtain proof of the "Aryan origins" of enlisted men, and that led to the ouster of 70 soldiers of Jewish or partial Jewish ancestry. Nevertheless, thousands of soldiers of mixed German-Jewish background were permitted to serve in the ranks, at least until 1944.

One of them, Erhard Milch, enjoyed the protection of top Nazi Hermann Goering, and, incredibly enough, even attained the rank of field marshal.

Be that as it may, the Wehrmacht, on the eve of its 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, issued guidelines instructing soldiers that the goal of the war was to "eliminate" Bolsheviks and Jews. Acting in that spirit, the Wehrmacht organized the massacre of 30,000 Jews at Babi Yar, which, Wette claims, was "the largest single mass killing for which the German army was responsible during its campaign against the Soviet Union."

He adds that the anti-Jewish propaganda permeating the Wehrmacht did not provoke serious or extensive opposition in the officer corps. Indeed, the general in charge of personnel, Rudolf Schmundt, issued a secret directive that read: "Officers must adopt a clear and totally uncompromising stance on the Jewish question. There is no difference between supposedly 'decent' Jews and the rest."

In contrast to officers in the Italian armed forces who usually rejected racism and opposed the persecution of Jews, officers in the Wehrmacht actively co-operated with Hitler's plan to wipe out European Jewry.

Wette quotes an armoured corps commander, Hans Rottiger, as saying that "the struggle against bandits" was waged with the ultimate purpose of "ruthlessly exterminating Jewry and other unwanted elements."

These notions filtered down into the ranks, and as Wette says, the majority of German troops believed that their mission was not only to preserve Germany from Bolshevism but also to impose changes in accordance with Hitler's racial concept of community.

After 1945, historians in West Germany paid little attention to the war and even less to the Wehrmacht, while former generals published memoirs whitewashing their respective roles. The legend thus arose that the Wehrmacht had kept its hands clean.

But in the mid-1990s, Wette observes, the Ministry of Defence in Germany published an explosive study implicating the Wehrmacht as "a real instrument of the National Socialist policy of extermination." The study noted that the Wehrmacht had played a decisive role in the Holocaust and had therefore carried out criminal orders.

The authors concluded with this damning indictment: "The Wehrmacht took part in the violent National Socialist policies, and its role increased as time went by. As the war continued, it was increasingly enmeshed in the crimes of Hitler and his regime."

To the best of Wette's knowledge, German courts did not convict any Wehrmacht officers of war crimes.

But on the 45th anniversary of the end of World War II, an army base in Germany was named after a sergeant, Anton Schmid, who had saved the lives of 300 Jews. Until then, the base had borne the name of Gen. Gunther Rudel, a member of the Wehrmacht's leadership.

*The Wehrmacht* is not the first book to have examined the German army's role in atrocities and in the Holocaust. But in the English language, none surpasses Wette's accomplishment in fleshing out the dirty, embarrassing, disgusting details.


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# DAVID EICHORN REALTY LIMITED

REALTOR

416 787•1712

Visit our website: eichornrealty.com

### 3000 BATHURST CONDO

Renovated & decorated 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, modern kitchen, limestone floors, marble counter, built-in bookcase & closet organizers, sandblasted glass doors. **ONLY $289,900 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE NEW LISTING — BUSINESS FOR SALE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS KOSHER RESTAURANT FOR SALE** in high-traffic Bathurst / Lawrence area. **ONLY $329,000 INCLUDING EQUIPMENT — ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!**
**ATTENTION BUILDERS!** Building lot with 51.25 ft. frontage, only $459,000. **ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**COLDSTREAM AVENUE**
Custom-built executive home in highly desirable location! Spacious 3,800 + sq. ft., 5 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite foyer, gleaming hrdwd. floors, main floor library + laundry room, close to TTC, subway, shops, schools. $1,199,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**CORTLEIGH / ALEXANDER WOOD**
**Magnificent custom home in prestigious location!** 3 years new, 5,600 sq. ft. + finished basement, luxurious custom upgrades throughout! 4 + 1 bedrooms, 7 baths, coffered ceilings (10 ft. on main floor, 9 ft. on 2nd level), 3 fireplaces, dream Cameo kitchen, wainscotting, state-of-the-art security and built-in sound systems, dual heating zones, & much more! All this plus 78 ft. frontage in a picturesque setting at Cortleigh Park. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**BATHURST / RANEE**
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. Only $739,000. Also available for rent @ $3,500 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

### SOLD FOR 96% OF ASKING PRICE

**AVENUE / BATHURST / LAWRENCE**
**Exquisite custom home! on 54 x 117 ft. lot in prestigious location!** 4,000 sq. ft., 5 + 2 bedrooms, 8 baths, "Bellair" kitchen, extensive use of marble, granite, and imported Italian tile, leaded glass doors, 2 gas fireplaces, cornice mouldings, interlock driveway. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / WILSON**
**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!** Spacious 4 bedroom, 3 baths on 50 ft. lot in fabulous location: highly desirable Allingham Gardens. Sunroom, finished basement, double garage, 50 ft. lot. Asking $479,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**ONE GLEN PARK CONDOS**
- **MAIN FLOOR STUDIO APT.** Kitchenette, ensuite laundry, 4 pc. bath. **ONLY $199,000, ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.
- Spacious 2 bdrm., 2 baths, approx. 1,175 sq. ft., combined lr/dr, Western exposure. $429,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**CORTLEIGH PARK — AFFORDABLE LUXURY!**

**Prestigious location!** Custom total renovation & addition. 3,700 sq. ft. + bsmt., designer decor & luxurious upgrades throughout. Dream French country kit., palatial bathrooms, gleaming hardwood floors on both levels, steps to Cortleigh Park. $1,679,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

to place an ad call
**416-391-1836** (ask for classified advertising)

*Classified Deadlines:*
**Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.**
**8 days prior to issue date.***

**PLEASE NOTE!* On a week before a statutory or Jewish holiday, the deadline will be earlier. Please call for exact times.

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.
The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

# GEORGIA JOANNOU

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- Open concept
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- 2,900 sq. ft./open concept
- Hardwood floors

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# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

## Forest Hill

Real Estate Inc, Realtor

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

### CENTRAL PROPERTIES

**AVENUE/LAWRENCE 402 CRANBROOKE**
$,1,995,000. Best Location in the Area, Prime 50' x 110' Ravine Lot with 4000 sq.ft. Call Steven Wagman* 416-785-1500

**AVENUE/LAWRENCE 116 HADDINGTON**
$,1,495,000. Newly Built Luxury 4+1 Bdrm Home on a 40' x 130' Lot, Fully Loaded. Call Steven Wagman* 416-785-1500

**536 GLENGROVE AVENUE! $1,199,000!**
Bathurst/Glencairn! Lux 5+2Bd, 5Bth! Mn Fam+Lib+2Pce! W/O Bsmt! Fab 40x132'! 10++! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**54 ALEXANDRA WOOD! RARE 50X132'!**
$1,165K! N/Glencairn! Build Your Dream In This Most Sought After Local! Walk To Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**ELEGANT VICTORIAN DUPLEX – PRIME ANNEX $925,000**
Main Residence (3 Bdrms), Rear Res (2 Bdrm), Loft Ceilings, Reno'd, Double Garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**435 DREWRY AVENUE! RARE 60X291'!**
$839K! Bathurst N/Finch! Amazing 4+1Br, 4Bth On Spectacular Lot In The Heart Of The City! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**4 ANNDALE DRIVE SOLD IME 42.6X100'!**
$499K! Yonge S/Sheppard! Hi-Density Redevelopment Local! Sandon Schwartzben** / Geoffrey Korn* 416-226-1987

### BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

**$1,388,000. UNIQUE 5 BDRM CUSTOM BUILT HOME**
Bayview Village with 7 baths. 3 grgs. Approx.4800 sq.ft. Cathedral ceilings, 4 fireplaces. Shahin Jahanzadeh* 416-226-1987

**$998,000. PRIVATE GATED COMPOUND**
With 2 beautiful cottages on Lake Simcoe. Hot tub, large deck, tennis court. Marty Wagman** 416-226-1987

**1ST AD! 9 CARLUKE CRESCENT! $749K!**
Bayview/Fifeshire! Impeccable 4+1Br, 4Bth! Mn Fam+2Pce! Gorg'us 77x115'! Move In ! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**120 ABBEYWOOD TRAIL! 4+1BR 4BTH!**
$739,900! Leslie/York Mills! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! W/O Bsmt! Fab 60x120'! Motivated! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**1ST AD! 2952 BAYVIEW AVENUE! $539,900!**
Bayview N/Sheppard! Choice 43x118' Facing The Park! Much New Dev't In Area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

### CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

**85 SKYMARK DR. $599,900. LUXURY 2,500 SQ.FT.**
2bdrm+den, 3bth, lrg kit/breakfast, Walkout to bal, 2 parking, 2 lockers, 24hr Conc/pool/tennis. Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

**500 GLENCAIRN AVE! STUNNING RENO!**
$389K! Incredible 2Br 2Bth Ste! Hi-Tech Kosher Kit! 2 Car Prkg! Must Be Seen! 10++! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**1ST ADI 247 HILLHURST BLVD! $349K!**
East Of Bathurst! Seldom Available 4 Unit Complex! Fab 3+1Br, 2Bth! Don't Miss! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**2 COVINGTON RD BATHURST/LAWRENCE**
$274,900 – Reno'd 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath Suite, Open Balcony, 1 Parking, 1 Locker. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**1 MAISON PARK NEW CONDO $229,900.**
Great Location - Steeles/Duffenn, 1 bdrm, South West views, new condo, great Amenities. Georgina Koltai* 416-226-1987

**40 BAIF BLVD! FAB 2BR 2BTH! YONGE**
N/Carville! Value Packed Ste W/39' Terrace! 2Car Prkg+Locker! Immediate! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

www.foresthill.com

**BATHURST/LAWRENCE**
Spectacular new custom built large 47' x 131', 2 storey, approx. 4,000 sq.ft., 5 bdrms, 6 baths, 3 kitchens, fin bsmnt apt., lrg rec room and separate nanny's suite, main floor library. Superb quality finishings. **A MUST SEE!!!** By appt. only. Offered at $1,295,000.

MIKE COHEN, Sales Rep.
Homelife Bayview Realty Inc. Brokerage 905-889-2200

## Paul Slavens

REAL ESTATE INC. BROKERAGE

RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS 483-4337

### FINE PROPERTIES

**LAWRENCE PARK - $2,375,000.**
This exquisite home must be seen to be appreciated. A masterpiece of taste & perfection. Spectacular kitchen. Master w/fireplace, balcony, his & her dressing rms. 3rd floor guest suite. Beautifully landscaped gardens & pool. *Carol Cotton/ *Donna Taylor

**FOREST HILL GEORGIAN - $2,195,000.**
Beautifully renovated. Custom SOLD am kitchen/family room plus separate servery boasting the finest appliances and built-ins. 5 bedrooms. 2nd floor family rm. Finished lower level. *Linda Rose

**UPPER RESIDENCES OF MINTO MIDTOWN**
$1,700,000. Just released. Exceptional 2 bdrm. + library suite Unobstructed south view. Master with 2 ensuites, eat-in kitchen, 2 terraces, unsurpassed craftsmanship & sophisticated finishes. Approx 2,600 sq.ft., 2 car parking. Avail. Fall 2007. **Don Wagman/*Linda Rose

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $1,199,000.**
Brand new 4+ 1 bdrms., 5 bath residence with all the bells & whistles. Custom kitchen + breakfast area. Main fl. family rm. + powder rm. Fin. lower level. Double garage. **Richard Sherman / *Erica Binder

**FOREST HILL DUPLEX - $1,198,000.**
Two renovated & spacious suites each with 2 bdrms. & a den. The 2 sty. owner suite feels like a house. Live in one & collect income from the other. Finished lower level. 3 car parking. *Carol Cotton

**BATHURST / ALEXANDRA WOOD - $988,000.**
Wonderful family home situated SOLD beautiful deep lot. Main fl. Den. Eat-in kitchen w/walk-out to deck. Multi fireplaces. Finished lower level. Private drive & garage. *Betty Cohen / *Donna Taylor

**ALLENBY SCHOOL AREA - $729,000.**
Lovely 4 bdrm. home. Spacious principal rms w/beautiful wainscotting. Kitchen w/breakfast SOLD opens to sunrm. Stone fireplace. Lots of leaded glass. Private drive. *Carol Cotton

**BAYVIEW / EGLINTON - $649,000.**
Gorgeous 3 bdrm. home. Totally reno'd. Finished lower level. Parking. Move-in condition. *Dominique Fuseau

**AVENUE RD / LAWRENCE - $649,000.**
Detached 3 bdrm., 2 bath home in John Wanless School Distnct. Orginal wainscotting. Leaded glass windows. Fireplace. Finished lower level. Large rear deck. Private drive. *Kathie Wood

**HAZELTON LANES CONDO**
$649,000. Avenue Rd/Bloor. Luxurious Boutique residence., 3 baths. Terrace with beautiful views over garden, courtyard & Yorkville. Steps to restaurants, shops, ttc. **Richard Sherman/*Irena Elina

**YONGE / SHEPPARD - $409,000.**
Invrting 2 bdrm. + solarium suite in the heart of North York. Eat-in kitchen. Walk-out to balcony. Ensuite laundry. Locker. Parking. Approx. 1,558 sq.ft. Steps to all amenities. **Don Wagman

**LAWRENCE/ALLEN - $265,000.**
Upgraded 3 bdrm. townhome SOLD utiful rooftop patio. Central air. Prkng. Shopping, TTC & transporation at your door. *Darren Slavens

**PROMENADE MALL CONDO - $259,000.**
Beautiful & spacious 2 bdrms. + solarium. Ensuite laundry. Tandem parking for 2 cars. Walking distance to Promenade shopping & library. *Lena Rauchwerger

**YONGE / SHEPPARD CONDO - $249,000.**
Wonderful 2 bdrm. suite in "Mansions of Avondale" by Shane Baghai. Brights & spacious corner unit. Granite flrs. in kitchen. Parking. Close to park, TTC & hwy 401. **Cary Chapnick

**BAYCREST SENIORS' RESIDENCE**
$144,000. Lovely condo suite available for the independent Senior. Building features 24 hr. conc. Party rm. Fitness centre. Rooftop grdn. Situated in the centre of Toronto. *Betty Cohen / *Donna Taylor

416-483-4337
* Salesperson **Broker

Virtual tour our properties:www.paulslavens.com

## ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

### HOUSES FOR SALE

**BATHURST/CENTRE "Pool Size Lot"**
Large 4 bdrm home, Cathedral Ceiling, Main Floor Fam, Den & Lndry Rm, Gourmet Kit with walk-out, Great Rm sizes, Must See!! Asking $519,000. Call *Ted Waxman

**YONGE/GAMBLE**
Customized Quality 4 Bdrm Home Upgraded Kit Cabinetry, Appl, Air, Mn Flr Laundry, Fin Bsmt & Double Garage. Shows Great!! Asking $459,000. Call *Ted Waxman

### CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**BATHURST/STEELES "COURTLAND"**
Large 2 bdrm open concept, Main flr Fam Rm, Fab rm sizes, Solarium & Locker. Must See!!! Asking $212,000 Call *Ted Waxman

**BATHURST/ANTIBES**
2 Bdrm corner condo w/renovated Kitchen, huge L-Shaped Balcony, Appliances, Air, Hardwood flrs, Thru'out, Close to all amenities!! Shows Great!!! Call * Jerome Schrier

**YONGE/FINCH - GREAT LOCATION!**
2 Bdrm plus den and balcony, totally renovated, Indoor Pool, gym, security, Walk to subway and shops, Asking $309,000. Shows Great!! Call *Lucy Melamud cell# 416-230-5374

### CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

**2 BDRM CONDO, 2 WASHROOMS**
In perfect condition Balcony, Security, gym, outside pool & tennis court, Close to all amenities. Asking $1450/Mo including Utilities! Call *Lucy Melamud

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

905-764-7200

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CHAIRMAN'S CLUB AWARD WINNER
2004, 2005, 2006

**LUXURY REAL ESTATE IN OLDE THORNHILL**

$1,799,000, 5+3 bdrms, 7 baths, w/out bsmt, 100' x 308'
$1,679,000, custom, 5+1 bdrms, 7 baths, 100' x 165'
$1,299,000, gorgeous 100'x 308' mature treed lot
$729,000, mature treed lot 100'x180'

**ALVEAR PALACE, 1 CORDOBA DR/THORNHILL**
State of the Art custom designed magnificent condos for sale. For your private viewing, square footage and all related information, please call.

**RENO'D CONDO BATHURST/CLARK**
$249,000 2 bdms (split), 2 baths, eat-in kit o/looks trees.

**WYLDWOOD TOWNHOME**

This stunning "Kosher" Executive End-Unit Townhome in the prestigious area of Wyldwood is finished with **only the best** and has a fantastic completed Walk-out Basement backing onto the forest. Offered at $559,900.

Call ELECHIA BARRY-SPROULE
Royal Lepage Your Community Realty for more details
416-525-2765

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

*From condos to castles. Michael gets results*

**HOMES**

**Bathurst/Wilson** – Just Listed! Triplex in central location, owner currently uses 2 units as 4 bedroom/ 3 bath apartment, but could be converted back separate apts: Top floor - 3 bedroom unit is rented. Great way to afford a 1st home! Asking $549,900

**Bathurst/Chabad Gate** – Freehold townhouse, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished ground floor basement with walk-out to backyard, large eat-in kitchen, laminate floors, garage, asking $324,900

**CONDOS**

**Bathurst/Sheppard** – Condo at 100 Canyon! 2 bedroom + solarium, eat-in kitchen, east exposure, indoor pool, clean and well maintained building, asking $239,900

*Evaluation of your home with no obligation!*
**Call Michael Harari at 416-630-0111**
*These and other listings at www.hararihomes.com*
**Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc.**

**SEIDMAN**
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
**416-633-7373**

**WILSON HEIGHTS/SHEPPARD**
Large bungalow next to commercial plaza, 56'x179' lot, 6 rooms + fin bsmnt, double garage, great location, steps to all.

**YONGE/CLARK CONDO**
1,855 sq ft, 2 bedroom + den, L-shaped living & dining comb, walkout to balcony, 2 parking, move-in condition, Don't Miss.

**SHEPPARD/FAYWOOD**
4 bdrm bungalow, liv & din comb, hardwood floors, finished basement, double garage, huge lot.

**416-633-7373**

**SALLY ROSEN**
**905-764-7111**

**BATHURST & SHEPPARD**
3 bdrm huge sidesplit, 2 car garage, 60 'x 150' lot. Completely renovated, 3 baths, family room, rec room, huge lot. Steps to all amenities.

**OLD FOREST HILL**
Elegance & grandeur. 5 bdrm, 3 baths, family room, 12' ceilings, lrge garden, w/o from kitchen, 2 car gar. See it–love it!
CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP

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Looking to buy or sell real estate on Lake Simcoe?
*Call the local expert.*
**Ruth Campbell**
Century 21 BJ Roth Realty Ltd.
70 Essa Road, Barrie, ON
Direct 705-796-3564

## 10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

**1600 sq. ft. luxury condo**, 333 Clark Ave. W. Conservatory bldg., Thornhill. Call 867-766-3666.

**Bathurst/Patricia**, 4 bdrm. + den, upgraded, backsplit, brand new kitch. & wash. Sep. entr. to a basement. Quiet, conven. loca. $529,000. Call 416-910-8373.

## 15 HOUSES FOR RENT

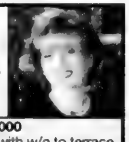
**Bathurst/Lawrence Stormont**, renovated 11 room sidesplit, 4 full/wash, 2 kitchens, July 1, $3000/mo. Call 416-789-5214.

**York Downs, Bathurst**, large sidesplit on ravine, 3 + 2 bdrms., 5 baths, 5 appliances. June 1st. Please call 416-223-3358.

**Bathurst Manor**, newly reno'd. 3 bed. bung., hrdwd/ceramic. CAC, 5 appl. with laundry, jacuzzi tub, all utils. & maint. Avail. immed. 905-771-0007.

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**ELAINE HARRIS**
*Associate Broker*
**Royal LePage Partners Realty**
**416-229-4454**



**THE CONSERVATORY - $299,000**
2 bdrm, 2 baths, main floor suite, eat-in kitchen with w/o to terrace, marble foyer & hall, new brdlm. View at **www.rpt.ca/clark110**

**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitch, solarium, prkng. Shabbas elevator, must sell at under market price. $ 279,500. Zidner Realty
**416-249-3356**

## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**Bath./Wilson**, new PH condo, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 9' ceilings, 6 appls., pkg., locker + extras! $1800/mo. + hydro. Call 416-805-1835.

**Brand new condo apt.**, 5 appls., Bathurst-Wilson. Please call 647-282-7730, leave message.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**Bath./Lawrence.**, lrge. bsmt. apt., nr. TTC, shops & shul. Avail. June 1st. Call 416-784-9152.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**120 SHELBORNE AVE.**
***"THE CORONET"***
Suites available immediately.
Walk to synagogues & shopping.
Sabbath Elevator. TTC at your door. ***Call...***
**416-282-6631**
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**BATHURST & WILSON**
Great living at this immaculately maintained building. *Its nothing like you have seen before.* Large, bright and newly refurbished suites with oversized balconies, breathtaking views and shabbat elevator. Indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi. 1 & 2 bedrooms from only $950. Please Call.
**416-931-2206**
**OPEN HOUSE every Sunday 10-2**

**BATHURST-SHEPPARD**
***ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.***
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, pool, ravine setting, 6 Apts. per flr.
**416-960-3238 - Bus.**
**416-631-9377 or 416-631-0308** Super

**Bathurst/Finch**, lrg. 2 bed., 2 bath Avail immed Decorator allowance - you spend/we pay. $1199/mo. Call collect to. 705-887-1188.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**Basement apt.**, Lawrence/Bath. area, separate entr., 1 bedrm, 4 piece bathroom, full kitchen. Partially furnished. Newly painted, well-lit. Close to synagogues, TTC. Avail. immediately. Please call 416-781-1659.

## LUXURY BUILDING!

Prestigious building at a very convenient location
Parking valet. Indoor pool. Security system.
Walk to shopping & subway station.
Great Views!
**Call Merita for your personal tour!**
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**www.capreit.net**

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**FOREST HILL LUXURY RENTAL SUITES**
**20 Shallmar Blvd. Call 416 848 9645**
**1 Bedrooms starting from $950, 2 Bedrooms starting from $1200**

- Renovated Suites
- Double Door Entrances
- Walking Trails
- Close to Bathurst and Eglinton

**MOVE IN BONUS**
**$500 dollars off**
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**BEAUTIFUL SETTING**
Spacious suites with double door entrance. Parks, restaurants, walking trails in the neighbourhood. 1 bedroom suites from $1050 & 2 bedroom suites from $1250. Call or visit today! Bathurst & Eglinton.
**20 Shallmar Blvd. 416-848-9645.**

**Bath./N. of Steeles**, 2 br., sep. entr. bsmnt. apt. w/kit, 1 bath, avail. June 1. All incl. + cable & internet. Laundry + 1 prkg space. Non-smoker/pets, $850/mo. Call evenings, 905-886-6305.

## 110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Lake Couchiching, Orillia**, priv. waterfront, 3 bdrm., den, sleeps up to 10, full amen., hot-tub, boat w/motor, docks. Avail. July only. Call 416-489-1205

**Peterborough area**, 90 mins from Toronto B&B venue from $200/night per couple. Min. 2 nights. Call 705-742-5483. www.stonegardensonthelake.com

## 125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Boynton Beach Villa**, 2 bdrm., den, 2 full baths, mint and close patio 30'x10'. All new appl., pool, tennis, clubhouse. $335,000 US. Call 561-369-4563

## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Florida, RV site for rent**, 6 miles to Disney, RT 192. Please call 716-778-9821, rvphiljan@yahoo.com.

## 160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Jerusalem**, central, new 4 bedroom luxury apt., CAC. Short-term rentals. Shomer Shabbos only. Call 416-782-6791.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

## 165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

**PROPERTIES IN ISRAEL**

**PRESTIGIOUS PROJECT IN RECHAVIA BORDER OF TALBIEH**

Prime location, deluxe interior, very large duplexes. Exquisite architecture, swimming pool. Genuine Grandeur.

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## 190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

**Mt. Tremblant**, 5 bed., 2 bath. Sleeps up to 14. Pool, tennis, close to beach and village. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Short term. 1-866-955-9961.

## 230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**Successful, established GTA** area tax consultant seeking partner to work on revenue sharing basis. Should be exp. in telemarketing, comfortable setting up appointments with large area manufacturers. Please e-mail resume outlining exp. to: taxpeople@gmail.com

**Fitness Centre Franchise: Women's Only** 30 minute training centre with steady clientelle. Profitable and easy to run. Toronto north location. Please call 416-805-6646.

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Catering bus.** looking for a cook with kosher exper. Full-time, immed. CJN Box #5099.

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Toronto based children's book publisher** seeking f/t admin. assistant/marketing assistant, previous marketing & computer skills an asset, applicants should be a self starter, motivated and have a good sense of humour. Interested applicants should send a resume to Dani at 416-781-4010 or dani@tumblebooks.com

**Montessori Jewish Day School** is seeking a Judaic Studies teacher. Required: Native Hebrew speaker, religious background, experience working with children of different age groups and abilities, Montessori training an asset. Please send resume, attention: Director of Judaic Studies, info@montessorijewish.ca

## 245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED

**Bookkeeping/office services.** Small bus., Quickbooks, wkly./mnthly. Your office/pick-up, exc. refs. Marmel, 905-731-7415.

## 250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

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**Dedicated to Caring Since 1996**
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*Providing service for over 60 years*
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**Rania and Edward Caregiving Services Inc.**
Need caregiver to look after someone you love?
A reliable, capable, well experienced and trustworthy caregiver from Israel, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore & Philippines. Live in/out, PT/FT no fees to sponsor overseas
**Call Rania 416-261-2303**
**416-839-8509**

**Reliable cleaner and painters**. Reasonable rates. Call Jane at 647-281-JANE (5263).

**Quality cleaning**, commercial, residential. Call 416-736-7562 OR 647-294-7562.

**THE SHOPPING CART**
Personal grocery shopping service. We offer courteous & reliable service at a fair price. Let us shop for you! Call 416-264-6122

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Coast to Coast

# B.C. camp for teens promotes Mideast peace

By LAUREN KRAMER
*Special to The CJN*

VANCOUVER — If you're a Canadian teen who is concerned about conflict in the Middle East, interested in filmmaking and consider yourself a creative thinker, chances are you're the right candidate for Peace It Together.

The brainchild of the Creative Peace Network Society, a Vancouver-based non-profit organization of facilitators, teachers, outdoor educators and artists, this summer program is seeking eight Canadian teens, ages 16 and 17, to join 24 Israeli and Palestinian teens in British Columbia for two weeks this August.

The youths will meet in Vancouver and take a ferry to Galiano Island, where they will be based at the Gulf Islands Film and Television School. Once there, they will engage in activities such as dialogue and listening exercises, leadership training, outdoor and wilderness experiences and creative projects.

They will also work in small groups to create original films about their lives, hopes and fears. The films will be screened in Vancouver at the end of the session.

"In the Middle East and around the world, Jewish, Palestinian and other Arab children are growing up in a culture of fear and mistrust," says Reena Lazar, executive director of the Creative Peace Network Society.

"Here in Canada, our communities are extremely polarized, and knowingly or not, our children also harbour within them much of the fear and resentment that typify the Middle East conflict. Peace It Together will address the seemingly insatiable need among youth impacted by violent conflict to find new avenues for hope, strength and joy."

**Israeli and Palestinian youth laughing together in Vancouver during Peace It Together 2004.**

Lazar was inspired to start the program after taking part in a similar one in New Mexico in 2003.

The first Peace It Together program was held in Canada in August 2004 and focused on conflict resolution, creativity and outdoor adventure. The new focus this year is filmmaking.

The cost to participate is on a sliding scale that ranges from $500 to $2,000. "But we won't turn away anyone if they can't pay that," Lazar says.

Peace It Together is being funded by numerous private foundations and is still seeking more funding.

The Palestinian and Israeli teens will come from around Israel, the West Bank and possibly Gaza. They will be recruited by Linda Divon, who heads up the Creative Peace Network Society's regional team.

While the aim is for participants to have fun in while in B.C., the Peace It Together program has serious goals.

"It will be an opportunity for them and the wider community to overcome stereotypes and increase tolerance, understanding and respect for the 'other,' increase awareness about the conflict and its impacts, foster collaboration to work toward a common goal, and become inspired and empowered community leaders," Lazar says.

"In other words, the youth will leave the program knowing that the 'enemy' is not really an enemy after all. They will leave knowing that there are some Israelis and Palestinians they can truly trust and who want the same thing they do – peace."

For more information, visit www.creativepeacenetwork.ca.

Arts & Travel

# *Israeli arts school seeks to expand*

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

For being such a tiny country, Israel has produced an inordinate amount of talented artists.

David Broza, Itzhak Perlman, Amos Oz and Mayim Bialik are just a few of the hundreds of stars who got their start in Israel. Now, one Israeli school is hoping to share some of that talent with the rest of the world.

Thelma Yellin, an arts school in Tel Aviv, has recently launched an international campaign to attract teenaged musicians, actors and artists.

"Art is an international language," says Haim Daitchman, Thelma Yellin's principal. "So living in Israel with Jews, Arabs and Christians – it's something very unique."

Currently, the school has 580 students who take courses in classical and jazz music, drama, theatre, film and dance. The kids, ranging in age from 14 to 18, are from all over Israel including Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Since there aren't any dorms, a lot of the students commute for hours to get to the school.

"Having the students commute means a lot," says Daitchman. "It shows that there's a strong desire to be in the school."

Since 1958, gifted Israelis have been taking classes at Thelma Yellin, which was named after a famous Israeli cellist, but only now is the school opening its doors to students who live abroad.

"We have many graduates who are very well known," says Daitchman. One of our graduates is the conductor for the Berlin opera. It's about exploring the beauty of Israel from an arts perspective. And it's a good excuse for young people to come to Israel."

Before they can start signing students up though, they need to raise funds to build a dorm and several other new facilities. In order to secure donations, Daitchman and Simon Bialkovich, Thelma Yellin's director of development, and a former pro jazz drummer, have come to Toronto to talk to Jewish and Christian leaders about the school. They even went to CTS, the Christian Television Station, to pitch their project.

"We met with the president of CTS. It's interesting to see [their perspective] on supporting us. They see it as a way to bridge the gap between minorities," says Bialkovich at Toronto's Delta Chelsea hotel.

CTS isn't the only organization to see the potential that a more diverse Thelma Yellin has. Daitchman and Bialkovich hope to attract Arab students, and they've already met with delegates from Jordan to get the Arab world in tune with the school's program.

"The Jordanians were very interested in this program," says Daitchman. "Everyone can understand art and I'm sure we'll find the partners in Jordan and Egypt who think the same."

Becoming a student at the school has a lot more perks then just playing music or making movies. Every two years, the school's 75-piece symphony orchestra travels to Europe. They've played in Geneva, Brussels and most recently, Paris.

"Our concert in Paris last month," says a beaming Daitchman, "was a very unique one. We played at the UNESCO auditorium in front of 1,000 people who played 250 euro for a ticket. The president of the event was Roman Polanski."

While students in the symphony get to show off their skills on the international stage, these bi-annual gigs are also meant to promote Thelma Yellin outside of Israel. In conjunction with Daitchman's meetings in Toronto and other cities across the world, the school is hoping to raise $30 million. The money, says Daitchman will go toward renovations that need to be completed for 2008, the school's 50th anniversary and the year that Thelma Yellin will start taking students from the Diaspora.

"We'd love to raise financial support and strategic support, to build up the dormitories, an auditorium and more," says Daitchman.

"We're trying to raise capital," adds Bialkovich, a former graduate of Thelma Yellin. "That's why we have to create an awareness about the school. Sometimes we've seen schools that have a great rep, but from an arts point of view Thelma Yellin will be a much better place."

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# Bar Iran's president from World Cup: rabbi

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

**LOS ANGELES** — Rabbi Marvin Hier surveys the situation developing in Germany and can't help getting a feeling of déjà vu about it.

All the elements are there to suggest something of a replay of the 1936 Olympics, he suggests.

Like the Munich Olympics of 70 years ago, Germany will again play host to a sporting event of global proportions, this time the FIFA World Cup of Soccer, which kicks off on June 9 and runs for a month.

And like Hitler in 1936, another world leader, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is planning to attend Iran's opening match as a VIP to enhance his prestige.

Rabbi Hier finds that intolerable.

Rabbi Hier, dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), has written to FIFA, the governing body of international soccer, and to the German government, asking whether it is appropriate for a person who has denied the Holocaust and called for the obliteration of Israel "to return to the scene of the crime 61 years after the Holocaust."

Speaking to a group of visiting Canadian reporters via teleconference, Rabbi Hier said, "It is too horrible to allow the return to Berlin of a man who would do the same thing."

The SWC has asked FIFA to "take a clear stand to bar Ahmadinejad."

FIFA's response has been inadequate – even hypocritical, he said.

FIFA has replied saying it does not engage in political affairs. The SWC released excerpts of a letter from FIFA legal director Heinz Tanner saying the organization "is a non-political association" and that Ahmadinejad's visit is the responsibility of the German government. However, FIFA has in fact taken a political stand, criticizing Israel for attacking an empty soccer field that was used as a training ground by Hamas, Rabbi Hier noted.

**Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**

"It is morally repugnant and certainly a double standard when FIFA can condemn Israel, but is silent and unwilling to say to Iranian President Ahmadinejad that he is not welcome to attend the World Cup in Germany because he has called for the obliteration of the State of Israel and referred to the Holocaust as a myth," said Rabbi Hier and Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the SWC.

Rabbi Hier said German diplomats have told him that as head of state, Ahmadinejad is immune from prosecution, but he has not received an invitation from Germany "and it's up to FIFA to invite or uninvite him."

It is imperative for Ahmadinejad to be embarrassed and repudiated by not being permitted to attend the soccer tournament, Rabbi Hier asserted. If in 1936 the world community had decided in large numbers not to attend the Munich Olympics, Hitler could have been weakened and he may not have felt emboldened to act aggressively on the international scene, he suggested.

"If [Ahmadinejad] is invited to a prestigious event, how do you get it through to him he's on the wrong track?" he added.

Meanwhile, news reports from Europe indicated several members of the European Parliament (MEP) in Brussels are calling for Iran to be banned from the World Cup and replaced with Bahrain.

The MEPs were expected to send a letter this week to FIFA President Sepp Blatter, urging him to take action against Iran because of Ahmadinejad's calls for the destruction of Israel, denial of the Holocaust and refusal to halt his country's nuclear activity, euobserver.com reported.

It is, however, unclear how many MEPs out of the parliament's 732 members would sign the letter, the web news service added.

In Israel, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that Jurgen Ruttgers, minister-president of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's largest federal state, said Ahmadinejad would not be welcome at the World Cup.

"We don't want anybody to create trouble," he said. "We want to have a nice and pleasant World Cup."

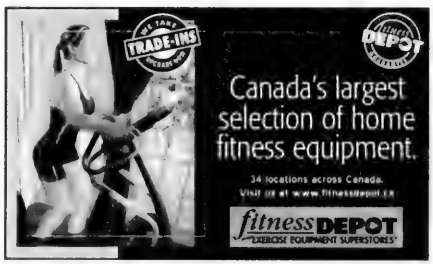
Germany would also not allow neo-Nazi or extreme right-wing demonstrations, Ruttgers told an audience at the Konrad Adenauer Center in Jerusalem.

Asked how Germany would deal with Ahmadinejad in the event that he carries out his intention to attend, Ruttgers said that he was not in a position to make an official statement.

All he could say in general terms was that Ahmadinejad was persona non grata in Germany, the *Post* reported.

"He is not accepted," Ruttgers said.

*Paul Lungen recently visited the SWC offices in Los Angeles as a guest of the SWC.*

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Employees and family members of The CJN and the Toronto Lynx are not eligible to enter.

# Olympic gold medalist among dignitaries at benefit

By ELI SHUPAK
*Special to The CJN*

Nearly two years after becoming Israel's first-ever Olympic gold medalist, windsurfer Gal Fridman is still making the most of his status as a hero to Jews both at home and abroad.

After recently celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut on his first visit to Canada in the nation's capital, Fridman was among the guests of honour a few days later at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre Sports Celebrity Benefit held at Olympic Spirit Toronto.

"Israel has a long history of participating [in the Olympic Games]," he said. "It was a dream come true and a great honour to win the first gold."

After the Olympics, Fridman came home and sought out the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to explore how as a national hero in Israel he could help Jews who were less fortunate.

The soft spoken 30-year-old from Karkur, near Hadera, developed a personal mentoring program through which he combines his mountain bike-based training with windsurfing instruction to help kids at risk realize the value of determination and goal-setting.

He meets with them every week, delivering the message that by believing in themselves and persevering they will be successful. Participants must attend school and not misbehave to qualify for the program.

"They have a special instructor during the week," he said. "If they don't behave, they don't get to do the fun activities with me."

The program stresses conditioning and discipline, showing the youngsters what they can accomplish through hard work and focusing on the task at hand. Fridman bikes with them and teaches them how to ride the wind on water, repeatedly stressing the role that determination has played in his success.

Last summer, the Olympic gold medalist travelled to St. Paul, Minn. where he lit the torch to start the annual JCC Maccabi Games.

Fridman won the 2003 Mistral World Championships in Thailand prior to his Olympic triumph and was a bronze medalist at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He is currently training full time for the 2008 Games in Beijing.

Fridman did not participate at the 2000 Sydney Olympics due to illness and took up mountain bike training during his time away, returning to regular training and competition in 2001. The biking proved to be beneficial in helping him sustain strength as a competitive windsurfer and get his message out to Jews throughout the world to keep the faith.

"It was amazing to see Israel on the news for something good," he said. "Jews around the world are used to seeing Israel [portrayed] not in such a positive way all the time."

• • •

Toronto Argonauts president and CEO Keith Pelley was honoured at the Sports Celebrity Benefit as the 2006 Miles Nadal JCC Sportsman of the year. He dedicated the award to the club's co-owners David Cynamon and Howard Sokolowski, who were in attendance.

# Defending twentysomethings

Debbie Travis wasn't the first to say it and I'm sure she won't be the last.

This twentysomething generation is lazy, spoiled, undisciplined and seemingly allergic to hard work.

Sandie Benitah
20Something

It's hard not to be insulted by these sweeping generalizations, but I can't say I'm surprised, considering my view of my generation as the most misunderstood and underestimated.

In a recent issue of *Maclean's* magazine, Travis was quick to point out all that is wrong with our work ethic. Her new show is all about showing us how rewarding hard work and patience is. She wants us all to take a hammer and chip away at this air of entitlement we all seem to carry around.

It's painfully clear the beloved baby-boomer generation apparently still doesn't know just how good they had it.

Back in the day, good jobs were aplenty, with or without a high school education, never mind an affordable university education. If a woman loved children and wanted to teach for a living, she'd be as good as hired, whether she had a teacher's degree or not. She certainly didn't have to spend a year teaching English in China for an edge over the competition.

I don't expect Travis or people from her generation to understand how different we have it and how challenging life has become for us, but I absolutely can't tolerate her condescending attitude toward something she obviously just doesn't understand.

Oh, but she begs to differ.

"The young people who worked for me had this attitude that if they were told off, or if they made a mistake, they would just leave," she told *Maclean's* interviewer Linda Frum. "Or, if they had graduated from film school, they really expected that after two hours they would move straight to directing."

Well, *excuuuuuse* us, but take it from me, after personally having completed four unpaid internships and now working alongside interns as a full-time staff member, I can see both sides of the coin.

Interns are underappreciated and incredibly underused. Yes, someone has to photocopy agendas for the meeting, but perhaps it shouldn't be the person who wants to learn some "real" responsibility. But the truth is, anybody who can actually teach us a thing or two is too busy to spend time with us and so we're given the grunt work and swept under the carpet as a nuisance rather than an asset. It's easy to do when it's free labour. No money spent equals no time wasted — for the company anyway.

The designing diva certainly did get one thing right. We are the most educated generation with a huge percentage of us having pursued a post-secondary education. In many cases, we have more of an education than the people that hire us. Can't blame us for being annoyed. We paid an exorbitant amount of money each year for university only to graduate with 300 others who are equally educated, qualified and motivated. It's a tough job market out there and so yes, we're resentful when all we have to show for our hard work is a lowly gofer job at some prestigious office.

Of course we believe in paying our dues, but we just want to know when we have to stop paying them? Our education is more expensive, affordable housing is non-existent, gas prices are through the roof and companies expect you to work for free before even looking at your resumé. The American dream may have been a reality for our parents and grandparents but for youngsters starting out fresh today, it's become more of a fantasy.

Yes, we do have a sense of entitlement simply because we are entitled to something better — similar opportunities to those our parents, the Debbie Travises of the world, had. But we don't have those opportunities and all we are left with is our motivation. And sometimes our motivation just isn't going to be where it should be.

## Toffee-Topped Cheesecake Bars for Shavuot

1 1/4 cup flour
1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 cup cocoa
1/4 tsp. baking soda
3/4 cup margarine, softened
1 pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 can sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 pkg. SKOR Baking Chips, divided

Heat oven to 350°F . Combine flour, powdered sugar, cocoa and baking soda in bowl; cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Press into bottom of ungreased 9x13 springform pan. Bake 15 min. Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add condensed milk, eggs and vanilla; beat until smooth. Stir in 1 cup SKOR bits. Pour mixture over hot crust. Bake 20-25 min. or until set and edges just begin to brown. Remove from oven. Cool 15 min. Sprinkle remaining SKOR bits over top. Cool completely. Refrigerate several hours. Cover; store in refrigerator.

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**Dear Ella,**

Heather, a close friend of mine, recently met a new guy whom she is totally obsessed with. Every time she's in the company of a large group, she is all over him, and vice versa.

It makes people, including me, very uncomfortable. She sits on his lap and they whisper, giggle, kiss and recite pet names to each other. It's really quite obnoxious. Did I mention that she is not a teenager? We are talking about a 43-year-old woman.

## About Life

Sometimes I don't want to invite her to come along, but she has been part of our group for a long time and used to be quite pleasant to be around when she was single. None of us appreciate this new side we are seeing of Heather, as it seems so incredibly juvenile.

How do I tell her that this behaviour is over the top?

**Disgusting Display**
**Dear Disgusting Display**

Everyone has their own gauge of how much affection in public is too much.

Some feel that holding hands or hugging is acceptable, while others feel only a quick peck is appropriate public behaviour.

My feeling is that anything that makes people uncomfortable is inappropriate. No one should feel left out, embarrassed or awkward around their friends, or anyone for that matter.

It's wonderful that the two of them are so happy and into each other that they seem to tune out the rest of the world around them.

You imply that Heather only does this when she is with a large group of people. Is it possible they are simply carrying on in public the way they do in private?

Either way, you shouldn't be made to feel uncomfortable. Heather needs to be made aware of how her actions are affecting others. Speak to her privately and explain you are very happy she has met someone she cares about, but she is making you all feel awkward. Ask her to tone it down a bit when she goes out with you. She may not realize the impact her behaviour has on others. I'm sure if she knew she was making others feel uneasy, she would think twice next time.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN, *email: ella@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

# Bravo, God! A baby is born

**By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG**

URBAN WRITER

Miriam and I had a baby. Bravo, God!

On April 24, at 4:48 a.m., while most of you were sound asleep, little Noah River exited his mother's womb, came into our world leaving behind a direct handshake with the angels and the Almighty.

At that moment, motherhood was loftily bestowed upon Miriam and I accepted the glorious mantle of fatherhood.

I've always believed that miracles are occurrences outside of nature, but when I saw our seven-pound 12-ounce baby, when I witnessed his measured blinks, wriggling toes and fingers and heard that first cry that seemed to emanate from heaven itself, my view of them changed. I believed right then and there I was in the middle of an amazing phenomenon – otherworldly in nature – not much different than when Moses and the Jewish People walked through the split sea.

Our Noah is gold, silver and pearls. He is a living, breathing rose. A human orchid. I adore him, am in love with his steely blue eyes, soft and subtle lips, and his character, which accurately reflects the meaning of his name – calm, peaceful. And like most dads, my paternal hormones are on overdrive and I regularly kiss my little boy's nose, ears, fingers and bum. If I had a kiss-o-metre, it would register one million and six by now.

I am in awe of Miriam. I am because her passage through the gates of motherhood was heroic, no less than the biblical Devorah's victorious battle against Sisera. Through the internal kicks to the ribs she had to endure, her backaches, sore feet and then the pain of birth, she was all women brilliant and brave. (I remain upset, however, with the serpent in the Garden of Eden whose beguiling actions caused Miriam to hurt so).

The Torah says Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah were superior to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in prophesy. Of course they were. Inside of their bellies grew little beings protected by an ethereal placenta of sorts, with one foot in this world and another in a much holier place.

Motherhood suits Miriam so well. I see that when she softly runs her hand over Noah's face as he sleeps and he is soothed. It is then I am reminded of a line from Sophie Tucker's' *A Yiddishe Mamma*: "There sat the sweetest angel, One that I fondly call a Yiddishe Momme. Tse kimpt nisht besser In der velt." (There is no better person in the world.)

And fatherhood, well it's coming slowly to me. Miriam told me not to worry and instead accept how I feel today as a father is the way I'm supposed to feel and tomorrow my paternal experience will be different. My love, she says, will change and grow every day.

We coddle Noah. We hug him. When I bathe him, I take off my shirt so that our skin touches. I want him to feel safe and loved always and I desperately desire the same for every child born at 4:48 a.m. that morning, the minutes before and all those after.

Miriam and I had a baby boy and the night we brought him home, I looked up at the sky and felt as though I was one of the stars. Now, as I write in my study, I hear his sweet cooing on the walkie- talkie while he naps. My smile is so wide, I worry that my face cannot hold it.

I am a father. Miriam is a mother. Noah River is our son. Love has engulfed us and all is right. Bravo, God! Bravo!

*Avrum@yeahavta.org. SUDAN?*

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No Place Like Home

# Artists' life-like murals transform rooms

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

What young boy wouldn't like a tour of the Toronto Maple Leafs' dressing room? Imagine visiting it every day and even sleeping there.

It's a fantasy for many young boys, but a dream come true for one lucky child, thanks to the artistry of Cherry Hill Designs.

Michael Gossack (416-509-9030), a principal of Cherry Hill, and his partner, were able to paint the boy's bedroom to simulate the Leafs' dressing room

The life-like painted murals include hockey jerseys hanging in a locker and actual replicas of the players' hockey sticks, says Gossack. "People think the shelf and bench are real, but it's all flat."

He explains that he conceptualized the dressing room project and worked closely with his partner to produce the life-like murals. "We even had the real hockey sticks to work from."

These days, the two partners are out in Brampton on a project to convert a 2,500-square-foot basement – complete with home theatre, wine room and spa bathroom – into a medieval castle under siege. "We're going along with the existing stone for a castle-like effect. We're going to use a lot of textures on the walls," says Gossack. "It's going to be unbelievable. We're doing 11 murals.

"There's this huge bathroom, so the toilet is being put on a throne, and we have fire-breathing dragons attacking in the theatre room."

A former sports broadcaster and talent agent, Gossack says he moved into mural painting and theme room creation because he has a knack for this kind of decor. "I always had a passion for art theme rooms; they're unique creations," he explains. "When you commission a mural you're paying for a piece of art."

Cherry Hill offers a variety of services including faux finishing, wall murals, cartoon characters for the wall and custom shelving.

"We do the characters out of half-inch-thick wood [and they] look almost three dimensional. We'll make your kid's room the best theme room ever."

Gossack says his partner is a painter who can replicate anything. "I'm working with a master. I'm getting hands-on learning with a master. I want to do as much painting as I can."

Gossack does much of the work, but his partner takes care of the detailed mural work.

"I'm on site. I oversee the project to make sure it's perfect. We make changes as we go along."

He says he generates most of his ideas by using such computer programs as Photoshop to produce blueprints for his vision. "There are so many ideas for rooms I can do. I can create a city. I'm dying to rebuild Bedrock. I can create the whole city out of wood and murals.

"As a former sports broadcaster, I have such a passion for sports I can create incredible sports rooms. I've been in the dressing rooms. I've talked to the players. I own the memorabilia. I'm not just working from pictures."

Mural painting is also a specialty of Guy Abergel (416-737-4953; guyabergel@hotmail.com), a freelance Israeli-born illustrator who has lived in Toronto since he was three years old. Abergel specializes in airbrushing and does custom work on everything from walls to motorcycles and cars.

"I've been drawing my whole life," says Abergel, a self-trained illustrator. "I've been involved in illustration for my entire art career. I never formally trained anywhere."

A natural talent, Abergel has taught illustration at the Thornhill Community Centre. He's also had a couple of comic books published

His work in private homes has ranged from children's rooms and nurseries to living rooms and dining rooms

"I can turn a dining room into a Tuscan garden terrace with columns and views of the Tuscan countryside."

Abergel usually works from photographs, he says. "I can recreate the exact image. No matter what people want, I can duplicate any image. I don't leave until the customer is completely satisfied."

He has also done a lot of commercial work, creating garden scenes and seascapes in restaurants and other commercial spaces.

Continued on page B4

Murals by Michael Gossack

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Cherry Hill Designs photo

# *Murals bring nature indoors*

**Continued from page B3**

One of his commissions was to do murals for three different rooms in a multicultural youth centre and day care in Scarborough.

The wall mural at the youth centre captured images of former Toronto basketball star Vince Carter and other Raptors, he notes. "I used cartoon characters like Jimmy Neutron because the series has many multi-racial characters."

Abergel learned to do airbrushing from a video. "I bought a video and watched it about eight years ago. Airbrushing is the quickest way to make something look realistic. It's faster and more efficient than classical painting.

"I find with airbrushing the more detail and real the image, the better the picture. I can show the pores in the face and skin and a thin strand of hair."

Once the picture is drawn out, the actual painting is done in layers, he explains. "The paint dries instantly, so it's not forgiving if you make mistakes. It's much easier to correct your mistakes with oil or acrylic. They dry a lot slower.

"You need a very steady hand. There's a lot of eye-hand co-ordination with this technique."

One of his favourite home designs was a scene he created for a cottage up north last summer, he says.

"It had an amazing view of the lake. I continued the sky from outside inside the cottage, so even when you're inside, you feel like you're outside."

Generally it takes him two to three days to do a wall eight by 10 feet.

He notes that movie scenes and characters are very popular motifs for entertainment rooms. "I can do entire movie scenes."

Abergel says he works closely with his clients to come up with a design. "I can create whatever people can dream of."

Murals by Guy Abergel

# *Habitat for Humanity set to build its fifth home in York Region*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Habitat for Humanity, an independent, charitable housing program that provide affordable housing for families who can't afford traditional mortgages, is getting set to build another home in York Region.

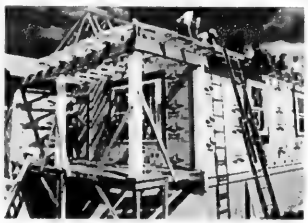
Now in its fifth year of operation, the York Region chapter of Habitat for Humanity has already built four homes and will begin construction on its fifth next month in Keswick.

ReStore, an integral part of Habitat's success and part of a chain of more than 40 stores in Canada, is run by volunteers who accept donations of used renovation materials and sell them to raise money to help cover the costs of building homes.

The 10,000-square-foot York Region store, located in Newmarket, accepts doors, windows, electrical fixtures, lumber, kitchen and bathroom cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, paint, tiles, countertops, roofing, appliances, and furniture, which it sells at low prices, using the proceeds to furnish other homes in York Region.

"We do pick-ups from homeowners, bring it back to ReStore, sell it and the money goes to Habitat for Humanity," said store manager Joe Stirling.

What makes the York Region store unique is its Home and Kitchen Shop, which sells more than 100 used kitchens each year.



[Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity]

"When people are renovating their kitchens, we'll take their kitchen apart for free, and the people who donated their old kitchens will get a tax receipt for whatever we sell it for," Stirling said, adding that they will also save hundreds of dollars on having to pay a contractor to remove the kitchen.

Not only do ReStores across the country offer assistance to families in need, they're also environmentally friendly: the stores divert more than 10,000 tons of material from Canadian landfills each year.

Stirling said that this summer, volunteers are getting set to build a house in Keswick for a family of four.

He said it usually takes about 16 weeks to build a house, depending on the weather, and there may be between two to 10 people working on a particular house, depending on how complicated the job is.

"Ninety per cent of the people working on the homes are volunteers, tradesmen." He said, adding that students as young as 16 can help build homes while students as young as 15 can work in the store.

Stirling said that building houses for people who can't afford a traditional mortgage "gives people a hand up," but stressed that it's not a handout.

He said that while the people still have to pay a mortgage, it's interest free.

Recipients of the homes have to go through a selection process by the that determines who is entitled to a home based on need, ability to pay the interest-free mortgage and a willingness to give back to the community.

According to the Habitat for Humanity website, if a family is living in an overcrowded or run-down home, or their housing payments exceed 35 per cent of their gross income, they will be considered for a Habitat home.

However, although their family income may be too low to secure conventional financing from a bank, they must be able to make the payments on a no-interest Habitat mortgage.

The family must also be willing to put in the mandatory "sweat equity" hours to build their own house and other Habitat houses.

"The ones who are picked have to do 500 hours of volunteer work in the community," Stirling said.

The most rewarding part of his job, Stirling said, is being able to lend a helping hand to people in his community.

"Seeing the people, after the house is dedicated... They are a proud people. They're happy to have a new home, the kids are happy to have their own room. It's a very rewarding job."

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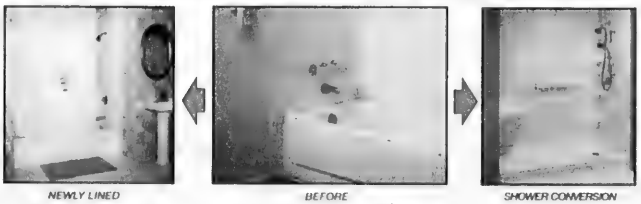


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# Know your needs when shopping for kitchen appliances

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

[Photo courtesy of Caplan's Appliances]

Seeing a flashy ad for a high-tech oven or hearing a friend rave about a brand-new dishwasher will likely make a significant impression on you.

But ultimately, what really matters when shopping for kitchen appliances is knowing your needs and having a salesperson guide you to practical products, says Robert Caplan, of Caplan's Appliances (416-767-1655, www.caplans.ca).

"You want to make sure the salesperson is looking out for you," notes Caplan, general manager of the family business that's been in operation since 1944.

"The salesperson should be asking you questions like how you cook, how many people you're cooking for and how frequently you're using these appliances. With so many good products out there, the customer needs to be [informed about] what's practical."

Further to that, it's incumbent upon you to go into the store knowing the answers to these important questions.

"You have to be able to inform the salesperson," says George Alles, general manager of Tasco Distributors (www.tasco.net), which boasts five retail locations across the Greater Toronto Area.

"For instance, if you don't bake much, then you should be able to tell the salesperson that you're more concerned with surface cooking, and then you can concentrate on finding a really good performance product that's for surface cooking."

With knowing your needs as the first step, the next part of the process is learning about what's hot and why.

Alles and Caplan both note that stainless-steel and energy-efficient appliances are all the rage.

"A fridge you buy today would use about one-third of the energy of a fridge from 15 years ago," says Alles.

"They are now very efficient and also very quiet."

Caplan points out that there has been a shift from electric to gas stoves in recent years and the newest technology is induction cook tops, which functions by having a magnetic field induce a current in the cookware.

"It's a lot more powerful than gas or electric cooking, it's safer and it's more efficient," he says.

"It's a product that a lot of manufacturers are now [developing]."

Another trend in the world of kitchen appliances is what Caplan calls "kitchen jewelry," which is essentially extra features that aren't necessities but are useful.

"People are now buying things like warming drawers, built-in espresso systems or having wine coolers in the kitchen," Caplan says.

Alles says a growing cadre of clients are also inclined to purchase appliances that aren't that far off in size and scope from what you'd find in a restaurant kitchen.

"Professional appliances is a trend," he says.

"We're seeing people buying things like a Viking range, which is practically restaurant-sized."

Some final tips include knowing how much space you have to fit particular appliances and factoring in how many cooks there are in your household; and if you keep the Sabbath, be sure to inquire about appliances with a Sabbath mode.

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# The hidden costs of buying a home

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Buying a home can be quite the odyssey, especially in a hot real estate market.

Between shopping around for an affordable mortgage rate to finding the right home, many people would love nothing more than to just wrap up the deal.

But before that happens, certain pieces of the puzzle need to get done, including a home inspection.

"Consumers aren't usually aware of what's wrong with a home, which is why it's smart to have an educated eye see exactly what needs to be fixed or to make an itemized list that details what goes with the warranty," says Steve Balshin, a registered home inspector and owner of Majestic Home Inspection Service (905-886-2856, www.majestichomeinspection.com).

"It's exactly like buying a car."

Inspections typically involve hands-on examinations of major aspects of a property, such as the plumbing, heating and electrical systems, as well as the structural elements, like the roof.

Balshin says that depending on the size, age and complexity of a property, the inspection can last anywhere from two to seven hours.

They are done for brand-new as well as resale homes, and in many cases, real estate agents encourage prospective buyers to have the inspection performed as a condition of the offer.

Inspectors also help determine if problems in a home are covered under the Tarion Warranty Corporation program.

The program provides new home owners with one- to two- year warranty protection against defects in work and materials, while major structural defects fall under seven-year warranty protection.

Some of the major concerns that inspections draw attention to include mould and mildew, old-style wiring and energy issues.

"It can be very difficult to get home insurance if you have big risks, like mould and mildew or an underground oil tank," he says.

Balshin emphasizes that when seeking out an inspector, it's advisable to choose a professional who is registered and has a background in construction.

"If you hire a home inspector who is registered, you're getting someone who has to follow standards of practice," notes Balshin, who has inspected more than 44,000 properties over 29 years.

"You should also look for someone with building experience, like a home builder."

Another important piece of the puzzle is getting home insurance.

[Vera Gillman photo]

Whether it's a home invasion or flooding in the basement, a litany of troubles can occur in a home, and insurance can provide you with financial protection against them.

"You buy insurance to protect your finances," says Jeff Goldstein (416-380-2211), vice-president of Paisley Manor Insurance Group, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

"Our primary concern is to put you back in the financial situation you were in before the issue."

Goldstein encourages clients to not strictly focus on price when seeking out an insurance broker, but rather to pay close attention to the coverage features, along with the reputation and customer service offered by the broker.

"There are a number of us selling similar products, but the differentiation between us is the relationship we develop with clients," he says.

"Here, the reputation we've got is that we [provide] a high level of customer service."

A valuable piece of advice Goldstein offers to clients is to do a thorough inventory of your home and have the insurance company appraise what's in it.

"Look for a company that's going to do an appraisal on the house's [contents] to determine replacement value," he says.

In addition to home insurance, you may also want to invest in mortgage insurance.

"The person who purchases this insurance is usually the breadwinner who has an important contribution to the [mortgage]," says Monica Weissmann, an investment representative and insurance agent with Edward Jones Insurance (905-889-8535).

"If that person passes away, then their contribution to the family's income disappears. So mortgage insurance has to do with protection of your loved ones, by protecting your assets."

When trying to decide on the most appropriate mortgage insurance policy, Weissmann advises clients to carefully consider if the insurance coverage remains the same throughout the policy term.

For instance, if the mortgage amount at the time of purchase is $250,000 and 10 years down the road it is $100,000, you may still want the insurance coverage to be the original amount of the mortgage.

A certified financial planner, Weissmann encourages people to deal with a professional.

"People should consult with a professional and it doesn't have to be an insurance agent," she says.

"It can be a financial adviser who is licensed to sell insurance."


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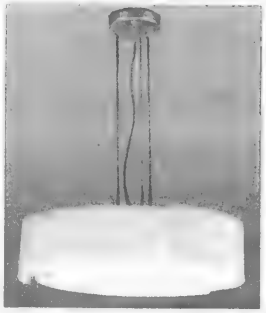

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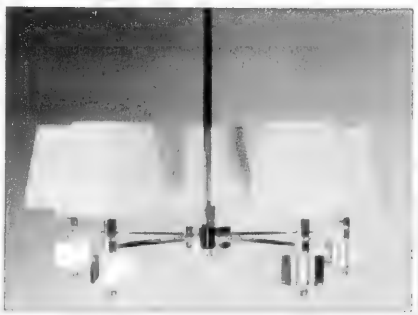

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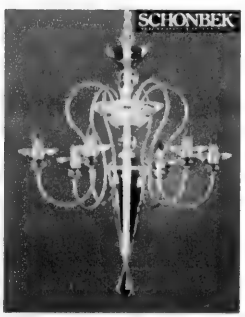


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# *Persian rugs — beautiful and durable*

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

If you're choosing an oriental rug for your home, the experts say buy the best quality you can afford.

Rahmat Babaiy of Palace Interior (416-323-3277) at 1255 Yonge St. just south of St. Clair Avenue, and Arthur Selyan of Selyan Flooring (416-781-2030), at 1783 Avenue Rd. north of Lawrence Avenue, both recommend buying the traditional hand-knotted Persian carpets made in Iran.

The carpets, which generally come in classic patterns of reds and blues, are known for their beauty and durability, says Selyan. "I tell people the carpets will last 100 years."

The carpets also increase in value as they age, says Babaiy, noting that a rug in his store from 1880 is now worth $65,000, and one from 1920 is valued at $45,000. A new rug of similar quality would be in the $5,000 range.

"You have to educate people first," Babaiy says. "People need to be informed about the product they're buying."

He says that some Persian rugs like the Qashqai or Bakhtiari are named for the Iranian nomadic tribes that weave them. Others like the Hariz and Hemmdan are named for the villages where they're woven. "The price depends on the quality. With the villages and tribes, the weaver works from memory. It's a cottage industry. One person may do the dyeing, spinning and weaving."

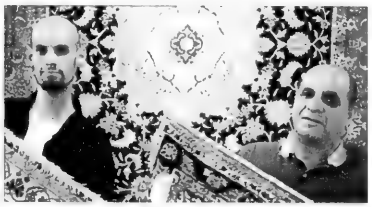
In contrast, Babaiy notes that rug-making in the cities is a business. He explains that the Persian rugs from the Iranian cities are more expensive than the tribal and village rugs because they are more detailed and they are often made of silk or finer wool, which also raises the price.

The quality of the wool also influences the price, Babaiy says. "Kurk wool, the sheep's finest wool, is used with silk because the fibres have to match. The first shear of lamb is also more expensive. Ordinary wool is less expensive.

"I can tell the difference by closing my eyes and running my hand over the rug."

Both stores carry rugs imported from the main carpet weaving centres in Iran, Pakistan, India, Turkey, Russia and China.

Arthur Selyan



Jalal (left) and Rahmat Babaiy of Palace Interiors

The two men have considerable experience in the carpet business. Babaiy is the third generation of a family of carpet dealers who were originally based in Iran, while Selyan has been running his business since 1949. He also offers a variety of flooring options that include laminates, engineered wood, hardwood, cork, broadloom, linoleum tiles and marble and porcelain tiles.

Selyan says he's noticed changes in people's buying patterns for rugs over the years, noting that the decorators seem to prefer Chobies, rugs with more neutral colours made in India and Pakistan, "They like rugs in shades of beiges and golds. The Chobies are more popular now."

Babaiy says the Chobies are original copies of faded antique Persian rugs. "The carpets are combined with patterns and designs from older rugs. The thinner pile makes the rugs look older."

Selyan says that price is determined by the complexity of design, colour and size, and where a particular rug is woven. The selection of rugs in his store are geared to a wide scope in budgets, he adds. The choices are quite diverse. For instance, he carries synthetic woven rugs, but also available is a pure silk $15,000 Keshan from Iran.

He says a popular item is the Boukhara, a 100 per cent wool Pakistani rug with some silk woven into the design. The selection of Chobies also include the Vandie, a Chobi rug coloured with vegetable dyes.

Selyan notes that there are few requests for the thick 120- or 90-line traditional hand-woven Chinese rugs, but the Tibetan rugs, thick wool carpets in more contemporary design, continue to be in demand.

He says all his rugs can be cleaned. He recommends a special cleaner under the Selyan label for spot cleaning, and when necessary, he offers a service whereby the carpets are hand cleaned.

Palace Interior also offers hand cleaning, as well as a restoration and repair service. "We also trade in [or buy] old rugs," Babaiy says.

He recognizes the importance of excellent customer service and encourages his customers to try the rugs at home for 24 hours before they buy. "I say, 'Take it home. There's no charge.' If they like it they pay for it."

Selyan also allows his customers to bring the rugs home to decide if a particular rug suits their home. He also advises people to bring colour swatches of their furniture when rug shopping.

These days, Selyan sends buyers from the company to do the rug purchasing. Babaiy says he also does not need to travel as much for business. He explains he can get any kind of carpet for his customers because he works closely with carpet dealers around the world. "They know my inventory and I know theirs."

Selyan also carries a wide array of floor covering for every room in the house. If customers are unable to find a suitable rug, he says they can opt for broadloom carpeting, which is offered at very competitive prices.

Laminate, a floating floor with a 25-year guarantee, has become increasingly popular, he says. Laminates are actually photographs of wood with a protective cover over a high density fibre-board.

Also in great demand is engineered wood flooring – layers of wood with a wood veneer. These floating floors are widely used in condominiums because they can be applied directly over concrete, Selyan says.

Selyan also offers a wide selection of natural floors – pre-finished solid hardwood flooring, as well as cork tiles.

Cork is very warm and soft, he notes. "It's totally natural material. The cork tiles are also very environmentally friendly because they are a renewable resource."

People can see how the various floor coverings look at the showroom of the Selyan Flooring Warehouse, a 50,000-square-foot space at 112 Oakdale Ave.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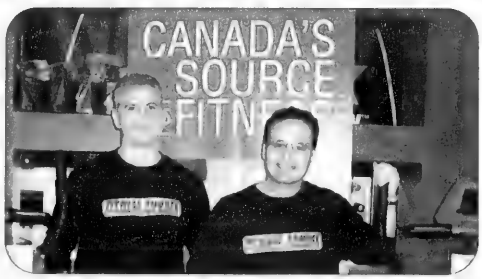


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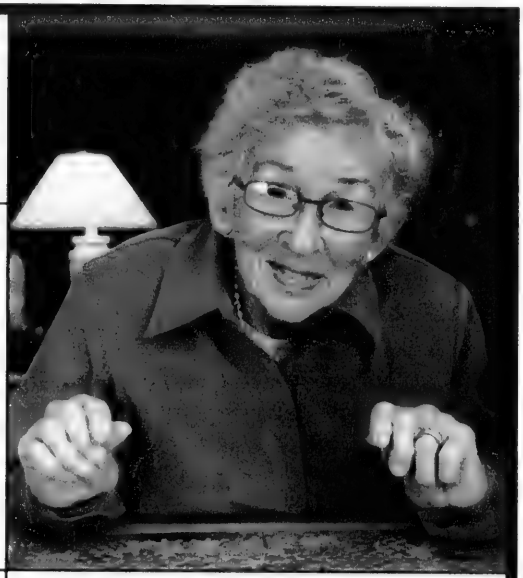

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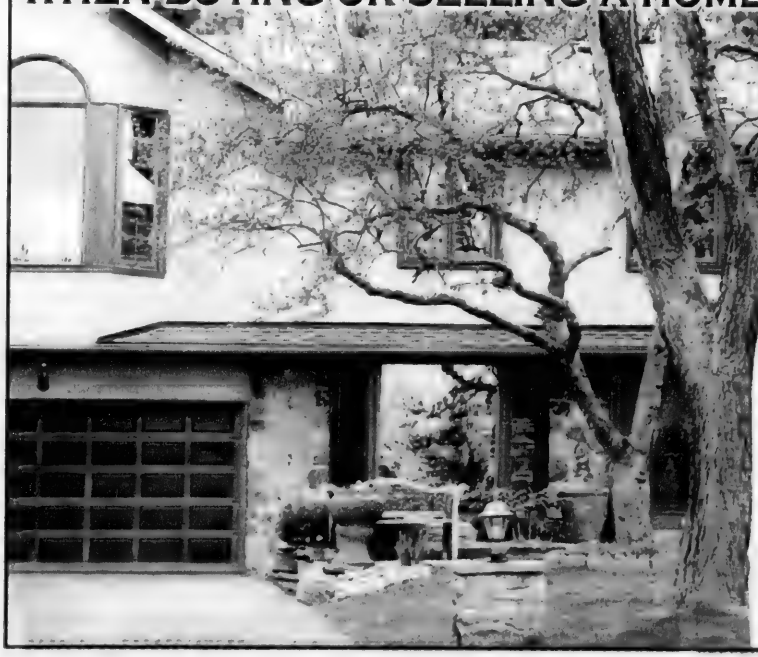

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"I would inform the clients about market values and records of sales with the last 6 months in their neighbourhood and area where they would like to buy."

# Rejuvenate your home with quality paints

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

If you're thinking of giving your home a new look, why not change your paint colours, says Gary Zweig, of Reingewirtz Paint (416-977-3502).

"Painting is one of the least expensive and more effective ways of giving your home a facelift. You get the most bang for decorator dollar with a paint job."

And Zweig should know. He is the third generation working in the retail family paint business

Reingewirtz Paint was started by his grandfather Nathan Reingewirtz, who started the business from his living room on Baldwin Street in 1929

Zweig's father, Seymour, worked in the store for 50 years until his retirement in 2002. That year, Zweig, who has been working there since 1979, took over the business. He says Reingewirtz Paint is probably the oldest paint store in Toronto run continuously by one family.

The store, at 107 Baldwin St. just east of Spadina, has been at the same address for 77 years. But Zweig has modernized with the times and his customers can also find him at a new site – www.paintstore.on.ca.

"The web lets people look at colours and order paints in the comfort of their homes," he says. "We offer free delivery anywhere in the GTA."

Reingewirtz carries Para paint and has been a Benjamin Moore paint dealer for 70 years, Zweig says, noting that as a specialty retailer, his advice is based on years of expertise.

"We offer services like custom mixing and colour matching."

Zweig says the store has a professional painter/contractor on staff who gives free estimates on any paint job, and there is a colour expert who can do home colour consultations.

"The website is loaded with excellent advice and design tips", Zweig says. "We recommend contractors, we have questions and answers, and we can answer our customers' questions. We'll update you on the latest products and the newest colours.

"We also post our customers' before and after pictures. We're running a before and after contest. People can even win prizes."

One of the new services is computerized home painting of a person's room to test out a colour, he says, explaining that a customer can e-mail a picture of a room with a colour selection from the paint charts and he can send them a computerized preview, of how the selected paint colour will look in that particular room

He says he can also offer specials through Benjamin Moore "We have good deals on paints, and our prices on other products like brushes, ladders and rollers are very competitive."

He says Benjamin Moore paints are a premium paint with prices to match, but the better the quality the greater the value. "A good quality paint lasts longer and goes further on the wall."

He says one new product Benjamin Moore offers is a glaze with a metallic finish that comes in silver, bronze and copper. "You get a pearlescent glaze. It's a faux painting look without the elbow grease."

He notes that neutral colours like cloud white, and taupes and beiges continue to be very popular.

When choosing colours, Zweig often advises his customers to go a shade lighter because colours may look darker on the wall. "People sometimes think the colour is too dark. I have never had someone come back and say, 'It's too light.'"

Over the years, Reingewirtz has served many generations of the same family, says Zweig. "Now we see the grandchildren of some of our original customers. This loyalty is very gratifying."

Another Benjamin Moore dealer offering customers expertise and service is Coulter's Mill Paint & Decorating (905-760-8118), located at 1450 Clark Ave. W. on the north-east corner of Dufferin Street. Owner Paul Tane explains that he sells Benjamin Moore products exclusively.

"We're a Benjamin Moore signature store. We sell a full range of Benjamin Moore products. All of the staff is trained by Benjamin Moore Company Ltd. and have extensive training at every level."

Tane says it's important to understand the customers' requirements in order to provide the right product. "We assess the customers' needs by asking general questions – what they are painting, and [what's] the activity level in the room. We can advocate the right product for their needs and we're able to recommend products with their budgets in mind."

**Above, Reingewirtz paints a fixture since 1929.**

**Right, Shaindel and Nathan Reingewirtz.**

Benjamin Moore offers a variety of products to suit the varying needs of customers, he explains.

Benjamin Moore makes a paint in a pearl finish, which Tane says has more washability than the eggshell paint. "It's resistant to moisture. We recommend this for kitchens and bathrooms primarily."

He notes that there has been considerably less use of oil-based paints in recent years. "The performance of latex products has increased so much that the demand for oils is waning."

Even exterior paint is now available in latex, he says. "It has been engineered to withstand the elements."

Coulter's Mill also sells a special durable paint for concrete floors. "We have a proven paint system to control the problem of dust from a bare concrete floor." He carries an opaque product, which comes in a variety of colours, for painting concrete. We also have stains and sealers which protect and preserve stone and concrete."

The store offers a wide selection of products for decorative finishes. Studio Finishes is a two-stage system available in a wide variety of colours and creates a textured effect.

Coulter's Mill stocks a variety of wood stains and clear coat finishes from flat to high gloss. For painting furniture, Tane recommends Fresh Start, an acrylic primer foundation.

He says Benjamin Moore's 2006 colour collection includes a variety of looks such as Urban Loft, New Elegance, Global Fusion, Techno Savvy, Delicate Neutrals and Uber Luxury.

**Continued on page B16**

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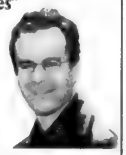

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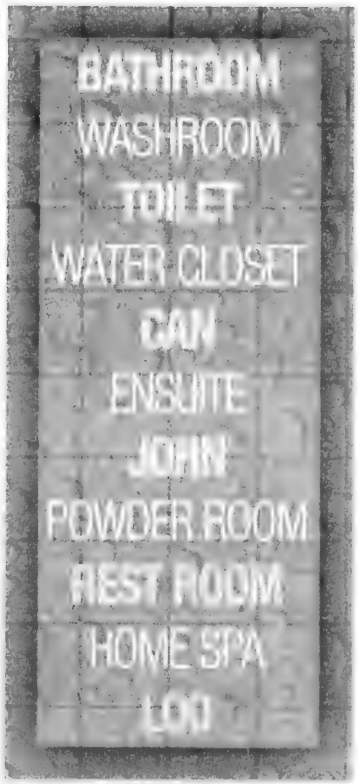

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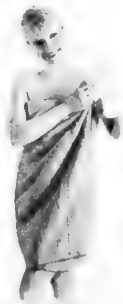

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# Light up your home for less

By ERIC LAYMAN
*Special to The CJN*

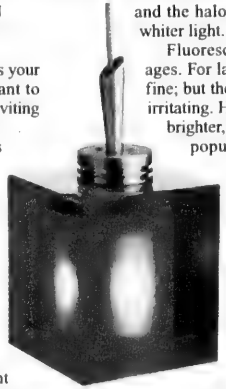
Good lighting makes your home more pleasant to live in and more inviting for guests.

As well, improvements in technology mean you have better light while saving on electricity bills.

Michael Gladstone of Royal Lighting (416-782-1129) recommends that before you decide what you want, you have a good look at the range of your choices. He itemizes just a few of them here.

The new fluorescent bulbs fit in regular fixtures. Coming in June is a four-watt fluorescent white chandelier bulb which gives light equivalent to 25 to 30 watts. Already, there are 13-watt mini-fluorescents to replace standard 60-watts in many fixtures; and the 23-watt bulb can replace the 100-watt in many table and floor lamps.

A halogen bulb can replace older incandescent bulbs in potlights. A 45-watt replaces a 75-watt, a 90-watt a 150-watt; and the halogen bulb gives you a cleaner and whiter light.



Fluorescent lights have been with us for ages. For laundry and cooking areas, they're fine; but they flicker slightly, which can be irritating. Halogen lamps, with their brighter, steadier white light, are popular for home offices, desk areas, living rooms and other places where you might do a lot of reading.

In your kitchen, halogen mini-pendants will do an excellent job illuminating your island or eating bar, and give a great look. Over the table where you eat, the halogen or incandescent light is most pleasant. "No one likes to eat under fluorescent light," says Gladstone.

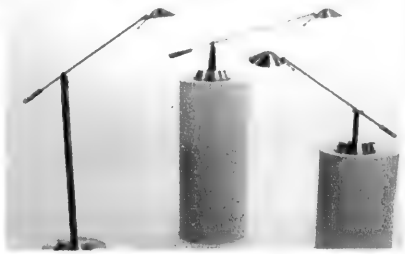
The bathroom needs either a halogen or strong incandescent vanity light over the mirror. When shaving and putting on makeup, you want to see yourself as the world sees you. Potlights aren't enough, and they cast deceptive shadows. In powder rooms, where people don't usually shave or put on makeup, mini-chandeliers are popular and add an up-to-date look.

Not everyone wants a shower light. If you do, make sure it's waterproof and moisture-proof.

"Lighting needs are always customized", Gladstone says. Some of the relevant factors are the colour and size of a room, the location of fixtures, and the function of room.

Royal Lighting also carries a huge selection of fans. A ceiling fan will both cut your hydro costs and raise your comfort level.

By circulating warm air in the winter, pushing it down from the ceiling to where it can warm you, your fan cuts heating costs. Creating a breeze in the summer, a fan cools your skin naturally, decreasing the need for air conditioning. And any time of year, you sleep better with the air moving gently around you.

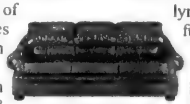


# These suggestions make it easier to choose your furniture

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Whether you are renovating or moving into a new home, the furniture is central to the look of your house. As exciting as these changes can be, they are often quite daunting when you begin to make your choices.

Because choosing the furniture is such an important step in making your house a home, we have selected some of the city's best furniture stores to help you on your journey in home décor.



A landmark in the Jewish community for more than 48 years, Brooklyn Furniture (www.brooklynfurniture.com), which has been at 3742 Bathurst St. since 1972, offers beautiful furniture at affordable prices.

"Our philosophy is about offering the finest quality furniture at everyday low prices," says Louis Hochman, the store's owner. A family-owned business since it opened in 1958, Hochman took over from his father in the last few years.

Brooklyn's service is friendly and timely. "You'll always know who you're dealing with," Hochman says.

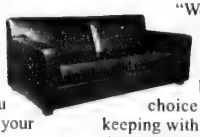
Offering the finest U.S. brands in furniture such as Stanley and American Drew, Brooklyn sells everything from master bedroom sets to mattresses to kitchen appliances. By cutting out unnecessary middleman activity, Brooklyn can offer quality products at lower prices.

Citing a warm, cherry-wood finish as one of the store's most popular sellers, Hochman picks up on the sleek and sophisticated look prevalent in today's home décor. With a wide range of stains and colours in the furniture it carries, Brooklyn covers all the bases in one-stop-furniture shopping. With the store's reputation for excellence across the city, Hochman says with a laugh, "Our clients are our best advertisers because they love saving a buck."

A leading force within the world of furniture, DeBoer's (www.deboers.com) has also established quite a reputation for offering the finest in quality and design. While there are seven locations in and around Toronto, the DeBoer's Studio at 1100 Sheppard Ave. W. offers the most in luxurious and classic furniture, as well as accessories.

With a well-travelled design team at the helm, DeBoer's guarantees that you will find unique, beautiful, quality pieces. And with extensive galleries carrying the best in furniture names such as Bernhardt, Drexel-Heritage and Henredon, the DeBoer's Studio makes for a perfect fit in any traditional home.

The most fantastic highlight of the DeBoer's Studio is its complementary interior design service. In the comfort of your home, its experienced consultants will create personalized floor plans for you. They will also help you decide among the many possible fabrics, colours and designs to make sure you find a look that is just right for your home.



"We cater to an ageless customer who wants to be inspired by their home and furnishings," says Pamela Davidson, the company's public relations manager.

The furniture offered at the studio is considered to be investment pieces, and you can be sure that the furniture is of "heirloom quality," she says. Whether you can afford an entire house or just one quality piece, DeBoer's has something for everyone. If you value a refined classicism in the furniture of your home, look no further than DeBoer's.

For a more specialized furniture search, Rawhide (905 531-7882) offers custom-made leather and fabric sofas tailored to your needs. Located at 7400 Woodbine Ave. in Markham, the showroom has every option in top-grade leather and fabric. With the help of Rawhide's experienced designers and consultants, dreaming up the sofa you want is completely up to you.

Since all manufacturing is done on the premises, any request you make can be accommodated. For example, if your dream sofa has a high back but needs to fit down a flight of stairs, Rawhide's trusted installers can assemble the sofa in your home. Using only the finest in imported leathers and fabrics, the company boasts superb quality at affordable prices.

"We can adhere to any budget", says Brian Green, the company's representative.

Green cites earth-toned leather as the most popular choice for leather sofas today. In keeping with modern home décor trends, these sofas avoid a bulky look and transform your home into a classic work of art.

With five locations across Ontario, including one in the Promenade Mall and another as far away as Hamilton, Home Edition (905-482-0882) offers a convenient furniture shopping experience. With the best in quality, imported brands such as Ashley, Home Edition sells everything from complete bedroom sets to accessories such as picture frames.

Catering to a wide range of customers, Home Edition has something for everyone. Guaranteeing superior value furniture, the company believes in selling quality products at a great price. Furthermore, the stores promise prompt delivery and set-up within less than one week of purchase.

With such fantastic options available around the city, decorating or redecorating your home may not seem so overwhelming. Whether you require interior design help, custom made sofas, tried-and-true furniture or beautiful accessories, you are bound to find exactly what you are looking for at one of these retailers.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# Refinishing makes your furniture look like new

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to The CJN*

If you don't know a thing about refinishing furniture, Sandro Marcantonio of Marcantonio Furniture Repair and Joe Cabral of Carrocel Restorations can offer high-quality furniture for the widest range of budgets and tastes.

For both men, restoring furniture means more than just polishing antique wood. Carrocel and Marcantonio offer a range of services, and will work with decorators – or refer you to a decorator, if necessary – to make sure you end up with a piece that's a perfect fit for your lifestyle and home.

Cabral has been in business for more than 21 years, building up Carrocel as a family business. And while he apprenticed with his uncle and started the business with his brother, at this point, he says, "family business" doesn't just refer to his own family. In fact, "most of our business is referrals," from one relative to another. "We work for one family member, then go on to the next.

"We do everything," says Cabral, who specializes in restoring fine wooden furniture and oversees every single stage, including upholstery.

"As many as 25 individual steps go into the rich and long-lasting finish we're known for... [and we have] a selection of lovely fabrics, or we will work with fabrics you or your decorator have already chosen to co-ordinate with other pieces in your home."

Carrocel's craftsmen painstakingly stain, rub, pad, highlight, blend, antique and shade each piece inside and out. The goal of all that hard work? "A finish that illuminates and accentuates the natural beauty and grain of wood."

With inherited antiques, refinishing is a wise investment. "If it's older," Cabral says, "it's worth doing because the quality is there."

For those of us who aren't lucky enough to have inherited a relative's prized Louis XV armoire or Chippendale dining suite, Carrocel offers many already refinished antiques in its Markham showroom. And, there is also online shopping through its website, www.carrocel.com

Buying refinished furniture, Cabral says, means you'll "end up with something that's very unique that cannot be bought in a local furniture store."

Beyond wooden antiques, Marcantonio says he can work with many different materials and finishes. In fact, he says, he offers more services than you might think.

From general repairs like re-gluing a chair to highly specialized restoration – painting frames, gold leafing, hand-painted furniture – he can do it and more. He can even accomplish the seemingly impossible, like repairing broken stone and marble.

With marble tables, for example, Marcantonio says he's "rebuilt whole entire corners" that have been crushed or damaged. It's a painstakingly detailed process, an artistic labour of love. "You have to match the colour, grain and finish."

There's also hope for other beloved heirlooms, he says, like chandeliers, pottery, vases, even damaged statues, if you want a more sophisticated repair than Krazy Glue can accomplish.

One furnishing trend that's causing problems, he says, is imported furniture, usually from China, that looks exactly like wood, but is actually made of resin. If it gets scratched or broken, many people think there's no solution. But don't throw it away just yet. Marcantonio can fix that, too.

Marcantonio says much of his business actually comes, not from owners, but from high-end furniture retailers like The Art Shoppe.

When store showpieces come in damaged, with nicks and scratches from their journey, he's called in to touch them up and restore them on-site to brand new, salable condition. He'll also work on-site in customers' homes if they only have a few small items that need repair. Otherwise, he'll bring them into his repair shop where he can provide more extensive services.

Many people don't realize Marcantonio can also help them in other areas of the home. "Kitchens are very expensive to redo," he says, and it's often not necessary with good-quality wooden cupboards. If you don't want to rip out and replace what's there now, just refacing cabinets and drawers can make a world of difference.

He offers a "significantly less expensive" route to a space that looks and feels brand new.

Whether a job is big or small doesn't matter much to Marcantonio. "Sometimes I do small pieces individually; sometimes, an entire set." Like Cabral, what does matter to him is meeting your needs.

"It's very important that you make the customer happy," Marcantonio says.

Both hope you'll take home not just a piece of furniture, but also a smile

# Interior designers help create a home you can enjoy

[Brian Murphy Design & Associates photos]

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to the CJN*

The biggest trend in interior design is actually nothing new. At the end of the day, you should have a home you can live in and enjoy, two interior designers say.

"It's not a museum, it's your house," says Brian Murphy of Brian Murphy Design & Associates (416-293-4917). "Don't worry about what's good for the public."

With 40 years of experience, Miriam Muller of MM Interiors (905-764-3737; www.mminteriors.ca) agrees: "I try to create homes for people, not a showcase."

Function is as important as appearance, says Murphy, especially in the kitchen. "If it is not planned properly, it's a disaster... there's a four-mile trek from the fridge to the sink. You aren't able to get anything into those corner cupboards... just a mess of pots you can't get at."

Sometimes small changes can make the difference between living in a home and loving to live in that same home.

"People don't believe it's the same house," Muller says. "Just by moving furniture and rearranging accents in the room, [you can make] the whole place look very different."

She also offers low-budget facelifts for realtors who need a quick upgrade before putting a house on the market.

Murphy's long experience includes more than 25 years as a landscaper. He loves planning a home both inside and out. "I'm the first designer who can design from the front fence to the back fence and everything in between... pool, cabana and bathroom."

**Continued on page B18**

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## Premium paints offer value

**Continued from page B10**

He stresses that neutrals are still very popular, but there are more neutrals in darker colours to support the use of natural architectural elements like wood and granite. "The deeper tones enhance the drama of the natural elements."

Tane notes that there are advantages to using a premium paint like Benjamin Moore. "It offers tremendous value because you get more coverage per gallon and a greater ease of application." The paint does not fade or change colour over time and there's a 15-year colour retention.

Tane also says that the VOC, or volatile organic compound fumes, of Benjamin Moore paints are among the lowest in the industry. "Benjamin Moore's Eco-spec is often used for nurseries. Parents don't want their babies to be exposed to fumes. It performs well in all sheen levels."

He recommends washing eggshell paint with diluted liquid soap on a soft white cloth.

The store has a computerized customer data system. "It's really an advantage for people who want to do touch-ups, but don't remember what they bought."

In addition to paint, the store sells furniture accessories and window coverings, which have been personally selected by Tane's wife, Melva Villanueva, an award winning interior designer.

"She's put together a fantastic array of furniture, accessories, window coverings and wallpaper," Tane says.

"We offer expert consultation on home décor and personalized service. We can help you achieve your vision."

## Mortgage brokers can get you to the bank – and beyond

By DAVID GROSSMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Many people think the only worthwhile place to get a mortgage is a bank. And banks are great mortgage lenders. Even though their lending guidelines are strict, if you meet the criteria, why shouldn't you get your mortgage from one?

But you want the best rates and terms, don't you? Mortgage brokers deal with banks and with many other reputable lending institutions. And even if you choose to engage the services of a mortgage broker, you can still get your mortgage from a bank.

A broker can help you find you the best available mortgage because he or she has access to the lenders' best discounted rates. Mortgage brokers also know what specials each bank is offering at any given time, and that can save you the hassle of having to shop your mortgage around to multiple banks in a quest to find the best deal.

Now, if your application doesn't measure up to the lending guidelines of the bank, where do you go?

Some people think that if you have trouble qualifying at a bank, the only place you can go is to private lenders who will charge you high rates and exorbitant fees.

But that's not true. There are a growing number of alternative institutional lenders whose mandate is to serve customers with needs that aren't met by banks, and their mortgage products are usually rated at just a small premium above those of the banks.

Why would anyone want to consider getting a mortgage from any place other than a bank?

Banks are very strict when it comes to determining your maximum mortgage amount. But what if, based on your income, you would like a larger mortgage than what a bank will allow?

Self-employed people often have a difficult time obtaining mortgage financing because they don't show a lot of personal income – for tax purposes, self-employed people usually retain much of their income in their businesses. What options are available? Many. As an example, one of my company's lenders has a program that will extend credit to self-employed applicants without any requirement for income verification and with as little as a five per cent down payment.

Have you ever been to the bank to apply for a mortgage during, or soon after, a financial hardship? Because of strict lending guidelines at the banks, this may not be a very simple task.

A couple who were having a difficult time qualifying for a mortgage at their bank recently came to me for help. They wanted to purchase a larger home for their growing family and had saved a considerable down payment. The couple was well on their way to recovering from a business loss – they were both employed in stable jobs. However, the wife hadn't yet re-established her credit after a consumer proposal (a consumer proposal is similar to a bankruptcy except that the debtor is responsible for paying a portion of his or her debt). We were able to help the couple obtain financing from an alternate lender at just a small premium above the banks' fully discounted rates.

A good mortgage broker will know which lending institution or institutions to take your application to and how to present your application to help you find the best available mortgage rate and terms.

*David Grossman is a mortgage specialist with Community Financial Group, a licensed mortgage broker. He can be reached at 416-876-2031, or you can visit him at www.mortgagemensch.ca.*

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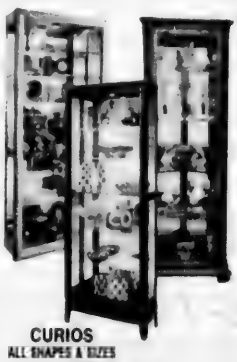

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# A pool can make a backyard, and Rubaroc keeps it safe

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

The backyard isn't just a place to stash a barbecue anymore. With better patio equipment, lighting and even more sophisticated swimming pools, the yard is starting look more like paradise than a patch of green space.

"Even though people have cottages, they still like to spend time at home," says Melissa Brown, president of Bona Vista pools. "It comes down to not having to go anywhere. Life moves so quickly now. To sit in your own backyard and do nothing is so much nicer."

Sitting on a porch overlooking a swimming pool is usually the image people have of a lazy Sunday afternoon outdoors, but as Brown suggests, that idyllic picture might also include a waterfall or a whirlpool.

"With bigger houses and smaller backyards, people aren't only looking for a swimming pool. They're looking for a work of art," she says.

Over the last three years, Brown has seen more customers wanting backyard waterfalls.

"They've become more and more popular. Designers got involved and because someone's friend has one, they want the same thing."

Whirlpool sales have also increased over the last few years. Since a lot of homeowners don't have space for a traditional pool, they're opting for something smaller.

"Whirlpools are a great substitute [for a regular pool]," says Brown. "It's great for the kids to play in. They can really soak and relax and it doesn't have to be hot all the time. Parents could have it cool during the day and only hot when they're going to be in it."

Whirlpool installations account for about 50 per cent of Bona Vista's business, but a new trend in swimming pool maintenance could become a major part of the company's business.

"Saltwater for swimming pools is becoming a huge thing," says Brown. "It has a nicer feel to the water. It also generates chlorine. The salt molecules split into sodium and chlorine, and the split allows it to chlorinate the pool."

Brown stresses that a saltwater pool isn't like swimming in the ocean.

"It's less salty than your tears."

As pools become less traditional, some of their more iconic elements are going by the wayside.

For instance, Brown says she sold only two diving boards last year.

"Pools don't look very appealing when you have a board sticking out. The design is going more toward the stunning than the swimming."

So how much does a pool cost these days? Brown says they can run anywhere from $60,000 to $75,000, depending on the finishes, while a whirlpool costs $10,000 more than that.

"Whirlpools are more time consuming and use a lot of concrete," she says.

Having a fancy new pool is one thing, but keeping the backyard safe from slips and falls is another. That's where Rubaroc comes in.

For 27 years, Rubaroc has been installing non-slip surfaces around swimming pools, decks and driveways. Arlene Moran, vice-president of Rubaroc Ontario, compares the surface to a rubber bath mat – even if someone does fall on the surface, they're "not going to hurt themselves."

"It's a great surface for kids, the elderly, even dogs. Concrete burns people's feet, but this doesn't heat up and it doesn't cool in the fall either," she say.

Moran says most of Rubaroc's clients are homeowners who want to redo the area around their pool.

"People are moving into homes, and the one thing they want to do is do work on their backyard and work on their pool. Most of these yards have old concrete."

Moran says the biggest drawback to concrete is that it cracks, while Rubaroc's material will stay in one piece, even in frigid temperatures.

"Concrete is great – it's the cheapest solution," says Moran. "But there's no warranty, and in the first cold winter, it's going to crack. With our product, once it's down, it's staying, and that's permanently. The only way you're going to get it out is with a hammer and a chisel. "

Fixing up a backyard is only a good idea if you get to use it. And with Canada's long winters, is it even worth the trouble to have a handsome yard?

"Of course," says Moran. "Sometimes we don't see snow before October. And with heat lamps and new outdoor fireplaces or charcoal pits, you can be out there for a longer period of time."

Brown agrees.

"You can have two months of swimming here [in May and June], and then come back after July and August [at the cottage] and enjoy your yard in September and October."

To contact Bona Vista Pools, call 905-475-6980 or visit www.bonavistapools.com.

To contact Rubaroc, call 905-332-999. For more information, visit www.rubaroc.com.

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# Post-war modernism new trend in design

[Photo courtesy of Designer Treasures]

**Continued from page B15**

He began working in interior design in 1999 and is, like Muller, certified by ARIDO, an Ontario professional association.

Both have seen a recent trend among young homeowners towards the post-World War I modernism of the European school: Bauhaus from Germany or De Stijl in Holland.

"The young generation like a very contemporary look," says Muller.

Murphy says young clients "don't want to be like mom and dad," and plan rooms with "square lines, lean, mean, empty; one vase over there with flowers in it… not a poofy couch in the whole bunch of them."

Designers work using the client's preferences and tastes. "I'm not going to impose things," Murphy says. "If you want to have it look traditional, we'll do traditional; if you want art deco, let's do art deco."

Many clients have a sense of what they like but have trouble assembling décor and colours on their own.

"In so many homes, they've got an 18th-century table next to an art deco lamp next to a Mies van der Rohe chair," the equivalent of "black tie and tennis shoes," a look that "works for rock stars, but nobody else," Murphy says. A designer ties the pieces together to create a unified look.

Meanwhile, another trend is emerging among older clients: brighter lighting, bolder colours.

As baby boomers age, their eyes are aging as well. "When your eyes go on you," Murphy says, "the colours you used to love, the complex pale pastels – you don't even see them anymore."

To compensate, clients are choosing strong colours for their homes, clothing and accessories. "The passion of colour will make your life more exciting."

Colour can create surprises, he says – like a fire-engine red massage therapy room, despite conventional wisdom that red counteracts relaxation. Massage clients feel "like they went back to the womb. It was comforting and quiet in a different way."

Another unexpected find – red mahogany furniture, Murphy says, is even more stunning when complemented by olive green walls.

Unless you're selling your house, don't be afraid to enjoy its colours. Neutral shades, he says, may work in places like Florida with lots of sun, but anywhere the dull gray-blue of winter lasts six months of the year, "that monotone room can get very, very depressing."

Muller, who runs the business with her husband, and whose son, Ariel Muller, is a well-known Toronto designer, says accents are a great way to inject colour into a room. "Colour can make a lot of changes," in the form of picture rugs, pillows and window treatments.

Her store, Designer Treasures, on Avenue Road at Melrose, offers exclusive accessories and furniture. She also provides custom-built furniture such as shelving.

"People today take a lot of pride in their home," says Muller, who began her career in the Israeli army and has designed and furnished the Dream Home at the National Home Show and other showcase homes.

Murphy says this kind of pride is the result of yet another boomer phenomenon: the empty nest. "They can be a little more personal about their home. It's theirs now."

Choose your favourite styles and colours and let a designer help you bring it all together

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[Brian Murphy Design & Associates photo]

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# Make over your garden in 20 minutes

(NC) — Gardeners can now enjoy a little instant gratification with colour enhanced Nature Scapes mulch, made from 100 per cent natural forest products, new from Scotts

"You can achieve stunning season-long colour with Nature Scapes mulch in about 20 minutes," says Tracy Muxlow, Manager for Scotts' garden products in Canada. "The rich colour and high quality will help keep the landscape beautiful all season thanks to its advanced 'ColourGuard' formula," she says. "Mulch also helps prevent weeds and keep soil moist, dramatically reducing the time homeowners need to spend weeding and watering."

NatureScapes is made from natural forest products that include cedar, pine, hemlock and spruce. While other mulches may contain recycled waste wood products that can contain harmful chemicals and steal valuable nitrogen from plants, NatureScapes is made from all natural sources that degrade into beneficial organic matter that enriches the soil

NatureScapes Mulch is available exclusively at The Home Depot in 2006 in two colours: Sierra Red and Classic Black

- News Canada

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# Décor trends: Home is where the comfort is

**(NC)** — Like a well-feathered nest your home is all about comfort. More and more decorators are taking their inspiration from the growing trend towards comfort and warmth. People are looking to insulate themselves from the bustle of the outside world by creating a soothing, enveloping and pampering mood at home.

One way to create this mood is through the use of colour. Taking a cue from this growing trend, Sico Paints has put together a palette of classic colours called the Comfort series that evoke the warmth of nature's elements.

The palette features neutrals such as Portobello (6185-41), beiges such as Linden Wood (6192-42) and soft greens like Arctic Lichen (6143-42) that always have a place, reflecting a trend established for years.

"The beauty of beiges is their neutrality, their undeniable elegance," explains Dominique Pépin, Senior Brand Manager at Sico Paints and a member of the Color Marketing Group. "All on their own, they create a welcome sensation of calm and comfort to any space." She adds that the new beiges are neither cliché nor old school. Rather they're all grown up and considered to be quite contemporary and very sophisticated.

Decorator tips for this colour series:

Pépin says you can create the blissful atmosphere of a boutique hotel in your home by playing rich, neutral tones one against the other. "The carefully controlled use of neutral colours in several shades (in a single space) is synonymous with sophisticated elegance," she adds. For more information on the latest colour trends visit sico.ca.

**- News Canada**

# New townhomes built with special features

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Increasingly, townhomes are becoming a popular residential choice for many people. From young couples looking for an affordable property with modern accoutrements to singles to those looking to downsize, people are finding that this style of home suits their particular needs.

At the northeast corner of Dufferin Street and Summeridge Drive, not far from highways 7 and 407, a cozy community of townhomes is in the works.

Located in Thornhill Woods, the new Baker's Lane development will feature 32 townhomes constructed by Elm Developments.

"Townhomes offer a more efficient use of space and appeal to a more compact lifestyle," says Barbara Allen, a partner at Arfin, Allen & Associates, which is marketing and advertising the development. "It gives buyers other options in terms of lifestyle."

Location is the name of the game in real estate and Allen points out that the townhomes will be situated in one of the fastest growing Jewish communities in North America with numerous amenities nearby.

"There's a shopping mall right across the street, it's near Dufferin Street so you have public transit and there is a protected wooded area, so the views are beautiful," Allen says.

The homes will be constructed with a brick and stone exterior and will be in the 2,000-square-foot range with three or four bedrooms, depending on the model.

"Kitchens are probably the key room in the home for most people," says Allen, noting a special bonus for early buyers will include granite kitchen countertops, pre-finished strip hardwood floors and three stainless steel appliances.

"We also have things like islands with breakfast bars and a desk in the kitchen, which is very useful for organizing bills, coupons and all the details that go into running a home."

Some trends in townhomes today, Allen says, are master bedrooms with walk-in closets, and ensuites that have two sinks as well as a separate shower stall and bathtub. Models in the new development will offer all of these features.

The townhomes in Baker's Lane will also have main floor powder rooms, nine-foot main floor ceilings, and private studies and computer lofts in certain models.

With so many townhomes being built these days, finding the best fit for you and your family can be a challenge.

Allen's advice is to focus on who the builder is and, of course, location.

"You want to make sure both that the product fits your lifestyle and that this is the neighbourhood you're going to enjoy," she advises.

"As for the home itself, you obviously want to make sure the builder is reliable and... that the builder cares about details."

To that end, Allen notes Baker's Lane is being spearheaded by a builder with a background in custom home construction and a long history of quality workmanship.

Finally, Allen trumpets the neighbourly aura Baker's Lane is trying to foster.

"It's nice when you have that sense of intimacy which lets you get to know your neighbours well," she says.

Construction is slated to begin later this year and occupancy is expected mid-way through 2007.

For more information about Baker's Lane, phone 905-709-0884 or visit www.bakers-lane.com.

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# Proper lighting transforms a home from drab to fab

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Lighting is one of the key pieces of the interior décor puzzle. Without proper lighting, your home can look flat and uninviting, and be missing the warmth you know it is full of. At the flip of a switch, your home can be transformed into a pleasant and comfortable living space.

To help you in the search for just the right lighting for your home, start with these two fabulous showrooms, which are full of every type of lighting imaginable.

Universal Lamp (416-787-8900, www.greatlighting.com) offers an extensive selection of lighting. From lamps and chandeliers to recessed lighting, Universal specializes in high-end and beautiful lighting. For 49 years, Universal has been supplying Toronto with superior lighting at affordable prices.

***Dimmer switches help manipulate room's ambience***

Offering quality custom work as well, Universal will alter or repair pieces, so that they are customized to your needs. Universal's experienced consultants will work with your floor plans to achieve the best lighting scheme for your home. To further customize your look, simply adding a dimmer helps you manipulate the ambience of any room at a mere touch.

Universal offers today's most advanced lighting. It can easily be integrated into a modern, contemporary or traditional home.

And if your existing lighting needs a bit of a renewal, then look no further than Custom Lampshade Inc. (416-236-3244, www.customlampshade.com). As its name suggests, Custom Lampshade Inc (CLI) will completely customize lampshades to fit your living environment. Since 1982, the friendly craftspeople there have been working to restore cherished antique lamps as well as designing new ones. When your older lampshades have given out, CLI can replicate them. Whether the shades are bell or pear shaped, the craftspeople can match any vintage style. CLI works with interior designers and antique dealers, too.

CLI features more than 300 handmade lampshades in its showroom. With the help of an experienced member of CLI's staff, you pick the shape, fabric, colour and design of your lampshade. For CLI's "perfect fitting" service, be sure to bring your lamps in for exact measurements. With the exact measurements, a new lampshade can be created to fit your lamp.

CLI's custom work comes with the guarantee of superb craftsmanship. "All of our work is hand stitched and decorated", says CLI's André Sermer. "People really appreciate good quality work and we promise that."

With just the right lighting, the ambience of your home can be transformed from drab to fab. With summer quickly approaching, it's the perfect time to warm the inside of your home. The experienced staff at Universal Lamp and Custom Lamp Shade will make it seem as simple as flicking a switch!

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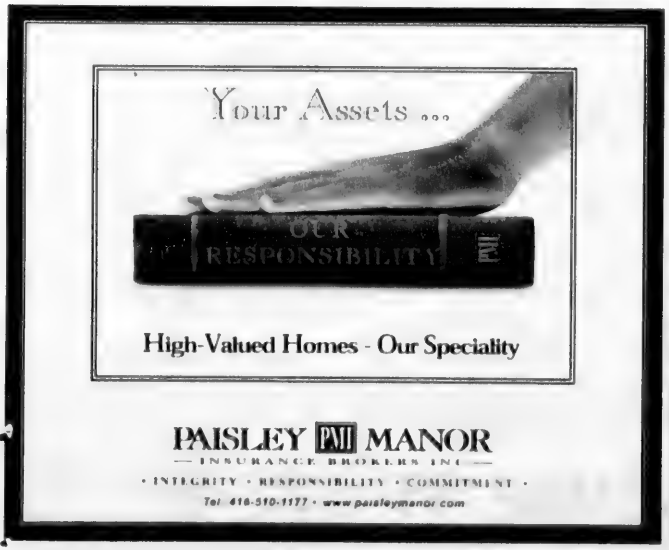
Compact utility vehicles tackle a variety of gardening chores such as brush clearing or hauling supplies. [News Canada photo]



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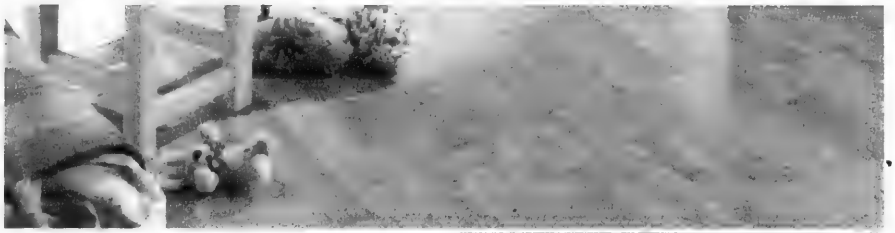
# Spruce up your home with new flooring

## Laminates are another alternative

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*



Spring has sprung, and like the grass outside, your floors might be ready for a renewal. If you want a change of scenery and are not quite sure which direction to take, there are two fantastic places to start with in Toronto.

Riviera Flooring, at 8111 Jane St., Unit #6, in Concord, has been offering the best quality and selection in flooring at "down and dirty prices" for more than 25 years. Complete with a wide array of hardwood, laminate and carpet choices, the combination showroom and warehouse acts as a one-stop shop for beautiful flooring.

Offering one-on-one consultation and planning, Riviera's founder and owner Joe Rivietz is committed to finding the perfect flooring for his clients. Consultations are by appointment only, and Rivietz urges you to try it. Phone 905-738-4588.

"I will take care of you personally," he guarantees.

With the low-key and no-pressure environment in the showroom, he promises that you will feel comfortable to make the perfect choice for your home.

To avoid the headaches that accompany removing nailed or glued flooring and to help with the maintenance of your flooring, Riviera specializes in "glueless engineered" woods.

In addition to offering superior quality flooring, the company offers a complete service with full installation. Riviera's highly professional installers have more than 50 combined years of carpet and hardwood servicing.

"We'll lift and dispose of existing floors and fully install the new one," says Rivietz. In addition, all staff are bonded and service is guaranteed.

The quality of the flooring offered by Riviera is equalled only by its superb, friendly and personalized service and its unbeatable prices.

[Photos courtesy of Giant Carpet]

With 12 showroom locations across Ontario, Giant Carpet (www.giantcarpet.com) is another premier source of flooring. But don't be misled by its name. Giant Carpet offers every kind of flooring from ceramic tiles to beautiful, decorative stones and metallic designs. As well, the stores carry thousands of designer area rugs and carpets from trusted names like Stainmaster and Beaulieu.

Operating for over 40 years, Giant Carpet's showrooms are not only full of flooring selections, they are also extremely beautiful.

"Our customers are always wowed by our showrooms," says Claudia Wetzel, the company's representative.

Furthermore, she adds, the many choices are made accessible by Giant Carpet's financing program, which includes interest-free options. The extremely flexible system is designed to let you enjoy your flooring choice, no matter how luxurious it may be.

Giant Carpet also guarantees installation within seven days of purchase. The experienced installers will even move existing furniture and clean up after the installation!

Wetzel cites exotic hardwood as the biggest trend in modern flooring. Whether you have a traditional or a modern design, hardwood has become a mainstay in today's home. It is easily integrated into any décor because it can be covered with area rugs or left bare.

Giant Carpet offers unrivalled service, selection and value. "We always keep our promises and we'll always deliver," Wetzel says. With its wide selection of quality ceramic, vinyl, hardwood and carpet, you can be sure that your beautiful floors will last for many years to come.

If your floors are looking tired and the time has come for renovation, look no further than Riviera or Giant Carpet. Offering superb quality flooring at extremely affordable prices, the extensive selection available from both will ensure that you make the best decision for sprucing up your home.

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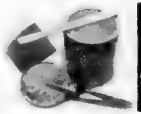

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# Companies help you garden naturally

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Perfectly pristine plants and lush lawns certainly look nice, but the synthetic products people often use to spruce them up aren't likely to do wonders for the environment.

That's why going the natural, organic route is becoming more and more common.

"We specialize in organic lawn care and gardening, which means we don't use any synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or chemical insecticides," says Mitch Levine, owner of Bio-Lawn.

"By adding organic matter to the soil, we're enriching the soil, which in turn will provide you with healthy plants. That's the main difference between organic and synthetic."

[Photos courtesy of Florabundance]

And just as growing plants the natural way is healthy, placing them in urns or containers made from natural materials is both aesthetically pleasing and organically textured.

"The majority of the plant containers I make have living material in them," says Elizabeth Zmijak, owner of Florabundance, which specializes in customized plant holding baskets and floral designs.

"For instance, I use a lot of pine, twigs and different types of dried foliage."

To nourish greenery in a healthy way, Levine encourages the application of such natural materials as poultry manure, alfalfa and kelp.

"If you're a naturalist who is interested in gardening, try to put native plants in your garden that are from your part of Ontario" says Levine, who has owned Bio-Lawn since 1989.

"That way, the plants won't require extra nutrients or extra care."

Levine adds that the best thing for soil health is to incorporate good composts into your garden.

Zmijak emphasizes that floral designs beautify a home or backyard in every season.

"It becomes a beautiful focal point that celebrates the changing of the season," she says.

"For instance, in spring, I just started doing different arrangements of spring flowers, such as daffodils, tulips and crocuses... In autumn, I'll change to a seasonal arrangement that has different colours and a lot of living plant material, like tiny pumpkins and grasses."

When purchasing an urn, Zmijak advises clients to ensure that it fits the style and size of their home.

She adds that one of the most critical elements to plant maintenance is watering.

"I recommend that if people aren't around to water, then they should have an automatic watering system," she says.

Levine points out that organic gardens aren't as squeaky clean as synthetically maintained ones, but people are becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of pesticides, which is leading them in a more natural direction.

When seeking out a quality organic gardening and lawn care provider, he encourages clients to look for a professional company with solid background in the field.

"Do you want a student who is just spreading fertilizer, or do you want an educated technician who actually knows what they're doing and understands the fundamentals of gardening and lawn care?" he asks.

"And when you call the company, you need someone to answer your questions who knows what they're talking about."

In terms of customer service, Zmijak welcomes her clients to take an active role in the design process.

"You want to know you're getting your money's worth, so good communication with the designer is vital, especially in terms of things you like and dislike," she says.

Find out more about Bio-Lawn at www.bio-lawn.com or by calling 905-881-7942.

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# Exercising at home an alternative to gym membership

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

Not everyone wants to buy a gym membership. It's costly and there's always a chance it'll never be used. Mitch Melnick, manager of Fitness Source says more and more people are frustrated by the gym experience, so they're working out at home.

"To join a health club today is extremely expensive. A lot of families are coming in here. Instead of spending $4,000 to $5,000 a year on memberships, they're buying a large universal type of gym, weights and bicycles."

Figuring out what equipment to buy for a home gym can be overwhelming too, but Melnick says Fitness Source staff will help exercise buffs design an exercise room that suits their needs.

"We have a very well-trained staff who give excellent advice," says Melnick. "It's not a high-pressured environment – we're not a commission-oriented retail chain. We're very passionate and committed to help our clients. That's what we're known for."

Melnick says a lot of clients still buy the traditional treadmill, but the elliptical – a multi-purpose cardio machine – is one of Fitness Sources' best sellers.

"Elliptical trainers have become very popular for two reasons. It's a piece of equipment that's very popular in a health club or a commercial environment, and it does a lot of exercises all at once," says Melnick. "It has very little impact if people have problems with knees or backs and it doesn't take a lot of co-ordination."

New exercisers don't have to start their workout regiment on a treadmill or an elliptical, though. Fitness Source also sells a lot of weight-based equipment.

"For people who are looking to get into strength training… we have a universal gym that takes up less than 5½ feet of space. It has the ability to do over 40 different exercises. This is a popular item people want. And once people's workouts get more advanced, a lot of the systems we have do have additional leg- press options, and [we have] additional features to add to what they already have."

Compared to a gym membership, buying a weight machine is cheap. A basic universal gym runs for about $800. Other types of exercising, such as Pilates and yoga, are even more affordable.

"Someone can get a mat and DVD and a ball for under $60," says Melnick. "Fitness Source really prides itself on being cutting edge. We've always carried items that we felt were very important, like yoga mats, yoga blocks, and videos. By having an instructor on DVD for an hour, it's fantastic."

He adds that more people are buying yoga equipment than ever before.

"Sales have increased many fold because now it's become more mainstream."

In general, business couldn't be better for Fitness Source, and Melnick says the media can be thanked for that.

"The message of exercising has gotten out thanks to a constant barrage of media. Things like, how important exercising is not just physically but mentally, decreasing body fat, lowering cholesterol. With bad eating habits, it's become evident that exercise has unlimited benefits.

"Also, the old adage was; you have to go to a health club and be in an environment with large expensive machines, but you don't necessarily need that. You can do it in the privacy of your own home."

With so many different types of home exercise equipment, Melnick predicts the workout craze will only become more frenzied.

"We haven't even scratched the surface," he says. "Exercising is about health and wellness, not just dumbbells, barbells and treadmills. We carry over 2,000 items in our stores. There are endless items for medicine-ball training, using a trampoline at home, to agility training. These things have become mainstream. They're not something you just find in university training centres."

[Photos courtesy of Fitness Source]

Fitness Source, which is owned by the Forzani Group, has nine stores in Ontario. The company plans to open stores in the rest of Canada in the near future.

"We think there's unlimited growth," says Melnick. "We have a very unique mix of product, and wonderful educated staff. Fitness Source has both big and small items that will allow us to really grow. We haven't seen anyone in Canada with that mix."

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# Tired tub? Consider refinishing or replacing it

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

A bathtub will take quite a lot of wear and tear over years of showering and bathing, and eventually it may be time to renovate.

That's why bathtub refinishing and replacements are fast becoming popular.

People want their tubs to look brand new or to spruce up the features in the tub, such as having a Jacuzzi or air jets installed.

While aesthetics are a primary appeal for a newly lined tub, professionals note that safety is a major factor, too.

Plumberscanada.com photo

"These days, we get a lot of calls for slip-resistant bottoms," says Jeff Shiff, president of Plumbers Canada.

Shiff adds that many customers also seek to have rusted-out drains replaced or have the old-style cast-iron tubs refinished with more modern acrylic material.

Lampert Plumbing president Lawrence Lampert says bathtub refinishing generally involves putting in a new shower base, covering the walls and then refinishing the old tub.

"We have 900 moulds that we make sure are a custom fit," he says, adding a trained technician can do the job by himself or herself.

"There's a large selection of colours and styles to cover up the walls."

If you're looking for long-term practical use, Shiff advises customers to consider having the tub replaced.

"If you're going to do tile replacement, then I would suggest replacing the bathtub itself," he offers.

"By removing the tiles, you'd make it easier to pull out the bathtub and put in a brand new one."

In fact, depending on the size of the bathroom, the worker may be able to expand the size of your tub, from the traditional five feet, up to six feet.

Clawfoot-connection.com photo

When shopping around for the right company to do the job, both Lampert and Shiff advise seeking out a service provider with a longstanding reputation.

"You want a company that has been in business a long time," says Lampert, adding that his company has been operating for 75 years.

Shiff says you should talk to friends of family members for companies they've been happy with and then call these providers yourself.

"The best thing to do is get independent references," he says.

"Call the people who did the work and try to get a feel for who they are and what their approach is."

Shiff has another valuable piece of advice.

"Give a deposit to show you're interested, but don't pay everything until you're satisfied and the job is all done."

To contact Lampert Plumbing, call 416-787-4921 or log onto www.bathliners.ca.

Plumbers Canada can be reached at 416-444-4499 or by visiting www.plumberscanada.com.

Plumberscanada.com photo

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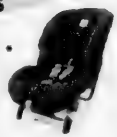

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## This Week

National

**JNF and** Manitoba sign $1-million deal to improve environment. *Page 3*

**Elie Wiesel** speaks to Hillel audience. *Page 6*

**Concert for** women will aid needy families. *Page 19*

Food, Scrumptious Food

**The battle** of the pareve desserts. *Page 34*

Books & Authors

**Tale of** pickpockets is an auspicious literary debut. *Page 44*

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# Brother pleads for Syria to release remains of Eli Cohen

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

For years after her son was hung in a public square in Damascus, Sofie Cohen was inconsolable.

"Every time she heard a car accident, she tried to remember her son and she cried day and night," recalled Maurice, one of Sofie's eight children. "She was very, very delicate."

When his mother took ill for the last time at age 87 in 1994, she implored Maurice while on her deathbed to make a pledge. "She asked me to make all my efforts to bring my brother to be buried according to Jewish law in Israel," he recounted. "Unfortunately, I couldn't keep my promise. I have not succeeded."

Despite his best efforts, as well as the intervention of the government of Israel and back-channel appeals to the most senior Syrian leadership, the remains of Eli Cohen remain at an unknown location in Syria.

Cohen, who was hanged on May 18, 1965, on live TV, has come to be known as one of Israel's greatest spies – perhaps the greatest. From 1962 until his death at age 41, he insinuated himself into the top levels of Syrian society. Using the cover of a wealthy merchant of Syrian descent, Cohen befriended the then president of Syria, Amin el Hafiz, and at his death was being considered a candidate for deputy minister of defence.

***International petition launched***

The intelligence he transferred to Israel, particularly about Syrian military strong points in the Golan Heights, is considered crucial to Israel's capture of the area in the 1967 Six Day War.

Cohen's younger brother, Maurice, who like Eli worked for the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, believes it is past time for the Syrian government to put politics aside and make a humanitarian gesture by returning his remains.

"Syria wants to discuss the matter in connection with the Golan Heights or other political affairs. This has nothing to do with politics it is humanitarian," Maurice said in a telephone interview from Israel. "All religions recognize proper burial. [Eli] already received his punishment. They have to return [his body] with no alternatives. It is against humanitarian law. They are making a big mistake in keeping his family suffering."

When he was executed, Eli left behind a wife, two daughters and a son who was 40 days old at the time.

Eli's life was rarely quiet. He and his siblings – five boys and two girls were born in Alexandria, Egypt, of parents who moved separately at young ages from their ancestral home in Aleppo, Syria.

**Eli Cohen**

**Continued on page 37**

# *Historic $50 million donation to UJA*

Less than a month after Canada's finance minister James Flaherty encouraged donations to Canadian charities by eliminating the capital gains tax on gifts of public securities, prominent Toronto businessman Larry Tanenbaum and his wife Judy have donated one of the largest gifts in Canadian history to a community foundation.

The recipient of the $50 million Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Endowment Fund – provided through stock donations – is the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the endowment arm of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the city's main Jewish community organization and North America's third-largest North American Jewish federation in terms of annual dollars raised.

With the Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Endowment Fund, Jewish Foundation assets are now closing in on $200 million, reinforcing the Jewish Foundation's ranking as one of Canada's top community foundations.

**Larry Tanenbaum**

Tanenbaum is chair and CEO of Kilmer Van Nostrand, a private investment holding company with diversified interests in construction, infrastructure, electronics, technology, sports and entertainment. He is also chairman of the board of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd., owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Toronto Raptors and the Air Canada Centre. Tanenbaum has a long record of service to non-profit organizations, including the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Miller Thomson Foundation, Mount Sinai Hospital, Baycrest and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"Judy and I are honoured to be able to help meet important community needs with this endowment, and we hope that others will step forward in the same way," said Tanenbaum.

"The Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Endowment Fund continues an acclaimed tradition of tzedakah, transmitted by Larry's parents, Max and Anne, for which the family is well known and well respected," said David Engel, UJA Federation's chairman of the board.

**Bamidbar**
**Candlelighting: 8:30**
**Havdallah: 9:35**
*Greater Toronto Area*

British academics again target Israel — see page 36

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Event Supports Israel

**TORONTO** — More than 2,000 Christians and Jews came together May 18 for one of the largest-ever events in Canada to support Israel. Sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada and the Institute for Canadian Values, the event, called "A Night to Honour Israel" and held at Canada Christian College in Toronto, featured a keynote address by Pastor John Hagee, a televangelist from San Antonio, Tex., as well as speeches by Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, retired Israeli general Doron Almog, B'nai Brith executive vice-president Frank Dimant, and Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College.

### WORLD

#### Tunisian Lag b'Omer

**DJERBA, Tunisia** — Thousands of people attended the annual Lag B'Omer pilgrimage to the Tunisian island of Djerba. The two-day celebration at the Ghriba Synagogue marks the end of a legendary plague 2,000 years ago. The synagogue was the site of a 2002 Al Qaeda terror attack that killed 21 people, mostly German tourists. The shul is the oldest synagogue in Africa and serves one of the world's oldest Jewish communities.

#### Chomsky Terror Tour?

**BEIRUT** — U.S. professor Noam Chomsky met with Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week, Al-Manar TV, the terror group's station, reported. "Hezbollah's insistence on keeping arms is justified," Al-Manar quoted Chomsky, a critic of U.S. and Israeli foreign policy, as saying. Chomsky added: "Nasrallah has a reasoned argument" that the group should be armed "as a deterrent to potential aggression." He also called the United States the leading terrorist state, Al-Manar reported. Chomsky also spoke at the American University of Beirut.

#### Station Aired Hate

**CAPE TOWN** — A South African broadcasting committee ruled that a Muslim radio station aired hate speech. The Broadcasting Monitoring and Complaints Committee of South Africa ruled recently in favour of the complaint made by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies against a Cape Town Muslim radio station, Radio 786. The dispute began after a May 1998 broadcast in which Yakub Zaki, a historian at the Muslim Institute in London, said only one million-plus Jews were killed in World War II, and none in gas chambers. There will be a hearing later this month to set a penalty for the station.

#### Cemetery Desecrated

**MILAN** — Police are investigating the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Milan. Vandals toppled or otherwise damaged about 40 graves. Cemetery workers discovered the attack May 16. No one claimed responsibility, and no anti-Semitic graffiti was found at the scene.

#### Shoah Denied

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** — A candidate for Alabama attorney general has denied the Holocaust. Larry Darby, a Democrat, said May 12 that only 140,000 Jews died in the Shoah and the six-million figure is propagated by the "Holocaust industry," Associated Press reported. Darby also spoke May 14 at a white supremacist meeting in New Jersey. Party chairman Joe Turnham said the Alabama Democrats are investigating Darby, who's running in the June 6 primary. Turnham said hate "is completely unacceptable" in his party.

#### Poet Laureate Dies

**NEW YORK** — Stanley Kunitz, a former U.S. poet laureate who made metaphoric use of the Talmud and other Jewish images in his poetry, died May 14 at age 100. Kunitz, who was known for writing on themes ranging from life and death to gardens, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1959.

#### Goering's Relative Might Become Jewish

**ZURICH** — A distant relative of Nazi Luftwaffe Chief Hermann Goering is on his way to becoming Jewish, according to a report in Germany's *Spiegel Online* magazine.

Matthias Goering, 49, lives in Zurich and has begun observing some of the practices of Orthodox Judaism, including wearing a kippah and keeping kosher.

Goering, whose great-grandfather's brother was Hermann Goering's grandfather's brother, said he had lost his job and his family when two events moved him to consider conversion: first, his prayer for a new job was answered, and second, he dreamed God told him he was needed "to guard the gates of Jerusalem."

Goering told the news magazine that he was subjected to taunting as a child because of his family name, but that his sense of responsibility for remembering the Holocaust was the same as that of any German.

"There is a spiritual guilt in our family, guilt in the German nation, and it is our responsibility to declare it openly," he said. "I think God is taking this opportunity to use my name to change something in the hearts of others."

#### Gay Nuptials Row

**MOSCOW** —The leading Russian Jewish organization is called on the community to boycott Reform Jews after a Reform rabbi officiated at what is believed to be the country's first Jewish same-sex commitment ceremony. "We are calling on Jewish organizations and communities of Russia to relinquish any religious contacts with the people who have committed this sacrilegious and provocative act," the Chabad-led Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, the largest Jewish group in the country, said in a statement. The ceremony for a Moscow lesbian couple took place April 2, but was only publicized last week by a Moscow newspaper. Rabbi Nelly Shulman, who officiated, said she did so on her own private initiative and wasn't backed by the umbrella organization of Reform Judaism in Russia.

#### Anti-Semitic Acts Rise

**BERLIN** — Anti-Semitic crimes in Germany rose by 25 per cent in 2005 over the previous year, according to government statistics. The total number of crimes was 1,682, translating into five reported incidents per day, the Ministry of the Interior reported.


The Canadian Jewish news

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# JNF, Manitoba sign deal to aid province, Israel

## *$1 million partnership to focus on improving environment in both regions*

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — The Province of Manitoba and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Canada, Prairie region, have signed a partnership agreement to promote technology and research intended to assist communities in both northern Manitoba and Israel.

The three-year, $1-million environmental research partnership will focus on improving the environment in both regions through forest diversification, water innovation and rapid-growth greenhouse technology.

Last year, the JNF signed a similar deal with the province of Alberta that emphasized dry-land agriculture in drought-stricken areas of southern Alberta.

The agreement with Manitoba originated in a meeting late last year between JNF Canada national shaliach Rami Kleinmann and Emoke Szathmary, president of the University of Manitoba.

"We discussed the idea of a co-operative agreement between the university and the JNF," Kleinmann said. "More than 40 researchers at the University of Manitoba are interested in participating on joint research projects with Israel on environmental issues.

"I thought that the government would be interesting as well," he added. "The deputy premier [Rosann Wowchuk, who is also the minister of agriculture], in particular, has shown a lot of interest."

Manitoba Premier Gary Doer has committed $1 million to the project through the province's Agri-food Research and Development Initiative, which funds agricultural innovation and development in Manitoba.

The funds will be contributed over a three-year period, with JNF fundraising contributing an equal amount. This will establish an endowment with the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba to enable joint research and collaboration between Manitoba and Israel well into the future.

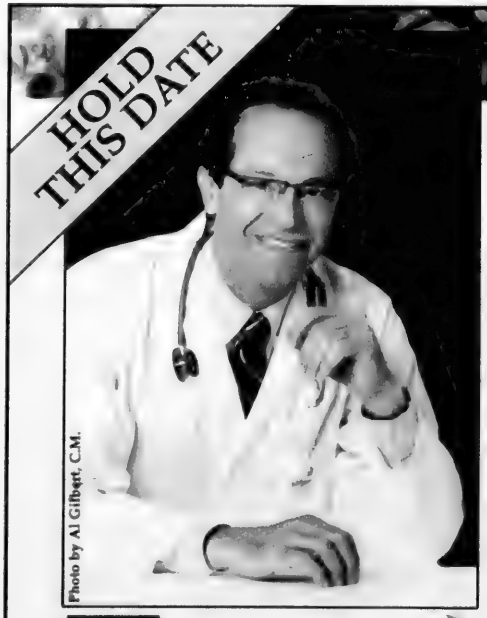
One of the projects will be to help develop a greenhouse vegetable program in isolated northern aboriginal communities and will include flying people from selected communities to Israel for training in growing greenhouse vegetables.

"The high cost of commercial food in remote communities is a significant obstacle to good nutrition," Wowchuk said in a statement. "This research can help support those communities looking to promote traditional harvesting, gardening and food self-sufficiency."

Kleinmann said JNF research coordinator Avi Gafni plans to visit aboriginal communities in July to gain first-hand information about soil, water, climate and other conditions. He has also been in discussions with experts about temperature and other conditions in the North.

Emoke Szathmary

"Manitoba's extreme cold and Israel's extremely hot temperatures present similar agricultural challenges," said JNF Prairie region president Graham Dixon. "Water is a precious resource for both Manitoba and Israel. This partnership will establish links to share information, expertise, and best practices related to the environment."

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# Young idealists in the Negev

*Part 2 of the highlights from the International Conference of Jewish Newspaper Editors, held May 7 to 11, in Israel*

Some 40 kilometres south of Be'er Sheva in the sand and sage of the Negev Desert is the small community of Ashalim, an unpretentious village of modest, single family dwellings, some of which show the weathered markings of the hard desert climate.

But our bus did not stop in Ashalim. For it was the even smaller, more modest community of Kfar Adiel immediately adjacent that was our destination.

Kfar Adiel is a student village – built by students, housing students – that pulses with purpose and the unstoppable energy of young idealists who believe deeply that goodness can change the world.

Adiel is two years old. Seventy students live there; 20 students founded it; 50 joined last year. The community's first baby was born there three days before we visited.

It is the creation of the Ayalim Association, a non-profit foundation established in September 2002 by young veterans of the Israel Defence Forces. This handful of social entrepreneurs were determined to find a way to combine their driving personal needs to undertake socially worthwhile causes with the national need for building the country.

Thus, they used the funds they received from the army upon discharge to create Ayalim.

Ayalim, in turn, distributes scholarships and housing stipends to university students who wish to combine studies with a very specific form of social action: building the Negev and the Galilee. The demands of the Ayalim program upon the youthful participants are essentially twofold: to study at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in Be'er Sheva and to give of themselves to the people and to place in which they live. And the foundation has been flooded with applications.

At present, 260 students are participating in Ayalim's visionary work. They were selected from more than 5,000 post-army graduates who applied. The number is indicative of the rich vein of idealism that courses deeply through an often-maligned generation.

In addition to studying at BGU, each of the student residents of Adiel does 10 hours per week of volunteer work with "at risk" children in nearby communities. And the students build their own homes as well. Actually, they adapt 30-year-old trailers, called "caravans" in Israel, to be their dwellings. This entails learning about all the trades involved in home-building, such as plastering, bricklaying, electrical, plumbing, gardening, etc.

Indeed, when he planted the first tree in Adiel two years ago, former prime minister Ariel Sharon commented on the students' home-building. "The members of the association come not only to establish a new village, but also to create a new ideological climate," Sharon said. "They work in the development towns and environs, contribute to the advancement of education in the region and thus lay the foundations for the blossoming of the people of the Negev. I was also pleased to hear that they insisted on building their houses with their own hands while they were on vacation from the university. This, too, proves something about their characters."

Those remarkable characters were very much evident when the busload of some 27 foreign editors visited them two weeks ago. Inbar Seidman, the community's engaging manager, was our guide when we dropped in. She pointed proudly to the homes, the trees, the shrubs, the pathways, and even to the pets that she and her youthful colleagues have rooted into the beckoning soil of the Negev. "I really believe in what we are doing. We are students, sure, but we are also something extra," Inbar told us.

Yuval Moses, 23, from Jerusalem, jumped at the chance to enrol in the Ayalim challenge. For his volunteer work, he teaches dance to girls in Dimona. "It's hard work, but I love it. It is less about the dancing and more about the connection with the kids."

The enthusiastic young people at Adiel are breathing life into David Ben-Gurion's vision and hope for the Negev. The desert comprises some 60 per cent of the land of Israel, but less than 10 per cent of its people live there. The Ayalim-Adiel initiative, and others to follow, will bring more people to the Negev.

A member of a local municipal council said of the Adiel residents: "These youngsters are new Israeli pioneers. Youth is their power. They don't wait for tomorrow. They build today.

He added: "If more people of education, of ideals, of determination come to the area, the Negev will awaken."

Plans are underway for more villages, near Dimona and near Netivot. Resources and experts from the Jewish Agency for Israel – and thus the united Jewish communities of North America and the Jewish National Fund assist Ayalim. The program has become so popular that it's being adapted and expanded somewhat for BGU students from overseas.

But the real kudos must go to the young men and women who, virtually with one voice, told us: "The country was proclaimed in 1948," one of the students said, "but we still have to build it. We can't change the whole world, but we can change part of it."

—*MBD*

SeeJN

**QUEEN'S PARK HONOURS HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS: MPP Michael Colle and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter, on behalf of Ontario's Premier Dalton McGuinty, joined the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem last month in honouring victims of the Holocaust and paying tribute to survivors who have contributed significantly to their communities. In the top row, from left, are Felicia Posluns, Ian Zagdanski, Barry Zagdanski on behalf of Henry Zagdanski, Ernest Singer, Joseph Tomasov, Colle, Chaim Perlis, Joseph Wolfe, Bonnie Lebovic on behalf of Wolf Lebovic, and Hank Rosenbaum, national chair, Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. In the bottom row, from left, are Vera Schiff, Saul Shulman, Agges Tomasov, Elizabeth Samuel and Joseph Lebovic.**

# Students urged to help end Darfur genocide

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

High school students attending the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto's annual seminar day on the Holocaust earlier this month were urged to make 'Never again' a reality by working to end the genocide taking place in Darfur.

"The challenge to you, ladies and gentleman, is to change that pattern [of condoning crimes against humanity]. The challenge to you is to say enough is enough," Norman Epstein, co-chair of Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan (CASTS), told 700 students from across the province at the May 10 event, held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Norman Epstein

Since the Holocaust ended 61 years ago, Epstein said, genocides have occurred in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Bosnia, but the genocide in the Darfur of Sudan is the first one this century.

"'Never again' cannot mean empty words in bold writing," Epstein said.

For the past three years, the Sudanese government has supported the Janjaweed, an Arab militia that has killed more than 300,000 civilians in Darfur.

"[Canada] can take more international leadership, and we have to call upon the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations to do more," he said. "If not now, then when? If not in Sudan, then where? If not by determination, then how? And if we cannot as humanity then there's only one question left: Why not?"

Speaking emphatically, Epstein urged the young audience to voice their opinions to their local MP's.

"We are Canadians and we have to make sure our Canadian leaders take leadership," he said. "[Prime Minister] Steven Harper said, 'Canada can no longer lead from the bleachers.' Let's take him up on the challenge. Let's see if he has the interest, the intention to have that kind of moral authority."

Epstein said the United Nations has been careful not to call the situation in Darfur a genocide because, "if you use the 'G' word, you have to intervene. The United Nations has always been careful not to use the 'G' word."

Epstein brought up the Responsibility To Protect, a document created by Canada and endorsed by the UN, which he said maintains "that if a country is slaughtering its people, then the international community must intervene."

In an interview after his talk, Epstein said he wanted to inspire the students from the 22 high schools to "stand up and say, 'I don't know what the older generations have done, but I'm not going to be oblivious to what's happening in other parts of the world. We live in a global village, and genocide is an unacceptable crime against humanity.'"

Epstein said the Sudanese economy is supported by oil, which is sold to countries such as China, Malaysia and India.

"That's where [the government is] financing its war against its citizens," he said. "China has access to the oil there. ... it probably gets it at a better price than it would in another market."

Epstein said it's important for people to decide whether "strategic commercial interests trump humanitarian interests," adding that Russia has sold old, Soviet-era equipment to Sudan.

"We have to ask these kids, is [business] more important than the hundreds and thousands of people who are being slaughtered by the government who you are doing business with?"

Russia and China hold two of the five permanent seats on the UN Security Council, and he said they are "obstructing intervention" because of their relations with the Sudanese government.

Epstein said that if the world doesn't put an end to the crisis in Darfur, "the genocide will end only because there will be no more Africans to kill." He added that violence is starting to spread to neighbouring countries such as Chad, causing more regional instability.

A multinational peacekeeping force is the only way to end the massacres, he argued.

"We have no choice. We have to make it our focus in the international community, that these crimes against humanity cannot go on with impunity," he said. "Sooner or later the international community has to do the right thing."

Epstein said it's important for the Jewish community to speak out.

"We can't complain as Jews [and ask], 'Where was the international community [during the Holocaust]?' unless we're willing to stand up to a modern-day genocide," he said. "Then we have learned no lesson."

He said tikkun olam, repairing and healing the world, is a fundamental Jewish value.

"I think every Jew should make it part of their reason for being," he said. "We know we live in an imperfect world, and we have to try everything within our power to try to correct that... If we can't protect people from genocide, we have to question our measure of humanity."

CASTS is supported by 19 organizations and has some 1,500 people on its e-mail list. Its website is www.geocities.com/castsudan.

**SHABBAT PREPARATIONS: Preschooler Jonah Erez sprinkles poppyseeds on his unbaked challah as part of Shabbat-related activities at United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tikvah campus.**

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# Nobel laureate urges Jews to fight fanaticism

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Elie Wiesel – professor, writer, Nobel Laureate, humanitarian and Holocaust survivor – has always done everything in his power to inform the world about the atrocities suffered by the Jewish people during World War II.

Through the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, he educates people about the Holocaust, with the purpose of combating indifference, intolerance and injustice, while promoting acceptance, understanding and equality.

Wiesel was in town this week at the invitation of Hillel of Greater Toronto to present a lecture to a sold-out crowd at the University of Toronto. It was titled "Confronting Fanaticism: Building Moral Unity in a Diverse Society."

In a telephone interview with the *CJN* last Thursday, Wiesel, 77, discussed the importance of speaking out on behalf of people who may not have a voice – regardless of whether they are Jewish – because he knows first-hand what can happen when the world chooses to ignore human suffering.

"I believe it is a priority for a Jew to help Jews, but not exclusively," said Wiesel, whose family was murdered in Nazi death camps.

"I'm a teacher and I am a writer, and as a teacher and a writer, what I try to do is sensitize my readers or my students, to make them more sensitive, first of all, to our people, to our people's pain, to our people's memory, to our people's joy, to our people's fear, and to be sensitive and to go beyond it," he said.

"Be sensitive to other communities if they are in danger and if they feel oppressed and they feel they are neglected or humiliated."

Wiesel is world-renowned for speaking about the horrors of the Holocaust and for having written *Night*, a memoir of his experience in Auschwitz and the most famous and celebrated book of the nearly 40 he has written. But he has also made it a priority to speak out against the dangers of fanaticism and the current genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

"I'll be speaking about fanaticism and about how to fight it, how to disarm it, how to unmask it," he said, referring to his lecture at U of T.

"A fanatic is someone who believes that only he or she has the key to truth and only he or she possesses the exclusivity of truth.

"It is somebody who has all the certainty in the world and no doubts, and a fanatic believes he is superior to anyone who is not like he is," Wiesel said.

"If a fanatic is given power then he becomes dangerous and if you give it nuclear power, as is now the case with Iran, we surely are in trouble," said Wiesel, who is a strong supporter of Israel.

But Wiesel said that some people might not understand that fanatics are not as much of a minority as some would like to think, and that no religious group, including Judaism, is immune to fanaticism.

"The challenge is that it is now a world phenomenon. It is not only in Islam, it is also in Catholicism and Protestantism, and fundamentalists are even within our own community, the Jewish community. Luckily, it is a very small minority, but we have our own fanatics," Wiesel said.

Elie Wiesel

Despite the many atrocities taking place around the world, such as the humanitarian crisis currently taking place in Darfur, Wiesel said he is encouraged by the disproportionate number of Jewish people who choose to stand up for the victims of fanaticism.

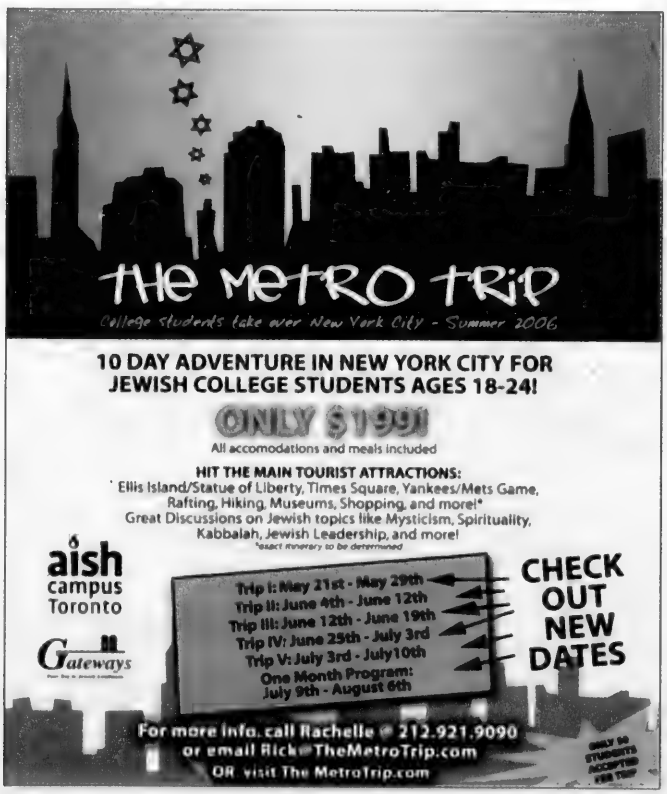
"I am deeply involved in the tragedy in Darfur. They organized a few weeks ago in Washington, D.C., a great march for Darfur and 90 per cent were Jews and I was very pleased. There were young people from high school and colleges, people from yeshivot and this pleased me," Wiesel said.

"The overwhelming majority of those [at the rally] came from Jewish homes or Jewish schools."

Wiesel, who speaks passionately about the victims in Darfur, said the best way to incite change is to appeal to the people who have the power to do something.

"I think we should prevail on our governments because they have the power and the money and they have the means. All we have are words."

"We have to speak up. Each in his or her own circle. Sign petitions… We must do something otherwise we will feel guilty for not helping those who need help saving their lives."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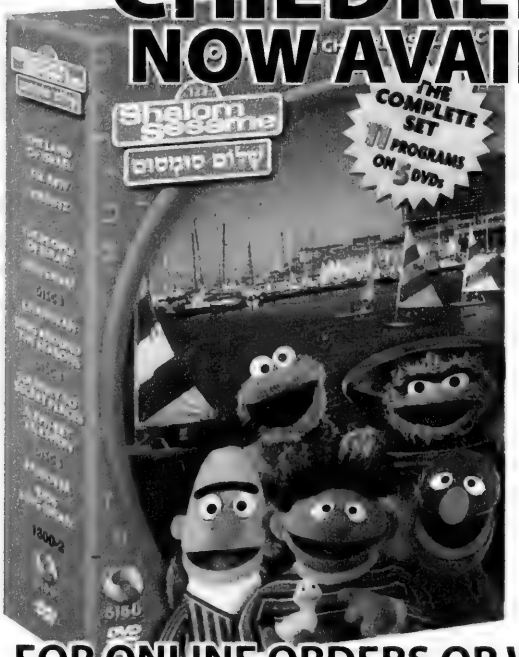


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# Seeking humanity from Damascus

Forty-one years ago last week, on May 18, 1965, Eli Cohen was hanged in Damascus. The son of Shaul and Sofie Cohen, he was tortured, tried without the benefit of legal representation and convicted as a spy for the Jewish state and summarily executed in a public square.

His story became legend. His brilliant, courageous efforts behind enemy lines played a significant role in Israel's ultimate victory against the Syrian forces on the Golan Heights in the Six Day War of 1967. Embarrassed, the Syrian regime treated Cohen with great revulsion and cruelty. To this day, more than four decades after his execution, the Syrians petulantly, callously, vindictively still refuse to allow Cohen's body to be buried in Israel.

Before she died, Cohen's mother exacted a promise from her son Maurice to bring Eli's remains out of Syria for burial in a Jewish grave in Israel. Despite his unceasing efforts, however, Maurice has been unable to find humanity or move conscience within the Syrian regime. Eli's tortured body remains, disrespected and derided, somewhere in Syria. But Maurice, alas, can no longer continue. As he told *The CJN* last week, he is too ill to maintain the struggle. He fears, with justification, the son's promise to his mother will be unfulfilled. "I don't know how much I have to live... Unfortunately, I couldn't keep my promise. I have not succeeded."

But Maurice need no longer carry the burden of his promise alone. We must help him. His plea to the Syrians is not in the realm of politics. It is, rather, in the realm of basic, simple, human decency. It is a final act of love of a son for his mother, and of one brother for another. To accede to his plea would entail no loss of face on the part of Syria. Rather, it would acknowledge a common humanity in all God's creations.

Therefore we appeal to individuals, schools, organizations, synagogues, churches and mosques. Mobilize for Maurice. Get as many people as possible to sign the online petition that is now circulating on the specially created website (www.elicohen.org).

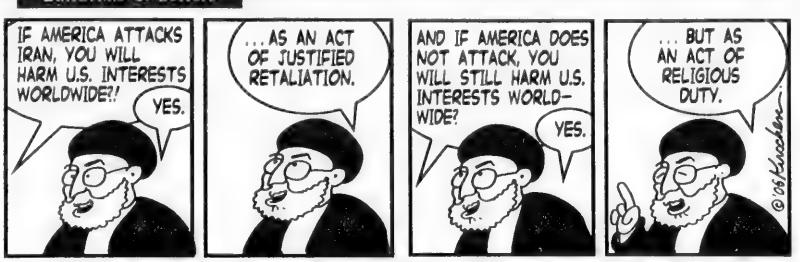
We also appeal to the government of Canada to use its good offices to try to persuade the government of Syria to confer so uncomplicated an act of simple kindness for the Cohen family.

And we especially appeal to Bashir Assad, the president of Syria. Let Eli's remains be buried in Israel. What better way to show the West, the world, that Syria understands and abides by the norms of civilized society and wishes to be counted among the nations of such society?

Maurice needs our help. He cries out to us from the fading light of his ebbing life and from the depths of his anguish. We must try to help him keep a promise to his departed, heart-broken mother. His cause affirms the value of all human life. It is thus our cause, too, which his cry from the heart expresses.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Politician David Lewis, a former leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) and MP for Toronto's York South riding, died of leukemia in Ottawa. He was 71. Lewis was active in socialist causes from a very young age, including the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), the NDP's predecessor.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### Jewish unity unattainable

The continuing debate about the community Yom Hashoah observance in Toronto has exposed some sensitive issues. In the letters of May 11, we were witness to a Conservative rabbi giving advice to Orthodox rabbis on how to interpret Halachah ("Yom Hashoah memorial program (1)").

As wonderfully ecumenical as this sounds, it glosses over the obvious fact that the various movements of Judaism have fundamentally different conceptions of the meaning of Jewish law, its origins and its role in life. These differences are unreconcilable. It is not reasonable to expect the various movements within Judaism to compromise on their core beliefs in the name of the unattainable goal of Jewish unity.

Perhaps the various factions within Judaism should be encouraged to work together as a community where possible without compromising their integrity and to go their separate ways when such is impossible. After all, even the best of neighbours need to maintain a healthy distance from each other in order to protect their own integrity.

**Jerrold Landau**
**Toronto**

* * *

### End exclusionary stance

I must take issue with both sides in the ongoing debate over the community observance of Yom Hashoah in Toronto, as reflected in the articles "Board of rabbis withdraw from the Yom Hashoah event" (*CJN*, April 21) and "Why we chose not to take part" (*CJN*, April 27), and the May 11 letters to the editor.

While I deplore the decision taken by the Toronto Board of Rabbis, which caused so much unnecessary conflict and dissension in the community, I am more distressed at the grounds on which this decision was based and the inference, by their exclusion, that Jewish women/girls are somehow less worthy of participation.

I come from an Orthodox family that suffered deportation and the loss of female family members. I never heard any reference to the Holocaust in my family lest God's name be profaned. And today, in 2006, for the sake of that same Halachah, we exclude our Jewish daughters from participating in an event commemorating the slaughter of our Kedoshim – male and female alike!

While I do not blame the organizers of the event, I appeal to them, and the organizations in charge of this event, to resolve the matter in a rational and sensible way, without discrimination.

In all the years I have been going to the community Yom Hashoah commemoration, I have yet to see more than barely a handful of Orthodox people in attendance. So let's face it, those who so far attended will continue to attend, and those who don't and never have will continue to stay away.

Let's hope that this exclusionary stance will come to an end. Surely we, the generation of survivors, are bound to do honour to those holy souls by seeing to it that our remembrance service reflects the depth of our sorrow – not our fruitless, sectarian differences.

**Goldi Steiner**
**Toronto**

* * *

### Films celebrated anti-Israel activists

I was impressed with the lineup of prestigious sponsors of the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Canada-Israel Committee, both organizations known for their advocacy and unwavering support for the State of Israel. Imagine my surprise when I realized that among the movies presented with the financial support of the Jewish community were two documentaries celebrating two of the fiercest anti-Israel activists, Daniel Barenboim and Tony Kushner.

Kushner, a scriptwriter, has repeatedly denied even the need for Israel to exist. He is a ferocious enemy of Israel, accusing it, among other "sins," of ethnic cleansing, murder, atrocities and racism. For the festival organizers, however, it was an opportunity to present a "loving portrait" of Kushner.

Barenboim – once a musical prodigy and a child of Holocaust survivors, now an anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian propagandist – was honoured with a documentary about him that was even chosen to be the closing night film. Barenboim called Israel "a state ruled by apartheid," called Prime Minister Ehud Olmert "arrogant and uncivilized," and even refused to speak to a reporter from the Israel's Army Radio because she was wearing an Israel Defence Forces uniform. The same Barenboim enjoyed playing music with former Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat present but stated that he would not invite former Israeli primer minister Ariel Sharon to his performances.

Of course, a film festival should present a multitude of ideas and allow a wide range of artistic expression. I only question the wisdom of channelling funds from organizations that represent the Jewish community and express our support for and solidarity with Israel to a festival that openly celebrates enemies of the Jewish state.

**Jack Chivo**
**Vancouver**

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# 'Jerusalem is the heart of the State of Israel'

*This year, we celebrate the 39th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. In commemoration of the event, Jerusalem Day, the 28th day of Iyar, which falls this year on May 25, we publish this excerpt from a statement about Jerusalem by Israel's founding prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, that he delivered in 1949. At the time, the United Nations was debating a suggestion championed by the Catholic Church, and supported by others, to internationalize the city. It's important to keep Ben-Gurion's words close to heart even now, nearly 60 years after the debate. Alas, there are forces in the world that are still trying to separate Jerusalem from Israel.*

"In the fall of 1949, the General Assembly of the United Nations began debating how to implement its decision of 29 November 1947 regarding the establishment of Jerusalem as a separate international entity under the auspices of the United Nations.

"On the eve of the debate, on 5 December 1949, I announced, in a Knesset session, that Jewish Jerusalem is an organic and inseparable part of the State of Israel. I added that Israel could not even conceive that the United Nations would attempt to tear Jerusalem from the State of Israel, especially considering what Jerusalem went through during Israel's War of Liberation.

"At the same time, we see fit to state that Jewish Jerusalem is an integral part of Jewish history and belief. Jerusalem is the heart of the State of Israel. We are proud of the fact that Jerusalem is also sacred to other religions, and will gladly provide access to their holy places and enable them to worship as and where they please, co-operating with the UN to guarantee this.

"We cannot imagine, however, that the UN would attempt to sever Jerusalem from the State of Israel or harm Israel's sovereignty in its eternal capital.

"Twice in the history of our nation were we driven out of Jerusalem, only after being defeated in bitter wars by the larger, stronger forces of Babylon and Rome. Our links with Jerusalem today are no less deep than in the days of Nebuchadnezzar and Titus Flavius, and when Jerusalem was attacked after the 14th of May 1948, our valiant youngsters risked their lives for our sacred capital no less than our forefathers did in the time of the first and second Temples.

"A nation that, for 2,500 years, has faithfully adhered to the vow made by the first exiles by the waters of Babylon not to forget Jerusalem, will never agree to be separated from Jerusalem. Jewish Jerusalem will never accept alien rule after thousands of its youngsters liberated their historic homeland for the third time, redeeming Jerusalem from destruction and vandalism."

**Israelis march around the walls of Jerusalem (below), demonstrate in support of its eternal unity (bottom), and of course, touch the ancient stones of the Western Wall.**

**[Israel and RNS/Reuters photos]**

# Greening my ride

At age 55, I acquired my first car. Until then, I drove my father's or my husband's car. Admittedly, my husband's car was the family car that I jointly owned, but we all knew it was really his. Strangely and belatedly, a car symbolized my coming-of-age and independence.

*Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal*

When I began a sabbatical in 1999, I needed a car to travel between Boston and Montreal. I loved my black Honda and my transformation. I could drive easily (and sometimes too quickly) to any destination. With the roof open, Barbara Streisand on the stereo and lots of snacks, I was the epitome of "have car, will drive."

So it came as quite a shock when two years later, my husband suggested that we get rid of our second car. How could he? I asked friends to convince him that two cars are essential for a double income family. His reasons were both practical and rational, but I couldn't give up the car and all that it symbolized.

Yet, the crux of his proposal matched a second epiphany that I had when I returned from my sabbatical.

I no longer drove to school. I walked.

For the past six years, I have walked to work every morning. No matter what the weather (and rain is far worse than snow, cold or ice), I walk. Even my doctor once tried to give me a lift on a rainy day, but I declined.

And the car sat in the driveway.

I felt very righteous – I was helping the environment and getting exercise to boot. Mostly, I liked having time to myself. There is nothing comparable to the feeling of personal time and space. This was the stuff of true independence. I finally came around: we got rid of the car and saved money, and I no longer had to wait for CAA to boost a dead battery.

Now that I am a confirmed and compulsive walker, I wonder about our wasteful transportation styles. Why do people drive everywhere? Why not use public transportation or car pools? Cars are perhaps more convenient and a sign of affluence, but they're detrimental to our lifestyle in the final analysis.

We should do more as private citizens to maintain our resources and contain our excesses. As I found out, the symbolic value attributed to a car was ill-founded. Most of us quickly become enslaved to our cars and what we think they represent. I'm not suggesting that there be no cars, just a more judicious use of our resources

Now that I don't have a car, my husband picks me up after work. Now that I don't have a car, my husband has to do all the household errands. So, I ask you, who is liberated?

# Spain, then and now

In a few weeks, we will be on a plane to Spain, where we hope the rain will stay far, far away from us! The purpose is to visit friends and places where Jews lived and prospered for so many centuries.

In preparation for the journey, I picked up Jane Gerber's *The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience*. Her book follows the Jews in Spain from their earliest settlements – probably beginning during the Second Temple period when Spain was within the political/cultural Greco-Roman world – until their almost complete exodus from Arab lands in our lifetime. It's a lot to get into one book, and of course, Gerber can only give an overview, but it put the longevity of the Jewish Spanish community into perspective.

*Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver*

As a community under the Visigoths, Jews had to "disperse or go underground," she writes. But with the coming of the Muslims to Spain, Jews and Judaism flourished. Even under Christian rulers, Jews lived openly and acted as intermediaries between the rival Christian and Muslim kingdoms on the Iberian peninsula.

During various periods, Jewish philosophy, religion, economic and political influence, Hebrew poetry, and Kabbalistic studies thrived. The end of the story – at least for Spain – is the well-known rise of Christian triumphalism in the wake of the Christians' final victory over the Muslims, and the expulsion of all Jews in 1492.

Gerber deals with the perennial question of what motivated the mass conversions over more than a century before 1492. I can't do it justice in a few paragraphs, but from her analysis, it seems that beginning in the 13th century, Jews in various communities were subjected to persecution and forced conversions, which began to sap the spiritual energy of the community. As persecutions multiplied, more and more Jews converted, while the choice to remain a persecuted but free minority became more and more circumscribed.

So when the end came in 1492, the conversions were a culmination of events, not a sudden shock wave. And while some would blame the very openness of the Jewish communities and their leaders to the cultures around them, Gerber does not. Rather, she shows the gradual erosion of solidarity under unimaginable pressure and persecution. Then came the Inquisition (which spilled even more Jewish blood), as well as the waning of Spain's power and the growth of rancid racism that targeted Jews whose conversions were suddenly questioned and then spurned as spurious.

All in all, it was an ugly ending to the Golden Age. So why go to Spain?

Well, one could ask that question about almost any European trip. Perhaps the horrors of the last century drive out events of 500 years ago. Or maybe something else is changing. Spain today is not the Spain of the repellent Isabella and Ferdinand, or the brutal fascist Franco. As Gerber points out, the longing for Andalus, for Sepharad, has never died out in the hearts of Sephardi Jews. A new Spain, free of fascism and anti-Semitism, is rising and rising fast. I want to see it.

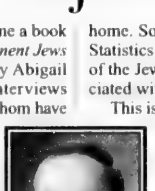
You can argue that anywhere you go in Europe, you will only find Jews in their graves. Indeed, there are places I won't ever go, places where the ground is soaked with Jewish blood and the cries of the dying can still be heard. But there are places where we might find a new heart and a new spirit. Isn't that what we always pray for, that nations will rise above their history and open their hearts to a new reality?

Sephardi Jewry imagined itself as doubly exiled: first from Zion, the Land of Israel, and then from Spain, their *Goldene Medinah*. Their homecoming to a Jewish state was a mixed blessing for many of them. Yet the image of exile in their Kabbalah blossomed in the teachings of the mystics of Safed and remains a potent image today. Who knows whether a new Spanish Jewish community will be reborn?

After Spain, we will travel to other places fraught with memories from Jewish history – of both achievements and persecutions – including Venice, whose forced restriction of Jews to a particular part of the city, let's recall, gave us the term "ghetto." More about that in my next column.

# Rejecting rejection

Recently, my daughter gave me a book titled *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish* by Abigail Pogrebin. It is a compilation of interviews with famous Americans, many of whom have kept their Jewish heritage unknown to the American public.



*Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton*

At first glance, I thought that the topic of the book would provide light, moderately interesting reading – but would not be a weighty tome on aspects of Jewish life, dogma or heritage. Surprisingly, this book did provide food for deeper thought and introduced ideas that I found rather disturbing.

It was interesting to learn about the Jewish background of a number of well-known people who I had not previously known as Jewish. However, the book served as a reminder of how disassociated or separate we have become as members of our community.

The book underscores rejection, describing families who have rejected Judaism and, indeed, some individuals who have almost taken pride in their rejection of their faith, background and roots. There are stories familiar to all of us – even self-designations such as the "anti-Semitic Jew".

There are, of course, many persons around us who have rejected Jewish ritual or formal dogma both in community institutions or at home. Some have rejected religion outright. Statistics indicate that more than 50 per cent of the Jews in our communities are not associated with formal Jewish institutions.

This is not news to any of us. But it serves to remind us not of diversity but of a malaise that is endemic to many communities. It is a phenomenon or an atmosphere of general rejection.

Arguably, this rejection is a part of the modern Jewish experience.

Some Jews reject Reform Judaism. Others reject Orthodoxy. Within the branches of Judaism, we see interpretations of our laws that foster rejection of individuals – gays, lesbians, those who have intermarried, the children of mixed marriages and individuals who have chosen (or converted to) Judaism. And rather than finding a niche for themselves within our diverse community, too many Jews reject their Jewish backgrounds completely. Sometimes these attitudes border on outright hostility.

The plea here is not for universal acceptance of one norm or one belief for all Jews. The plea is for us to turn away from hostility essentially, a rejection of rejection. Rather than living in a milieu of conflict or animosity, we should accept our differences and celebrate what we have in common

What do we have in common? We share a history; we share a heritage; we share the basic moral values that we find in our Torah and writings. As well, we all share the experience of oppression, hate and anti-Semitism. And whether or not we or our families were directly affected, we collectively share the experience of the Holocaust. It is a crude element of our communality, but it is etched into our collective being.

We, of course, should not depend upon oppression and hate to engender a unifying sense of commonness. Many persons around the world target Jews and scapegoat the Jewish world for whatever causes they espouse. There will always be persons who harbour hatred and look for avenues to vent their vile, malicious attitudes.

But Judaism is more than daily rituals and observance of holidays and much more than literal interpretations of ancient script. It is a set of values, a sense of self-identity, a niche in our world, a heritage, our roots. We should emphasize in our lives the values that are basic to the Jewish experience.

Each and every community – religious, ethnic or social – has experienced internal diversity. As members of the Canadian community, we celebrate our differences while, at the same time, enjoying our communal and shared history and experience.

As a Jewish community, we must emphasize acceptance and inclusion so that our members will never feel the need to turn their backs on their heritage.

The Kirshner File

# Iran's budding nuclear program rattles Israel

Since the fall of Iran's monarchy in 1979, Iran has branded itself as Israel's undying enemy, an exemplar of the Muslim crusade against the Jewish state. The Islamic regime in Tehran has regularly excoriated Israel and brazenly called for its elimination from the family of nations.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

But Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran since last August, has taken the harsh rhetoric to new and ominous heights.

Ahmadinejad's thunderous tirades, the likes of which major Arab leaders have rarely emulated since the 1967 Six Day War, place Iran in a dubiously unique position in the Muslim world.

Iran's verbal onslaughts can safely be dismissed as the rantings and ravings of an extremist, increasingly isolated regime that is out of touch with modern realities.

But Iran should not be underestimated.

Iran, the world's fourth largest oil producer, is feverishly working to expand its nuclear program. Iran is testing long-range Shihab and Cruise missiles that can hit Israel. Iran actively supports proxies: Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian areas. Iran played a vital role in the bombings of the Israeli embassy and the Jewish community centre in Argentina in the 1990s, which claimed the lives of more than 100 civilians.

Iran's threats, therefore, must be viewed with the utmost seriousness.

Certainly, the powers-that-be in Israel have no illusions whatsoever about Iran.

Israel's chief of staff, Gen. Dan Halutz, has described Iran as "the sole existential threat facing Israel." His deputy, Gen. Moshe Kaplinsky, has said that he takes Iran's threats at face value. Meanwhile, Shaul Mofaz, the former defence minister, has classified Iran as Israel's most dangerous enemy today.

Concurring with these sober assessments, Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, has said that Israel cannot reconcile itself to the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran. As he put it, "Israel would not tolerate Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons. Under no circumstances, and at no point, can Israel allow anyone with these malicious designs against us to have control of [such] weapons that can threaten our existence."

For now, Israel is focusing on the diplomacy to deal with Iran's nuclear ambitions. "We are giving priority at this stage to diplomatic action," said Mofaz this past winter. In line with this approach, Israel is striving to convince the United States and the European Union, and Russia and China as well, that time is of essence in containing Iran, which insists that its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes.

Israel hopes that outrage over Iran's attempts to enrich uranium, a key step in building an atomic device, will galvanize the world and force Iran to desist. As Israel's former prime minister, Ariel Sharon, suggested last December, Iran is not only Israel's problem, but the world's, too.

For the past few years, diplomacy has turned on efforts by Britain, France and Germany, backed by the United States and Canada, to persuade Iran to abandon its military nuclear program in exchange for economic and political incentives. But when these on-again, off-again talks broke off in mid-2005, Iran restarted the uranium enrichment activities it had suspended.

Last week, European Union foreign ministers in Belgium offered Iran fresh incentives if it accepted international oversight of a civilian nuclear program (to which it is entitled under the Non-Proliferation Treaty).

But as expected, Ahmadinejad rejected the European plan, asserting that Iran's acceptance of the proposal would infringe on its sovereign rights.

His hardline stance put him on a collision course with the European Union and the United States, which are pushing ahead with a United Nations Security Council resolution that would impose sanctions on Iran.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

China and Russia, with important economic and energy interests in Iran, oppose the resolution, but may yet relent if Ahmadinejad persists with his recalcitrance.

The resolution, if passed, could be enforced by military means, but no one, least of all the United States and Israel, is eager to exercise that option of last resort.

Iran's nuclear infrastructure, however advanced or primitive it may be, would be difficult to consign to oblivion because it is widely spread out and buried deep in bunkers.

But Halutz has said that it "can be destroyed," while Moshe Ya'alon, the former Israeli chief of staff, has said that Israel has the ability to strike it.

If the United States – the world's sole superpower – acts militarily, the consequences could be unpleasant.

Ahmadinejad might cut off the flow of Iranian oil and gas, much as the Arabs did in the wake of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Alternatively, Iran could unleash a wave of terrorism in which Israel would be one of the first targets. As an adviser to Iran's Revolutionary Guards recently said, a U.S. attack on Iran would be followed by an Iranian retaliatory strike on Israel's main nuclear facility in Dimona. In addition, Iran's defence minister, Mustafa Mohammed Najar, has promised a "swift and final" response to an assault on its nuclear sites.

An Iranian reprisal against Israel would hardly be surprising, given Ahmadinejad's visceral hatred of Israel, a topic he began obsessing about publicly last October in a series of provocative speeches.

He called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." He claimed that the Holocaust is a myth, exploited by the West to implant an imperialist Jewish state in the heart of the Middle East. He stated his belief that the Israelis should be resettled abroad.

As outlandish as these themes sounded outside Iran, they struck a chord in Tehran, appealing to a variety of groups: nationalistic radicals mesmerized by Iran's imperial past, Islamic ideologues fired up by dreams of resurrecting a caliphate stretching across the region and supplanting western influence, and the poorer, downtrodden classes.

Although Ahmadinejad spews a steady stream of venom, he is definitely not the first Iranian leader to demonize Israel.

One of his predecessors, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, spoke glowingly about the possibility of "nuking" Israel.

Iran's current spiritual leader and Ahmadinejad's mentor, Ayatollah Ali Khamanei, told a Spanish prime minister, Jose Maria Aznar, that "setting Israel on fire" was the first order of business on his agenda.

Shaul Mofaz

Being Khamanei's star pupil, Ahmadinejad is indifferent to the fact that his outrageous statements and allegations place him in the same category as Holocaust denier and neo-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel.

Never tiring of dwelling on his chief preoccupation, he continually lashes out at Israel.

Two weeks ago, after saying that he was receptive to engaging in dialogue with all countries except Israel, he classified Israel as "a tyrannical regime that one day will be destroyed."

In mid-April, he denounced Israel as a "rotten, dried tree" destined to be annihilated by "one storm."

A week later, he described Israel as "a fake regime" that "cannot logically continue to live on." In the same breath, he urged Europeans to jettison their "anti-Semitism" so that Israelis can "return" to Europe.

These comments have infuriated Israelis.

Shimon Peres, the normally cautious deputy prime minister, has declared that "Iran, too, can be destroyed."

And in a not-too-subtle reference to dictators who have suddenly vanished from the scene, Mofaz warned Ahmadinejad that such tyrants have "brought only destruction upon their own people."

At the end of the day, though, what most concerns Israel is when Iran will join the nuclear club.

Meir Dagan, the head of the Mossad, has told the Knesset that Iran will be capable of producing fissile material – the primary building block of a bomb – within a matter of months. Taking his cue from Dagan, Gen. Amos Yadlin, the chief of military intelligence, said that Iran will be in possession of nuclear weapons by 2010. According to Halutz, Iran will be able to build an atomic bomb by 2008 at the earliest and by 2015 at the latest.

Whatever the date, Israel is taking no chances, assuming that Iran's intentions are malevolent.

Five months ago, Israel conducted the 14th test of its Arrow anti-ballistic missile, and last month, it launched the Eros B spy satellite.

In Israel, all eyes are on Iran's budding nuclear program.

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Jewish Toronto

# UIA Federations Canada celebrates 40 years in Israel

## *Canadians have funded more than 200 projects in Israel*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ & DVORA WILSHANSKY

UIA Federations Canada recently celebrated Israel's 58th Independence Day and launched its 40th year in Israel at a mega-event held on the 625-acre Biblical Landscape Reserve, Neot Kedumim, located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

UIA Federations Canada, supported by UJA/CJA campaigns across Canada, represents Canadian Jewish Federations.

"When UIA was formed 40 years ago, it was the ultimate statement of support from the Canadian Jewish community in response to the crisis and victory of the 1967 war," says UIA Federations Canada president Stanley Plotnick. "It signaled the readiness of Canadian Jewry to share in the responsibility for securing and developing Israel and ensuring an intimately intertwined relationship with all elements of Israeli society."

"The Canadian Jewish community is one of the most dominant and vibrant Jewish communities in the world, and has been accompanying the State of Israel since its birth in 1948," says Yossi Tanuri, UIA Federations Canada Director-General in Israel.

*Stanley Plotnick, president of UIA Federations Canada, at the recent 40th Anniversary celebration in Israel*

Over the last 40 years, UIA has established more than 240 physical projects in 85 locations, including kindergartens, libraries, auditoriums, community centres, and sports facilities. The most famous Canadian project is Canada Centre in Metulla, on Israel's northern border. Canada Centre's celebrated facilities include Israel's only Olympic-size skating rink.

Canadian support for aliyah and absorption has helped more than three million olim from 72 countries come home to Israel.

Canadians also show their overwhelming support through missions and visits; 13,000 Canadian students – the majority from Toronto - have already participated in Taglit *birthright israel* and over 1,000 have participated in the March of the Living.

"Israel plays such an important part in our life today and, as a Canadian Jew, I can't imagine our life without a link to it," says UJA Federation chair David Engel. "UIA Federations Canada is that link to Israel and to the people of Israel."

UIA Federations Canada executive vice president Maxyne Finkelstein, speaks with great pride about UIA's contributions. "UIA is the voice of Canada in Israel," says Finkelstein. "In the 40 years we've been in Israel, we've built hundreds of essential social facilities."

"Wherever you go in Israel, people you meet know the name UIA Federations Canada, and what that partnership has meant to Israel," adds Steve Ain, senior vice president, integrated development, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and the executive vice president of UIA Federations Canada from 1991 to 2001.

"I believe that the greatest achievement of UJA Federation has been the empowerment of Canadian Jewry and, because of UIA Federations, we are considered the most dynamic Jewish community in the world," says Ted Sokolsky, UJA Federation president and CEO. "Because of UIA, we have these incredibly strong links to Israel and, more importantly, we have incredibly strong links to each other."

Hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens have benefited from Canadian funding throughout the years, through more than 1,000 programs all over Israel, from Eilat in the south to Metulla in the north, with an emphasis on supporting vulnerable communities in sensitive, peripheral locations; scholarships for higher education; recreation and hot meals for children at risk and many more initiatives.

Special connections include Toronto's long-standing partnership with Eilat and the surrounding area of Eilot.

"Canada's partnership with Israel is a long, exciting and proud relationship that has yielded wonderful benefits to both Canadians and Israelis," says Plotnick. "Our 40th anniversary is clearly a promise of our dedication to the future. We are here as one family, together forever."

# MASA offers a unique journey to Toronto's Jewish students

An innovative initiative for Jewish students around the world is underway, which promises to not only connect them to their roots in Israel – but to a brighter future, as well. And now, Toronto students can participate, thanks to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto donors and UJA's endowment arm, the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.

MASA, which means "journey" in Hebrew, is a joint venture of the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) – UJA Federation's overseas partner.

The mandate of MASA is to bring 20,000 young Jews from around the world each year for anywhere from a semester to a year-long program of studying and volunteering in Israel. Qualifying students have more than 140 programs to choose from.

"We are excited that this year our area applicants will have the opportunity to benefit from this wonderful new initiative," says Dani Fine of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education. "In essence, with the advent of this new partnership, we are collectively creating increased scholarship capacity for Canadian students, creating the chance for them to participate in exciting and enriching long-term Israel programs and experiences. In fact, through scholarship funds currently established with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, over 200 post-secondary school scholarships are awarded to Canadian students. Now, with this partnership, that number will quickly increase at an impressive rate."

For 18-year-old Yael Smiley of Thornhill, the funding she received through MASA has changed her life forever.

"Coming here, I was just thrilled to know that I was going to wake up in Israel every morning. For me, it was just about being in this incredible country," says Smiley, who graduated from CHAT in Richmond Hill last year. "I've had the most amazing year here, away from the rat-race, where I've been able to simply think and absorb so many different lessons and life experiences. I've heard many people say that they go to Israel to find themselves. For me, I believe I came to Israel to create myself."

*MASA participants enjoy a visit to the Kotel.*

"It was such a fantastic year for Yael, full of growth and great experiences," says her mother, Aviva Silverman. "She's coming home in a week or so with a much stronger sense of her Jewish identity, an identity which was already quite strong."

"Where the incredibly successful and visionary *birthright israel* initiative was our children's first love affair with Israel, MASA is the more mature, long-term commitment with her," says Julia Koschitzky, a leader of Toronto's Jewish community and the co-chair of JAFI's education department. "Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, [now in a coma from a massive stroke], was so thrilled and excited about MASA. In fact, I was with him in Israel last year when it was launched. Studies have shown that those young Jewish men and women - between the ages of 18 and 26 - who spend time in Israel are more likely to become Jewish community leaders, and many, ultimately, make aliyah. MASA will create Jewish leaders; it will connect the disconnected with their roots. This incredible project is essential because not only will it enhance our collective future as Jews, it will guarantee that future."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

# Mayor Miller, Police Chief Blair to lead Walk With Israel

## *May 28 event attracts two of Toronto's top leaders*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

Participants in the Sunday, May 28 UJA Federation Walk With Israel will be following in the footsteps – literally – of two gentlemen who make the city tick.

Toronto's Chief of Police Bill Blair will join Mayor David Miller in leading this year's Walk.

"I believe that the participation of both Mayor Miller and Chief Blair speaks volumes about the respect both gentlemen have for Toronto's remarkable Jewish community," says UJA Federation chair David Engel. "It also speaks to the importance of this annual event which year after year – brings out thousands of members of our community. As two men who both clearly value diversity and tolerance, they will both be valued guests at the Walk With Israel."

"It's terrific that both Mayor Miller and Chief Blair are going to be kicking off this year's Walk With Israel: to know how much they value their relationship with our Jewish community," says Sara Zagdanski, co-chair of this year's Walk, along with Felicia Posluns and Nelly Zagdanski.

"Our relationship with Toronto's Jewish community has always been a strong one," says Chief Blair. "Toronto is known for its multiculturalism and I am committed to working with all of Toronto's cultural and ethnic groups. I meet with different groups almost on a daily basis and to have the opportunity to spend some time with the Jewish community is something I look forward to."

Nancy Klein, who's a loyal Walk With Israel participant, is particularly enthusiastic about Mayor Miller and Chief Blair's participation in this year's event.

"I spoke to Chief Blair at last year's Walk and he didn't act like he was there just to be seen; he was happy to meet with members of the Jewish community," says Klein. "As for Mayor Miller, I saw him at the recent Yom Hashoah commemoration service at Earl Bales Park. He was so respectful, he wore a kippah, and he was singing Hatikvah, word-for-word."

*Toronto Mayor David Miller*

This year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel will be held – rain or shine - on Sunday May 28, beginning at 9:30 am at Coronation Park (the corner of Strachan and Lakeshore) and ending with the RioCan Carnival at Ontario Place.

Each Walk With Israel "Nosh Stop" will feature music, carnival games and activities. Walkers will be entertained by DJs from five different companies: Corey Mandell Entertainment, Superior Sound, Mint Events, Magen Boys Entertainment and Sole Power. Throughout the route, replicas of Arr-yeah the Lion will lead children on the Office Super Centre Treasure Hunt.

The Walk With Israel raises money for at risk Jewish youth in Toronto, Israel and around the world.

For more information, call the Walk With Israel hotline at 416.631.5700 or visit www.ujawalkwithisrael.com

*Sara Zagdanski, co-chair of the Walk With Israel, spends a moment with Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair at last year's Walk. Chief Blair is returning to lead this year's Walk along with Mayor David Miller*

## PM Mission to Israel and Greece

*Thirty-seven leading UJA Federation of Greater Toronto donors recently took part in the 10-day UJA Federation Prime Minister's Mission to Israel and Greece, chaired by Jeffrey Rubenstein and Alan Gozlan. While in Greece, participants toured Athens' Jewish Museum and the Athens Synagogue, followed by a special tour of the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Members of the mission were also treated to dinner at the home of Israels Ambassador Ram Aviram, where they met with several members of Athens' Jewish community. (Pictured) In Israel, participants meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (centre). With the PM are (left to right) Jeffrey Rubenstein, the chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2007 Fred Wiks and Ariella Rubringer, and Alan Gozlan.*

# Five year old fundraiser is a Walk role model

To hear him speak, it's hard to believe that Zachary Leyderman is only five years old. Truth is the poised and articulate youngster, a student at Temple Kol Ami's supplementary school in Thornhill, who recently addressed 200 of his fellow students about the importance of tzedakah, may well have a career as a motivational speaker ahead of him.

"It was unbelievable to see and hear my five-year-old son standing up there, talking to all these people about the Walk With Israel and the importance of tzedakah, and how they could sponsor him," says Zachary's proud mom, Alexandra. "Quite honestly, I was on the verge of tears seeing how passionate he was about helping others. It was pretty overwhelming."

After having participated in last year's Walk With Israel without being sponsored, Zachary and his mom decided that this year would be a great time for the young man to begin his career in tzedakah and volunteerism within Toronto's Jewish community.

So, with mom's help, the youngster visited the UJA Federation Walk With Israel website at www.ujawalkwithisrael.com where he quickly set up his own customized Walk donation web page under the name "Zachary TKA".

"He's very close to reaching his goal of at least $1,800 raised for the Walk, and most of that money was pledged to him on his sponsorship web page," says Alexandra. "After he spoke to his classmates, we received cash from a lot of the other parents at the school, but the donation page has been tremendous."

"I told everyone at the Saturday Family Program that my name was Zachary Leyderman, and that I'd like all the kids from Temple Kol Ami, and their parents, to sponsor me for the Walk With Israel and, if they could, walk with me, too," says Zachary. "I wanted to do this because some people – even kids – in Israel are poor and we don't want that. By me walking and raising all this money, maybe some of those people won't be poor anymore. My cousin Sunny also lives in Haifa."

"The satisfaction in a youngster's eyes and their smiles when you hand them a donation is proof positive that they are learning early the simple pleasure of helping others, and the mitzvah of contributing to the community," says Sara Zagdanski, the co-chair of the Walk, along with Nelly Zagdanski and Felicia Posluns.

*Grade one students at Thornhill's Temple Kol Ami present five-year-old kindergarten student Zachary Leyderman (left) with money raised for this year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel. Joining Zachary are (l – r) teacher Judith Cohen, Daliah Bibas, Tamara Schojett, and teaching assistant Daniel Mortimer*

For Toronto's Bradley Pines, 7, a student at Beth Tzedec, the Walk With Israel is something he and his brother Jordan look forward to year after year.

"Last year I raised a few hundred dollars, and this year I hope to raise more," says Bradley. "It's important that I can help other kids who need it here and in Israel, and I can do it by walking with my brother Jordan, and the rest of my family and my friends, too."

"Being involved in the community as both a volunteer and as a professional, my husband David and I are so proud of our sons, both of whom were taught very early about the importance of giving back to their community," says Bradley's mother, Andrea Pines, coordinator of volunteer services at Jewish Family & Child Service. "We always taught them to save a little, spend a little, but always give a little, and the Walk With Israel is a perfect vehicle for them to practice that philosophy."

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Greater Toronto Area

# Two cemeteries open up community sections

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

For the first time ever, community sections are available in two existing Jewish cemeteries within the City of Toronto.

Both Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park, near Steeles Avenue and Bathurst Street, and Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's McCowan Road Cemetery on McCowan Road south of Eglinton Avenue now have plots available for people who do not belong to a synagogue, society or organization.

Sol Zeifman, president of Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park Association, which manages 55 cemetery sections that make up the 26-acre cemetery, says that about 390 plots are available at the cemetery for about $3,000, plus foundation, and about 1,000 plots are available at McCowan Road for about $990, plus foundation.

Each organization affiliated with the cemetery owns its own property, says Zeifman, and the association acts like a property manager. It makes sure the grounds are maintained and access remains clear, and that the foundation is set for the headstones.

"The operation is similar to a big business, and we are all volunteers," says Zeifman, who has been involved with the cemetery for about 16 years.

Several years ago, a group that includes Zeifman, Allan Applebaum, Harvey Brenman and Carl Kellen formed Jewish Cemetery Management Inc. at Bathurst Lawn, which takes on the work of organizations that no longer want to operate their cemetery sections themselves.

"By doing this, we are ensuring that outsiders don't come in to do the work, and that things get done properly," Zeifman says.

The surplus funds obtained from selling the community plots will be used to plant trees, increase parking and sidewalks, and improve security, he says.

Since 2000, he says, the group has made a number of improvements at Bathurst Lawn, including putting up new information signs, planting trees, and paving sidewalks.

"Our aim is to make the cemetery visit as esthetically and emotionally pleasant as possible."

After being approached a number of times about the possibility of accommodating non-members, he says, the group decided to investigate.

"We did find one dead end section that wasn't used, and the organization [responsible for the land] transferred ownership to our management company.

"We had to excavate, [prepare the land] and divide the old road into two sections."

He got involved with McCowan Road Cemetery, he says, when he became a member of Shaarei Shomayim and was asked to help clean it up.

"We saw an opportunity to open up some plots for community use, and we split the cemetery into two sections, divided by a cedar hedge."

Providing community sections, Zeifman says, "will make it easier for those who are not affiliated with an organization or synagogue."

For information, call Lynn England at Bathurst Lawn, 416-223-1373 or Marilyn, Rochelle or Esther at Shaarei Shomayim, 416-789-3213.


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# Or HaEmet plans fundraising dinner

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Or Haemet Sephardic School in Thornhill, Ont., will honour Messod and Brenda Boussidan next month at a dinner to raise funds for a Judaic studies library at the school.

The Boussidans, who have been involved with Or Haemet for more than a decade, will be named this year's Yachin ou Boaz – named after the two pillars that supported the Beit Hamikdash (Temple) in Jerusalem – to recognize their contribution to the vibrant Sephardi community in Toronto.

Jeff Toledano, who is co-chairing the event with Les Fluxgold, said he hopes about 300 people will come to the dinner on June 13 at the Sephardic Kehila Centre in Thornhill. Tickets are $125.

The proceeds will go toward building a Judaic studies library for the school, which Messod said is essential to provide young scholars with the foundation for a Jewish education.

"A central feature of identity as Jews is Torah scholarship of our rabbis that has been amassed over thousands of years. The books that will fill our library and will be accessed by the young children of Or Haemet will, we trust, enhance their love of Torah scholarship, and consequently fortify their Jewish identity," Boussidan said.

Toledano said the Boussidans deserve to be honoured for their dedication to the community.

"In recognition of their hard work over the years, we're dedicating the library to Messod and Brenda," he said. "The two of them, ultimately, they give of themselves 110 per cent. They are constantly supportive both in a financial way, in all aspects of the school and the Sephardi community. Without them, we'd be facing many more challenges."

"People have a tremendous respect for Brenda," said Jimmy Kadosh, the current school president.

"Messod gave his time, he dedicated himself to the school. Brenda has been involved with the school even longer. Their three kids all went to the school and are very Zionist," he said, adding that their oldest daughter has made aliyah.

Although Messod himself was reluctant to speak about being honoured by the school, he did explain the importance of being involved with the community.

"In the Sephardi community, as it has been the case in all Jewish communities throughout the ages, the educational institutions for young children have served as the foundation of our community's existence and ability to grow and prosper. Accordingly, our involvement with our community's school has been most meaningful and fulfilling to us," he said

Those scheduled to speak at the dinner include Rabbi Amram Assayag, the spiritual leader of the Sephardic Kehila Centre, and Rabbi Eli Mansour, the spiritual leader of Ahi Ezer Torah Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., who will deliver a keynote address.

For more information or tickets, call 905-669-7654 extension 225.


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express our deepest condolences
to the family of
**Carl Kellen** ז"ל

Past President of our association.

We mourn his passing.
He was a devoted family man
and a dedicated community worker.
May his memory be a blessing.

Sol Zeifman, President

The Board of Directors and Management
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Wish to extend our deepest sympathy
to the family of the late

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with devotion, zeal, and integrity
from 1987 to 2006.

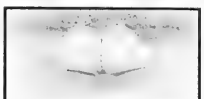
He will be dearly missed.

May you be comforted among all
mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Jewish Life

# Important to perform acts of kindness

By RABBI YOSSI MICHALOWICZ



Rabbinic Reflections

This week we begin the fourth book of the Torah with parshat Bamidbar, which discusses the 40-year journey of the Jewish People in the desert after the exodus.

The Torah tells us that all their material and spiritual needs were taken care of. They had ample food and water from the daily falling of the manna and the constant flow of water from the well of Miriam. The clouds of glory provided them with a climate-controlled 21-degree temperature. Their clothes never wore out. They did not even need to eliminate waste from their systems!

The people were also spiritually cared for, as Moses led an esteemed learning kollel. Since the Jews had no lack of material needs, they could spend all day long studying and perfecting their relationship with the Almighty and among themselves.

It would seem that they lacked nothing. They were in a perfect world. But is that so?

The Torah tells us the world is built on kindness. The true meaning of this statement is that the purpose of this world is for man to perfect his being by practising kindness on a daily basis. The rabbis tell us that one of the reasons the Almighty chooses to have poor people is to enable the rich to have the merit of showing kindness to the poor. The world has no purpose if there is no active kindness.

Rav Yitzchak Kalish of Vorka, an 18th-century chassidic master, asks: How were the Jews able to exercise kindness when they were in the desert if HaShem took care of their every need? Who was impoverished and in need of help?

We say in the *Ashrei* prayer "*Lehodia livnai ha'adam Gevurotav*" - tzaddikim inform people of His strength. The chassidic masters say it means more than that. The role of a tzaddik is to teach people the unbelievable *gevurah*, or potential strength of character, that they have within themselves. A good teacher can draw out all the potential talents from a child, by telling him he has a great deal of power that he is not aware of.

Hillel, who represented chesed (good works), was a master of this. The greatest chesed you can do for a Jew is to show him how much strength he has and give him greater aspirations.

The rabbis tell us that the manna could taste like anything the person eating it wanted it to. However, many Jews who had been slaves never tasted any really good foods all their lives. Those who had not been slaves could therefore perform the kindness of telling the others about better tasting foods that they could now think of.

On a deeper level, this ultimate kindness would be to teach former slaves to stop thinking like slaves and actualize the freedom they now have.

The portion of Bamidbar almost always falls on the Shabbat before Shavuot – the day we commemorate the receiving of the Torah at Sinai. On that day, we achieved the fourth and final level of redemption from Egypt – the freedom to make a difference in the world.

We live in a society where our physical quality of life far surpasses that of any earlier generation. We seem to lack nothing. Yet ironically, its subliminal messages slowly tear away at our God-given freedom of choice, which is our ultimate freedom. Many people today have left the true thinking to the media and others. The greatest kindness we can do for our fellow Jews is to teach them that we are indeed a "Kingdom of priests and holy people" with a higher calling, purpose and ability to think independently.

This week's Torah portion should motivate us all to empower others to realize their true greatness and potential as found in the Torah – the book of instructions for living.

*Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz is the spiritual leader of the Westmount Community Shul/Routes Jewish Centre in Thornhill, Ont.*

# Between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on the Eve of Memorial Day

## Guest Voice

By MARK ELLIOTT SHAPIRO

*Translated and adapted by the author*

Today is her birthday
My mother's birthday
She would have been happy to know
That I am continuing to write

Writing a poem
Between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

And in Hebrew
My mother tongue
My mother's tongue

Language of my land
My beloved land
Land of milk and honey
The milk of its weekdays
Which give us the strength
To enjoy the honey
Of its Sabbaths

Language of my country
The holy State of Israel
That I love
As a man loves a woman
As a mother loves her infant child
As a flower loves her merciful sun

My mother
Would have been happy
To know that I wrote this song

As I am travelling between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem
On the eve of Memorial Day
With a baseball cap on my head
Bearing the word Canada
In red on a white background
Red and white
Blue and white
Two flags in my heart
Two mother tongues
Hebrew and English
In my head
And in my heart
And my father tongue
My father's tongue
French
In my blood

A coming together
A Farbrengen
In an Egged bus
Egged connotes joining together
A joining together of languages
A joining together
Of diverse fragments
Into one nation
A joining together of cities
Across time
Across history
Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

The first Jewish city in modern times
And the first Jewish city
Under David
The first Jewish city
In our hearts
In our memories
"If I forget thee..."
Under the wedding canopy

Lashanah habaah...
Next year in Tel Aviv
This year and forever
In Jerusalem

And this bus
Also joins together
The memories
And the soldiers
Who fell in 1948 and before that fateful year
In Palestine
Under the British
And the Turks
In the War of Independence
In the Sinai Campaign
In the Six Day War
In this war
And that war
In all the wars
In all the flames
That have turned into one flame
The large cardboard flame
Standing at attention
Throughout this land

And all the soldiers
Are joined together
Into one community

One cardboard flame
In memory of the fallen
But in Hebrew we use the present tense
In memory of the falling

A joining together
Across time
Across history

In memory of the falling soldiers
Not in the past
Not some distant past

Between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

But in the present

An eternal present

Somewhere
Between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

*Mark Elliott Shapiro lives in Israel*

Jewish Life

# Halachic privacy rights

Money Matters

Jay Kelman

The right to privacy is one that Jewish law views with great seriousness. It's rooted in the Jewish concept of tzniut, modesty, which serves as a cornerstone of Jewish values. Judaism developed the notion of *hezek reiyah*, that the viewing of private matters is an actionable tort. While certain property rights can be established over time, this is not the case regarding privacy. If, for example, no protest is lodged by my "trespassing" on your property for use as a shortcut, an easement will be granted allowing my continued use of the property, despite the owner's change of heart. However, despite many years of open access between our backyards, at any moment I can force you to pay your proportionate share of the costs of building a fence. Privacy rights take precedence over established practice.

Furthermore, Jewish law forbids you from constructing a window through which you can see into your neighbour's backyard. If you want to sunbathe, or do any other activity, in your own backyard, you must be allowed to do so without fear of your neighbour's intrusion. Thus, a Jewish court would issue an injunction forcing the owner of the window to cover it up. This is the case even if the window is high above normal eye level, because a ladder can reach the window.

Only the explicit permission of your neighbour would allow you to open a window overlooking a backyard. But even if permission is granted, it applies only to looking into a "courtyard." Having a window of your home face the window of your neighbour is inappropriate, and even if your neighbour gives you explicit permission to do this, that permission can be withdrawn at any time. Rashi interprets the heathen Bilam's words, "How goodly are you tents O Jacob, your dwelling places O Israel" as referring to the fact the doorways of the Jews in the desert did not face one another. Unfortunately, with governments and developers trying to put the maximum number of homes on the minimum amount of space, many of our neighbourhoods are built in violation of this principle.

The prohibition of using your eyes to invade privacy extends to other areas as well. In a famous enactment, Rabbeinu Gershom, the leader of Ashkenazi Jewry at the turn of the 11th century, elevated the prohibition of readings someone's else's mail to one of *cherem*, or excommunication. Violators would be considered communal pariahs even in death, as no mourning rituals were to be observed for those in *cherem*, and their remains were not be interred in a Jewish cemetery. No dispensation is allowed if you come across private material through no fault of your own. The prohibition of reading the correspondence of others applies even if the letter is on a postcard.

The applications to the modern workplace are as plentiful as they are obvious. Examining files lying on someone's desk or reading e-mails mistakenly sent to your inbox would be unwarranted invasions of privacy. Nonetheless, no right in Judaism is absolute. In order to protect their investment, employers may monitor the business communications of their workers. This permission would not extend to personal e-mails, which could only be read in cases of suspected misconduct. As Jewish law does not condone secretly gathering data to be used as a punitive measure, employees should be informed of the monitoring policy. Thus the monitoring serves as a warning and deterrent for misuse of privileges instead of a mechanism for disciplinary action. Except in rare circumstances, punitive measures (e.g. dismissal) must be taken only after appropriate warnings are issued in advance.

*Comments to info@toruhinmotion.org.*

# Cheesecake instead of chicken

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

Goodbye, chicken. Hello, cheesecake. Shavuot is almost here. For a people hooked on a holiday diet of meat and poultry, Shavuot is unique in our gastronomic calendar: a festival that celebrates dairy food.

Shavuot is best known for the giving of the Torah, so why the association with dairy? The Jewish Celebrations site lists six reasons. Two of the most famous: On Shavuot, the Jewish people received a new code of law, including the dietary restrictions that became part of their daily life. Since the new laws of separating meat and milk were still unclear, only dairy products were eaten on Shavuot to avoid transgressing the unfamiliar laws.

And for those into Gematriah, Jewish numerology, "The Hebrew word for milk, *chalav*, has the numerical value of 40, symbolizing the number of days Moses was on Mount Sinai. *Chalav* is spelled "chet" (numerical value, eight), "lamed" (30) and "vet" (two)." **[http://tinyurl.com/gxxes]**

Others look for allusions in the Torah that suggest we eat dairy to symbolize the "land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8). Or that the Torah is compared to milk, as is written: "Sweetness drops/ From your lips, O bride; Honey and milk/ Are under your tongue." (Song of Songs, 4:11) **[http://tinyurl.com/3534u]**

As for the recipes themselves, the Jewish-Food Blintz Archives has three dozen variations including Berry-Topped, New Mexico Kaese and Asparagus and Cheese. **[http://tinyurl.com/l7x5p]** And if you are tired of the same old chocolate cheesecake, the Jewishfood List has a gut-busting supply of 61 recipes. **[http://tinyurl.com/24owf]**

Of course, there's more to Shavuot fare than blintzes and cheesecake. At Let's All Eat Dairy, Rosalyn Manesse has prepared a menu with Sephardi-style fish, Linguine Primavera and dairy scones. **[http://tinyurl.com/lnkce]** At Kosher Delight, you'll find dozens of other ideas including Chana's Grated Cucumber Salad with Pistachios, Raisins and Yogurt and Michael Fierro's Four-Cheese Herb Quiche. **[http://tinyurl.com/erok5]**

The recipes sound mouth-watering, but what to do about all the calories, saturated fat and cholesterol? Marcy Goldman notes that "Shavuot is not congruent with 'some of the caveats of the American Heart Institute, but you can always substitute low-fat cream cheese, sour cream or any other dairy item so easily available these days. Shavuot is, however, a fine occasion to boost your calcium, so enjoy!" **[http://tinyurl.com/p8op8]**

While some people will be more than satisfied to pile on the blintzes and cheesecake, for others a Jewish holiday isn't a holiday without a nice piece of chicken. So they dine on both dairy and meat – only not at the same time. In "Cheese Blintzes and Beef Wellington," Rabbi Moshe Donnebaum explains the Shavuot tradition of having a dairy meal shortly followed by a meat one – and the sometimes intricate rules governing all this dining. **[http://tinyurl.com/nsvua]**

After coming across all these mouth-watering recipes, Linda Morel's article "in praise of a neglected Shavuot soup" hit a nerve. "Schav, the khaki-coloured soup once savoured by Ashkenazi Jews, has fallen on hard times in recent decades," writes Morel. I actually remember eyeing strange bottles in the back of our fridge and wondered who actually would drink that green liquid. Morel explains that "schav is made from milk or cream, simmered with chopped sorrel leaves" and was seen as a refreshing alternative to the bland foods that European Jews had to make do with. But the once-popular food has fallen into disfavour of late. Maybe it's time to rediscover the traditional soup as well as one for Sorrel Potato Salad that Morel supplies. **[http://tinyurl.com/cla3a]**

The recipes mentioned above are undeniably delicious. But I believe that the tastiest part of any holiday is its memories. I'm sure that Cyndi and her beloved Auntie Rivka would agree. It seems that Cyndi's family had mouse problems in their home and decided to set out some mousetraps. When Auntie Rivka dropped by to make some Shavuot blintzes, her niece quickly scooped the traps up and hid them in the freezer. When her aunt reached into the freezer to put away the cream cheese and – well, let's just say "Auntie Rivka never went into Mother's freezer again." **[http://tinyurl.com/j3q55]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com*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"They are our teachers..."

# Artist/teacher brings creativity to classroom

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Shlomit Granat-Paldor never wanted to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a teacher.

But things have changed for the 27-year-old sabra, who was born in Haifa and raised in Jerusalem. On Sunday mornings, she teaches Hebrew and Jewish studies at the Hillel Children's Workshop – an arts-based, parent-run Sunday school held at the University of Toronto and during the week, she teaches Jewish studies at United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tzedec branch.

**A lesson from the teacher:** *"Don't go into teaching if you don't love it. You can't fool the students. If you don't find [your lesson] interesting, they won't co-operate."*

And she couldn't be happier. "I'm having a good time," she said in an interview recently. "I love it."

What brought about her change of heart? "I grew up," she said.

Her earliest "teaching" experiences were in the field of informal education as a teenage madrichah (leader) in the Orthodox youth group Bnei Akiva.

Along the way, the married mother of one, who is expecting her second child this summer, became an artist. She completed her bachelor's degree at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in 2002.

Shlomit Granat-Paldor

In the classroom, she tries to be as creative as possible, both in terms of tweaking her lessons as she goes along and by providing hands-on opportunities for students to create art that is related to what she is teaching. She also tries to foster as much discussion as possible.

"I think the best way of learning is if you experience it, and express yourself in a creative way," she said.

Naturally, she includes artists, songwriters and poets as part of her Jewish history curriculum at Hillel.

Earlier this year, she introduced her students to the work of Israeli poet Nahum Gutman, providing a multi-sensory experience as they acted out the words of one of his poems by savouring the smell, taste and visual appeal of fresh oranges.

She hopes that the lesson is one students will remember for a long time.

In her own student days, she didn't put much effort into things she didn't find interesting. "But," she said, "if I liked a subject, I was there with my heart and soul."

Before relocating to Toronto in 2004, Granat-Paldor was head of the fine arts department at Jerusalem's Torah and Arts High School.

Her own artwork is mostly large-scale sculpture in clay or papier-mâché, and she also enjoys creating textile art and using needlework techniques such as embroidery, even though it's "not very fashionable."

One of her pieces features precise stitching of a traditional Palestinian embroidery pattern on an Israeli army shirt. "It's an impossible combination… a conceptual piece," she said. "I felt maybe in a weird way I could make something beautiful out of this tense situation."

The piece was on display recently in Hamilton at a exhibition featuring the work of Israeli artists. Among them was her father, a doctor who is also a photographer.

But Granat-Paldor also traces some of her artistic ability to her mother. "She's a math teacher, but I think she's very creative."

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**The Daniel Pearl Dialogue
for Muslim-Jewish Understanding**

*featuring*

**Dr. Akbar Ahmed and Dr. Judea Pearl**

**Moderator**

**Lloyd Robertson – CTV National News**

✔ **Dr. Akbar Ahmed**, a leading authority on contemporary Islam, is the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies and Professor of International Relations at American University in Washington, DC. Professor Ahmed is the former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Great Britain. A distinguished anthropologist, writer and filmmaker, he has been actively involved in interfaith dialogue and the study of global Islam and its impact on contemporary society for many years.

✔ **Dr. Judea Pearl** is the father of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, and president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation which he founded in 2002. A professor of computer science and statistics at the University of California, he formed the Foundation to "continue Daniel's life-work of dialogue and understanding and to address the root causes of his tragedy."

**WHEN** MONDAY, MAY 29, 7:00 PM

**WHAT** A Personal and Public Dialogue about Closing the Divisions between Muslims and the West and between Jews and Muslims

**WHERE** ISLAMIC IRANIAN CENTRE OF IMAM ALI
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**ADMISSION FREE**

## *Festival offers tastes, sounds of Israel*

Enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of Israel at the Canadian Zionist Federation's 11th annual Israel day festival, June 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m at Earl Bales Park.

The free, outdoor festival, to be held for the first time this year at Earl Bales, is under the patronage of the Consulate of Israel and features non-stop entertainment and a drum circle led by Erez Ravch of Halleluja Drummers.

An Israeli marketplace will showcase Judaica, Israeli artisans, books, flowers, skin care products, jewelry, shoes, housewares and flags. Activities for kids include arts and crafts, inflatables, clowns and face painters. For older visitors, there will be speed dating organized by Aish HaTorah.

As well, the festival includes cultural and educational exhibits, and a live auction with a variety of merchandise, restaurant vouchers, electronics and art up for bids.

For details, call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@ajazo.org.il.

# Women's concert planned to help needy families

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Kineret, hailed as the best Jewish Orthodox female singer, headlines a concert for women next month.

Organized by Ezrat Achim, the event will raise money to feed needy Jewish families in Toronto.

Debbie Osiel, a volunteer who sits on the committee for Ezrat Achim – a non-profit charitable organization that provides Jewish families with financial aid, as well as kosher food for Shabbat and Jewish holidays – said the concert was planned to raise money and familiarize the community with their cause.

Elizabeth Beldeb, another member of the Ezrat Achim committee, said the fundraiser is also meant to be a night during which Jewish women, at the women only event, can come together and enjoy an evening of music and song.

"The thing about Kineret is that she is very modern and she basically takes modern songs and changes the words to have a Jewish meaning," Beldeb said.

"Anyone can enjoy it. She sings in French, in Spanish, in Yiddish, in Hebrew… It's nice to know that women from all over the city can come and enjoy the event."

Oziel added that they're "expecting it to be a nice atmosphere where people can come to enjoy the concert, and there is going to be some refreshments."

Special guest performers who will be opening for Kineret on June 6 include the Tiferes Bais Yaacov Choir, Raizie Ben Guigui and Liora Oppenheimer.

There will also be a raffle for prizes, which include jewelry and gift certificates that have been donated.

Ezrat Achim, which means "help for one's brothers" in Hebrew, began offering assistance to Jewish Torontonians in need almost eight years ago.

## *Feeds about 25 families a week*

"It started primarily as a Rosh Hashanah food drive," Osiel said. "Today, we feed around 25 families a week and they are all across Toronto."

Osiel, who is also the recruitment and marketing director for Canada Israel Experience, said that while they still organize food drives, they rely heavily on the generosity of Jewish donors and volunteers.

"We get really generous sponsors within the community who donate food, like Joe Boo's Cookoos," she said, adding that Kosher City helped by packing food for them and delivering it for a small fee.

Osiel said she also gets help from birthright israel alumni who pack and deliver food to the recipients of this service.

"We also use Zareinu dollars [gift certificates used in place of cash]. We give non-perishable food items in a box and some money to go with it," she said.

She said that those who receive assistance from Ezrat Achim are usually recommended by their rabbis, but the organization is non-denominational, meaning they also help secular people.

But Beldeb said that despite the number of families they are able to help through this service, there is a growing need that Ezrat Achim – with a budget of only $85,000 a year – cannot meet alone.

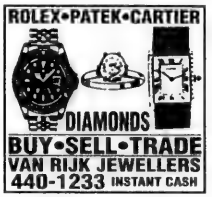
"Unfortunately, there is a waiting list. Hopefully [people] are going to realize the importance of the growing need and poverty in the city… We want people to understand that by giving to Ezrat Achim, every dollar is spent the right way," Beldeb said.

They hope this event will attract at least 400 women and are aiming to raise enough money to cover the cost of feeding families for at least two months.

To feed one family each week for a year, it costs $3,120, or $60 a week.

The concert will be held at the Sephardic Kehilah Centre. Tickets are selling for $45 for premium seats, $30 for general seating and for girls 12 and under, tickets are $18.

To purchase tickets, call 905-669-7654, ext. 223.

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Beth Singer at ptcpresident@ahschools.com

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# Choir reunion to honour Cantor Harold Klein

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to the CJN*

Calling all boys who sang in one of Cantor Harold Klein's choirs.

A number of boys, now men in their 40s and 50s, who sang in the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (1968 to '72) or Shaarei Shomayim (1972 to '92) synagogue choirs, under the direction of Klein, have formed a committee to plan a reunion to honour him for his contributions to their personal growth and development.

"We want to reach as many former choir members as possible to thank Cantor Klein for his dedication to each of his choir boys," says Israel Ellis, a member of the organizing committee who is in the computer business.

"As I look upon my own little guy today, having recently forced the issue of his participation in a choir, I look for myself in him and hope one day he understands his father's resolve. For it is through Chazzan Klein that I learned to sing, that I learned to close my eyes and let my soul soar with the pronunciation of each letter of the tfillah I say today."

> ***'The chazzan had a magical aura about him'***

He adds that it is through the song of prayer that he has been able to sustain his connection with God "through the highest and lowest points of my life. And for this I can thank Chazzan Klein."

This sentiment has been expressed by the many men who now want to publicly thank Klein.

"The chazzan had a magical aura about him that attracted kids like the Pied Piper. We want to show our appreciation for a man who dedicated himself to the youth of the shul," Jon Gasner, a dentist who sang with the cantor for 18 years, says.

The biggest task for the committee is to reach many of the former members of both choirs as some have moved away, he says. "We are anxious to locate them."

David Young, an accountant, was the director of the Shaarei Shomayim Boys Choir and is now the cantor at Beth Torah Congregation. He told *The CJN* of Klein's "utmost dedication to the children in the choir.

"His main goal was to ensure that the children came to shul, and learned how to daven. I remember how before reciting the *Shema*, he would always take his tzitzit and hold them up high for all the children to see, so they would remember to hold them and kiss them during the prayer."

Young adds that the cantor did much behind the scenes. "I remember the many times he would drive to Buffalo on his own to purchase kosher candy in bulk for the kids, the many hours of re-covering the children's music books, arranging special movie previews, box seats at Maple Leaf Gardens – everything he did was for the children."

It was because of the cantor's dedication and efforts that children as well as their parents and grandparent came to shul, says Young. "The shul was a focal point of activity in the '70s and '80s because of Harold."

In an telephone interview, Klein, who had a stroke four years ago, said that when the committee first approached him with the idea of a reunion he was stunned.

For some 25 years, he worked with hundreds of young boys. He says that working with the boys "usurped my strength for when I came home from choir practice. I said to my wife that I just earned my salary. It is great to see what they have made of themselves many are doctors, lawyers, rabbis, and very successful."

The Cantor Harold Klein Reunion takes place on Sunday, June 11, at 7 p.m. at the Village Shul. For more information, visit www.kleinchoirreunion.com.

The evening also honours the memory of Scotty Goldberg, a member of Klein's choir who made aliyah and died in a suicide bombing.


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A Night of Sacred Stories

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WITH SPECIAL GUEST:

YITZHAK BUXBAUM

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&

• AVRUM ROSENSWEIG, Congregation Habonim & Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

• ELI RUBENSTEIN, March of the Living Canada & Congregation Habonim

• MICHAEL SOBERMAN, Canada Israel Experience & taglit birthright israel

• AND MANY OTHER STORYTELLERS

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*Session I: 8:30-10:00 p.m. • Session II: 10:15 p.m.-midnight*
*(5 Glen Park Avenue, one block north of Glencairn)*

Program is suitable for adults and children

Yitzhak Buxbaum also will speak at Habonim's Shavuot Yizkor Service at 10 a.m. Shabbat June 3

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Greater Toronto Area

**WE GOT RHYTHM: As part of the Lag b'Omer program, Netivot Hatorah students in Grades 2 and 3 participated in a "drumming circle" to explore elements of rhythm and percussion. Pictured, from left, are Yosef Holstein, Shya Kaplan and Atara Kelman. [Rebecca Ansel photo]**

# Fundraiser nets $250,000 for Mount Sinai

New York came to Toronto when more than 400 people enjoyed a cocktail reception, live music and prizes at the seventh annual Leadership Sinai Spring Ball.

Leadership Sinai Presents... A Night in Manhattan was held at the Windsor Arms Hotel and raised more than $250,000 to support research at Mount Sinai Hospital and its Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute.

Leadership Sinai was created in 1993 to offer business and community leaders between the ages of 25 and 50 the "opportunity to make a positive and tangible difference to the future of health care," the organization said in a statement. Among the Mount Sinai projects it has supported are the Leadership Sinai Advanced Surgical Technology Centre; the Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes; labour, delivery and recovery rooms; and the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre.


The Canadian Jewish news

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# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Happy 100th Birthday Rebecca**

***Congratulations on your special day.***

I love you every day. You are always in my heart and I will always cherish you.

**Love, Gail**

**A message to our wonderful children and grandchildren**

*from*

**Max & Dorothy Stern**

Our heartfelt thanks and blessings to you **for honouring us with the donation of a Sefer Torah** to the Village Shul, May 26, 2006

*We love you.*

**Mazel tov to Leon & Lillian Josephs on your 60th wedding anniversary. Love, your children and grandchildren.**

**Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Bella & Burt Tatoff. With love from your children and grandchildren.**

**Aaron & Beth Starkman welcome Jake, born April 16. Proud grandparents Phillip & Eleanor Starkman, Stephen & Carolyn Feldman, and great-grandmother Geraldine Goldstein.**

**Mazel tov Sivanne Lenchner & Jay Detsky on their engagement. Parents, Debbie & Moshe Lenchner, Mirah & Howard Detsky. Grandparents Sylvia Toporek, Marjorie Detsky, Miriam & John Webster.**

***SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!***

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: Monday, May 29, is the deadline for the June 8 issue and Monday, June 5, is the deadline for the June 15 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, May 25

**FIGHTING TERRORISM**

**Ron Motley**, a lawyer representing victims of 9/11 against banks, corporations and Islamic charities that finance Al Qaeda, speaks on "The Alien Torts Claims Act: A New Frontier in the War against Hamas." 7 p.m. at Beth Torah Congregation. 416-782-4495, ext. 24

**SEX IN THE BIBLE**

Temple Har Zion Sisterhood presents **Selma Sage** on "Sex in the Bible." 7:30 p.m. Guests $5. 905-889-2252

**THE ORAL LAW**

Nishma presents **Rabbi Aaron Selevan** on "Shavuot and the Nature of Torah Shebal Peh" in two locations, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of **Joel** and **Lisa Jakobovits**, 52 Theodore Pl., and at 9 p.m. at the Mizrachi Bayit, 296 Wilson Ave. 416-630-0588

***MITZVAH OF LUCIO BURKE***

Beth Emeth Synagogue presents **Steven Hayward**, of John Carroll University, speaking about his novel *The Secret Mitzvah of Lucio Burke*, 8 p.m. 416-633-3838

## Saturday, May 27

**B'NAI MITZVAH CEREMONY**

Oraynu Congregation presents its b'nai mitzvah ceremony for 2006 at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. 10:15 a.m. RSVP to 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

## Sunday, May 28

**GARAGE SALE**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada are having a garage sale of new clothes, toys, books, housewares and more. 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. Proceeds support the programs and services of NCJWC-TS. 416-633-5100

**WINGATE MEETING**

Wingate Branch Royal Canadian Legion all-members breakfast meeting. 9:15 a.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024

**UJA WALK WITH ISRAEL**

Join the community for the UJA Walk With Israel at 9:30 a.m. at Coronation Park, ending at Ontario Place, where the celebration continues with fun for the whole family. Visit www.ujawalkwithisrael.com.

**UPPER CANADA LODGE**

Upper Canada Lodge celebrates the 60th installation of officers at a lunch at Paradise Banquet Centre. Reception 11:30 a.m. Lunch at noon. $25. Reserve at 416-633-0520.

**CDN JEWISH FESTIVAL**

Beth Sholom Synagogue hosts an all-day "Community Festival of Canadian Jewish Life and Culture," with lectures by scholars from the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies. Book reading in afternoon by **Steven Hayward**, evening lecture by **Morton Weinfeld**. For info, see www.acjs-aejc.ca/conference.html.

**TEEN CONCERT**

Join JACS, Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others for "Battle of the Bands" with celebrity judges, 6-11 p.m. at the Reverb. Proceeds to JACS' Benji Hayward Teen Program. For tickets, call **Nicole**, 416-638-9537.

**ROSH CHODESH GROUP**

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh Group meets at 7 p.m. for a discussion of life from a Jewish perspective. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942

**A DESPISED RACE**

Temple Kol Ami hosts **Barbara Rusch** on "A Despised Race: The Image of the Jew in Victorian Literature and Popular Culture," a social history and the image of the Jews in 19th-century English literature, and a discussion of the works of **Charles Dickens** and **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**. 7:30 p.m. at Indigo Books, Yonge St. and Highway 7. 905-709-2620

**Continued on page 23**

The Canadian Premiere Performance of
Liel
Sunday June 18, 7:30 pm
The York Event Theatre
101 Eglinton Avenue East
This event is in support of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center's tolerance initiatives.
For tickets and information call 416.864.9735 or email swcmain@pathcom.com.
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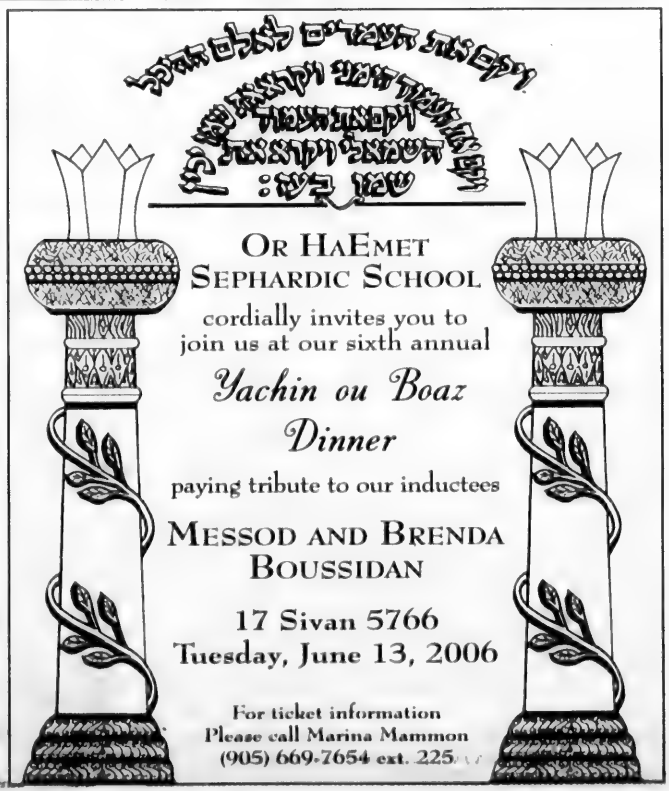

What's New

Continued from page 22

## Monday, May 29

**VILLAGE SHUL PROGRAMS**

The Village Shul and Aish HaTorah Learning Centre offer two programs."My Teen: My Joy and My Challenge," a four-part workshop with **Avi Bernstein** on creating a good relationship with your teen. And lunch 'n' learn with **Malka Schulman,** who speaks on "Give Yourself a Gift: The Power to Change." For info, call 416-785-1107, ext 204.

**IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE**

Association for Canadian Jewish Studies continues its annual conference at York University with "The Italian, Jewish and Hispanic Immigrant Experience in Literature" at 2 p.m. and "Ethni(city): Negotiating Identities in the Contemporary Canadian City" at 3:45 p.m. Register at dan.heller@utoronto.ca.

**NEGILLAH CHAPTER JWI**

Negillah chapter of Jewish Women International, single women 50+, host **Hy Burstein**, author of *Ride 'Em Jewish Cowboy*, at their meeting at 7 p.m. at 866 Sheppard Ave. W. Call **Fran**, 416-638-2716.

**SISTERHOOD MEETING**

Beth Jacob V'Anshe Dridz Sisterhood hosts **Rebbitzen Sarah Stern** at its meeting, 7:30 p.m.

**BIRTH AND DEATH RITUALS**

Oraynu Congregation continues a Jewish life-cycle series with **Rabbi Eva Goldfinger**. Tonight, "Torah-Optional Commitment to Judaism." North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. lower level. 7:30 p.m. Non-members $20. RSVP, 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

## Tuesday, May 30

**LUNCH AND LEARN,**

**Heather Kassels** review the Israeli film *Walk on Water* at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Lunch 12:15 p.m., learn 1 p.m. Pre-paid only. $10. 416-221-3433, ext. 352.

**YIDDISH IN CANADA**

Canadian Jewish Studies conference presents "Futures of Yiddish Education and Culture in Canada," a klezmer concert and dinner followed by a roundtable discussion led by Yiddish scholars and activists. 6:30 p.m. For info and RSVP, yiddish_celebration@yahoo.ca.

**TEACHING PARLOUR**

Join **Rabbi Tina Grimberg** for an interactive study session and find out about Congregation Darchei Noam at the "Tea and Teaching Parlour Meeting." 7:30-9 p.m. For location, call 416-638-4783.

**ETHICS OF THE FOUNDERS**

Beth Tzedec Congregation continues the series Four Practitioners on Ethics of the Founders with **Aaron Nussbaum** on "A Literature of Piety and Practicality." 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 34

**TRUE COLOURS**

Beth David Sisterhood Z'havah closing program, "True Colours," is facilitated by **Sharyn Cipin**. 8 p.m. Non-members $5. RSVP z-havah@bethdavid.com or 416-633-5500.

**HARPER, OLMERT, HAMAS**

**Ed Morgan**, national president of Canadian Jewish Congress and professor at U of T Law School, speaks about "Harper, Olmert, Hamas: Middle East Policy After All The Elections," 8 p.m. at Beit Rayim Congregation. Reception following. RSVP to 905-770-7639, ext.31.

**KABBALAH OF MONEY**

**Rabbi Chaim Hildeshaim** discusses "The Kabbalah of Money," tonight and Tuesday, June 6, 8 p.m. at the JRCC of Thornhill Woods, 8808 Bathurst St. 416-22-7105, ext. 224

## Wednesday, May 31

**TEHILLIM SHIUR**

Bring a lunch and learn at a class on Tehillim held at King and York St. every Wednesday 12:30 p.m. Men and women welcome. Contact Aslodovnick@SRGLEGAL.com or 416-947-1093.

**FASHION FORWARD**

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents an evening of fashion for the whole family. Doors open at 7 p.m. with boutiques and silent auction. $36. 416-221-3433, ext.353

**JACKSON ON VOLUNTEERS**

Circle of Care presents the Selma Eisen Memorial Program with **Susan Jackson** on "A New Tradition of Caring: Tomorrow's Volunteers," 7 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. 416- 635-2900, ext. 723

**SAR-EL INFORMATION**

Find out about Sar-El program in which civilians volunteer on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

**BULLYING IN SCHOOLS**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada present "Fear Free: The Way School Should Be," a presentation about school bullying and how to prevent it, with **Hetty van Gurp**, founder of Peaceful Schools International. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. $10. RSVP, 416-633-5100.

**OUR ASHKENAZI ROOTS**

**Prof. Adam Fuerstenberg** speaks about "Our Ashkenazi Roots" at the monthly meeeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Non-members $5.

**JEWISH HISTORY**

Join **Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovitz** and **Leo Davids** for the series Moments in Jewish History, running through June 14. Tonight, Davids on "The Rise of North American Jewry." 8 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. 416-633-4193

## Other news

**NEW SINGLES GROUP**

Join a new group for singles 50-70 meeting Sunday, May 28. For info, call 905-731-9705.

**PLAY COMPETITION**

The Toronto Jewish Theatre Committee is accepting submissions until May 31. **Esther**, 416-924-6211, ext. 606, or esthera@mnjcc.org.

**SHAVUOT PROGRAMS**

**Temple Israel of London** hosts a Shavuot dairy dinner, Thursday, June 1, 6 p.m. Adults $13, children under 12, $7.50. Call by May 26 to reserve, 519-858-4400.

**Congregation Habonim** hosts "A Night of Sacred Stories," studying Torah through the retelling of sacred stories from the Jewish oral tradition, followed by discussion with **Yitzhak Buxbaum**, **Avrum Rosensweig**, **Eli Rubinstein** and **Michael Soberman**. Thursday, June 1, 8:30-10 p.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave.

**Shaarei Tefillah Congregation** offers a night of learning Thursday, June 1, beginning at midnight with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** followed by **Rabbis Avraham Bartfield**, **Nachum Berlat** and **Moshe Stern**. Shacharit at 5 a.m. Women and men welcome.

**ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL**

The 11th annual Israel Day festival takes place June 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Earl Bales Park. To volunteer, call 416-633-3988.

**TORONTO JEWISH CHOIR**

The Toronto Jewish Choir celebrates its 80th annual spring concert with a new work for choir and klezmer band, Sunday, June 4, 7 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Call 416-636-0936 or tjfolk choir@sympatico.ca.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Beth Emeth Synagogue's First Annual Golf Tournament takes place Tues. June 6, at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club. $195. Application at www.beby.org or call 416-633-3838.

## FOR SENIORS

**Chai Shalom** at Beth Emeth Synagogue presents its "Annual Paid- up Membership Evening," an evening of musical entertainment with **Yitzhak Argaman**, Tuesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m. $15. 416-633-3838

**Temple Sinai Senior Club** presents the Food for Thought Lecture Series Mondays 2-4 p.m. June 5-26. June 5, **Marcel Danesi** on "The Allure of Italian Romantic Opera: Why Rossini and Verdi Still Turn Us On." Members $20, guests. $30. Individual sessions $7 & $10. 416-221-6375

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, June 4, 25; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 14, 28. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 25, bingo. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

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## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Family sing-along concert with **Kayla**. Sunday, June 4, 2 p.m. $12.50, children $5. Tickets, ext. 235.

The Koffler School of Music presents "Opera Sundays," through June 18, 1-5 p.m. Ext. 228.

Register now for Centre Camp, Toronto's largest Jewish day camp. Call ext 378.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca

"The Human Cost of Terror," an exhibit of photos by **Jason Schwartz**, is on display in Jacobs Lounge through May 30.

Jewish Meditation with **Michelle Katz**, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. $15.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sasson, Eliahou Karim | May 11/06 | 48 Russfax Dr |
| Udler, Mosey | May 12/06 | Private |
| Edery, Nissim | May 13/06 | Private |
| Sahar, Louise | May 13/06 | 284 Thornway Av |
| Rasminsky, Samuel | May 14/06 | 7420 Bathurst St |
| Phillips, Florence | May 14/06 | 2 Covington Rd |
| Youdowitch, Josef | May 15/06 | 1925 Steeles Av E |
| Abramson, Albert | May 15/06 | 22 Shallmar Bl |
| Pik, Sophia | May 15/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Lachter, Israel | May 15/06 | Private |
| Sherman, Sarah | May 15/06 | Private |
| Kellen, Carl | May 16/06 | 10 Tangreen Ct |
| Wolf, Arthur | May 17/06 | 8 Kingsbridge Ct |
| Ruzohorsky, Magda | May 17/06 | 3636 Bathurst St |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**MANIA GRUDA** ל"ז

will take place

**Tuesday, May 30th at 2:00 p.m.**

**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**

Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie

BAYT Section

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**RUTH NESKAR** ל"ז

Mother and Grandmother.

After 5 years, wishing for one more day...
one more sunset with you.

Your loving husband,
*Sheldon Neskar*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SANDRA BLOOMBERG-NUDELMAN

will take place

**Sunday, June 4th, 10:00 a.m.**

**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**

North Community Section,
Row G, #10, 4CCCC

*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bessie Neuman-Meloff | May 5/06 | 8 The Donway E |
| Cecile Sliwin | May 6/06 | 104 Heathcote Ave |
| Belle Solomon | May 6/06 | 6 Carmel Ct |
| Vera Usprich | May 6/06 | 6 Denlow Bl |
| Shawna Wolfe | May 7/06 | 3 Concorde Pl |
| Michael Schwartz | May 7/06 | 300 Antibes Dr |
| Irwin (Archie) Archinoff | May 7/06 | 6594 Snowgoose Ln |
| Emanuel Grossman | May 7/06 | 20335 W. County Club |
| David Iseman | May 7/06 | 217 Walmer Rd |
| Ronald (Hal) Lauterstein | May 8/06 | 26 Hastings Dr |
| Joseph Obarzanek | May 8/06 | 2 Neptune Dr |
| Jon Jay Caesar | May 9/06 | 260 Searle Ave |
| Nathan Schacher | May 9/06 | 291 Brant Ave |
| Jean Shek | May 10/06 | 18 Leith Pl |
| Arthur Joseph Lipton | May 11/06 | 205 Cummer Ave |
| Pearl Kates | May 11/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Shirley Ross | May 13/06 | 126 Huntington Park |
| Eunice Goldenberg | May 13/06 | 65 Spring Garden |

HEDREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wolf Kendler | May 7/06 | 62 Venice Crescent |
| Leslie Feldman | May 7/06 | 10 William Morgan Dr |
| Eva Heffner | May 9/06 | 55 Ameer Avenue |


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On Campus

# Former Hillel director to lead Betar-Tagar

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Talia Klein, the newly appointed executive director of Betar-Tagar Canada, said her goal is to continue to give Jewish students the opportunity to express their Zionism and Jewish pride on campus.

"The one major objective is to reach out to the Jewish students on campus in a very specific way and meet very specific needs. Those needs are to create a sense of pride and dignity and self-determination," said Klein, who will replace Itay Gadot, a Jewish Agency shaliach who will end his four-year tenure as head of the right-wing Zionist youth group this summer.

"My biggest challenge is giving [students] a sense of security, of sense of pride, being able to wear their Zionism, wear their kippahs with a sense of safety," Klein said.

Gadot said he is thrilled that Klein was chosen to succeed him, adding that no one is a better fit for Betar, which bases its ideology on that of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the founder of Revisionist Zionism.

"If we were to write a job description, in one word, it would be Talia. I am confident that not only is she going to maintain what we've achieved so far, but she's going to take it to the next level," Gadot said.

***'There is a need for a local presence'***

In the past, the Betar-Tagar advisory board opted to bring in an Israeli shaliach from the Jewish Agency to run the organization, but this year the board decided that a local representative would serve the community better.

"There is a need for a local presence," said Gadot, who is heading back to Israel in August.

"There is a need for continuity. What happens is that a shaliach comes [on a one-year contract] and it takes him about six months to learn, and then the last six months, the shaliach begins thinking about what is to come," he said.

"Here we have someone who is coming from the community, knows the community and the community of course knows her and there is an element of continuity, an element of stability."

Klein has served the Jewish community as the national chair of the North American Jewish Students Network, as vice-president of the World Union of Jewish Students and as the youngest ever national officer of Canadian Jewish Congress.

After five years of living in Israel, she served until recently as director of Hillel at York University.

To top it all off, Klein, 32, earned a master's degree from the University of Toronto in history, writing her thesis on Jabotinsky's political ideas.

She said she's in awe of how Gadot has built Betar from the ground up into the influential organization it is today.

"I have been in a privileged position to watch what Itay has accomplished over the past 3½ years. When he got here, Betar was really just a name. It was an ethereal concept that was floating around imbued as it is with a very rich heritage, a very rich ideology and a sense of strength and self-determination. He has made it a viable, real, tangible movement on campus," Klein said.

Continued on page 25

Coast to Coast

**MITZVAH DAY:** Families and friends of the Toronto Heschel School took part in the school's fourth annual Mitzvah Day earlier this month. From left, Heschel graduate Matthew Stein helps Roy Blachowitz and Eli Blachowitz prepare the ground for a new Heschel Garden at the school's junior high campus at Sheppard Avenue and Faywood Boulevard, which will also house Heschel's elementary school in the fall. Other activities included knitting blankets for a children's hospital and assembling welcome baskets for immigrants.

**WOMEN OF VISION:** From left, Dr. Ehud Davidson, CEO of Meir Medical Center in Israel, with co-chairs Harriet Morton and Gabriel Regev, at the launching of the Women of Vision Tribute Dinner, organized by the Canadian Friends of the Meir Medical Centre. The tribute dinner is scheduled for November and will honour Donna Holbrook, Frances Mandell-Arad and Carol Slatt. [Tal Ben-Izhak photo]

# Klein heads to Betar

**Continued from page 24**

"All I had was a desk, a phone line and a chair," Gadot added, recalling his first week as Betar's executive director.

"Since then, we've grown in chapters… But more than the number of students, we like to talk about the impact and the effect that we have on the community and student activism, and the fact that it is OK to be Zionist on campus, it is OK to be proud of our heritage and homeland and voice your opinions on it."

Klein expects that her experience with Betar will be much more politically charged than it was at Hillel, where she has worked for the last three years, but she intends to maintain a good working relationship with Hillel, despite the two groups' differences in ideology.

"We're like two currents in a river. Sometimes we join up and sometimes we don't. That is absolutely natural. Both organizations have very clear mandates, and we're not by any means mutually exclusive," she said, adding that the two groups recently worked together on an annual Yom Ha'atzmaut party that Gadot helped found three years ago.

While Klein said that Hillel and Betar have more things in common than not in common, she noted that Hillel's political neutrality and its mandate to cast its net as wide as possible to try to appeal to Jewish students of every stripe differs from Betar's approach.

"It is to the students' benefit that there are various organizations that are able to meet their diversity. We fit a need and at no point are we trying to be everything to every Jewish student on campus. We have a very definite ideology and a very definite message, and we appeal to the students who fall under that rubric," said Klein, who co-produced *Qassam*, a documentary by Toronto-based Chutzpa Productions about the Negev town of Sderot, which is often attacked by Palestinian Qassam rockets. She also co-produced other Chutzpa films, including *Disengaging Democracy*, about last year's Gaza pullout, and *Not in My Name*, about left-wing Zionists.

Klein said she wants to attract even more students to Betar by giving high school students more background about the situation in the Middle East before they enter university.

"The students are not our clients, they are not our customers and we are not a management organization – the students are the organization. They determine the direction, the programs, and we just go along for the ride," Klein said.

"I cannot emphasize enough how proud I am of [the students]. I've seen them grow through the activities and campaigns and I think the community is very fortunate to have them," Gadot added. "They are not tomorrow's leaders, they are already today's leaders in the community."

## Correction

In the article "Artists' life-like murals transform rooms" (*CJN*, May 18, No Place Like Home supplement), credit for the accompanying photos should have gone to Guy Abergel. *The CJN* regrets the error.


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**Rabbi David Seed** (Adath Israel)
**"'Us vs. Them': Are the World's Problems ours as well?"**

12:45–1:45 am **Rabbi Howard Morrison** (BEBY)
**"'Us vs. Them': as Reflected in the 'Aleynu' Prayer"**

2:00–3:00 am **Rabbi Michael Dolgin** (Temple Sinai)
**"Late Night Mystical Prayer - Is this really Jewish?"**

3:15–4:15 am **Rabbi Philip Scheim** (BDBIBA)
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Dinner by reservation only 7:30 pm
Candle Lighting at 8:31 pm
Study Session I 8:35-9:45 pm
Ma'ariv followed by Kiddush at 9:47 pm
Study Session II at 10:45-midnight

**Session II**
**Finders Keepers? - Rabbi Martin Berman**
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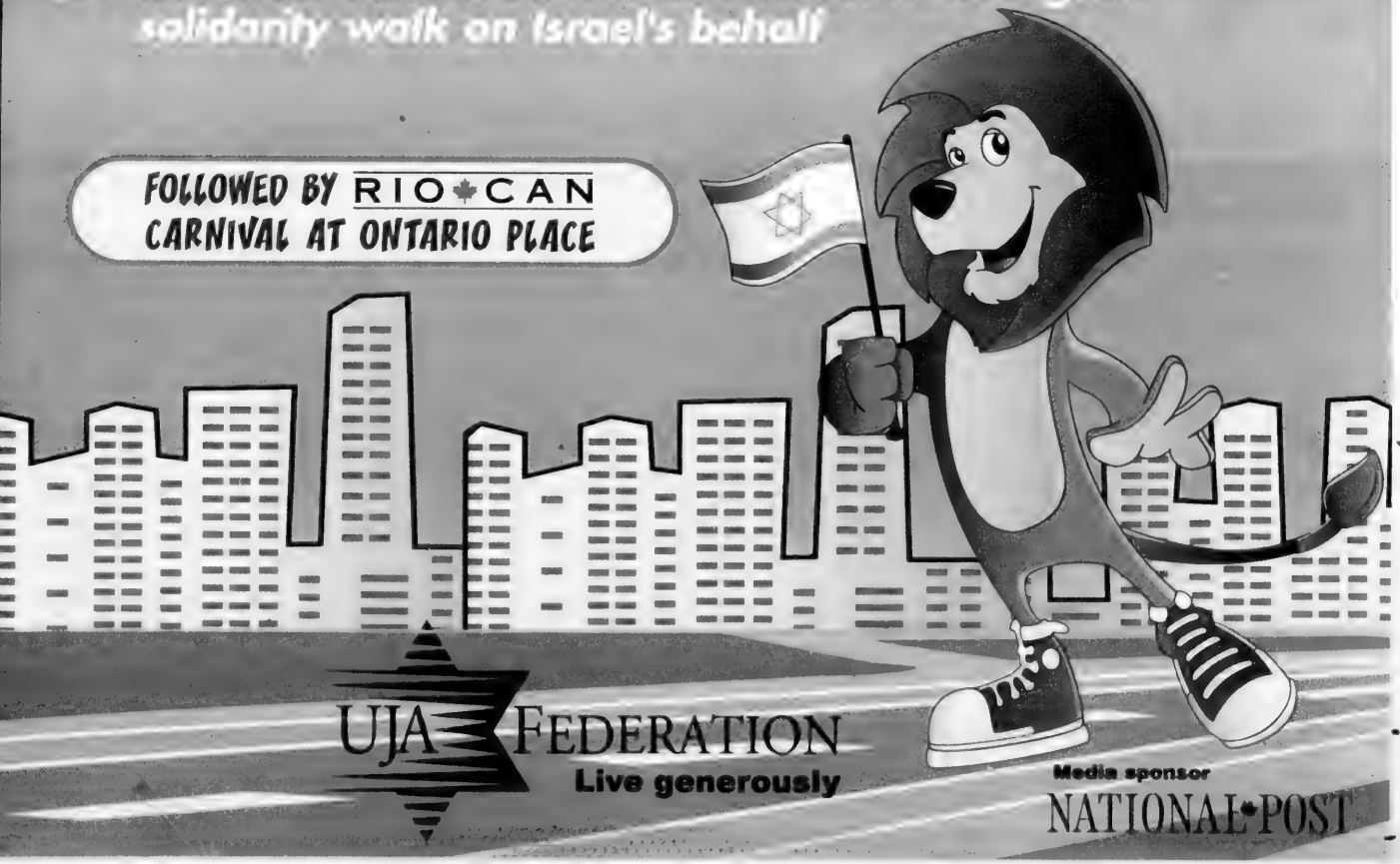

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Coast to Coast

Dov Bercovici with his wife, Lesley Gaum, and their children, Rebekah and Matthew.

# University VP named to 'Top 40 Under 40'

By JOEL JACOBSON
*Atlantic Correspondent*

**HALIFAX** — Dov Bercovici calls himself "a man who loves selling ideas and concepts and finding a common ground with people to see them through."

Described as a "bright and energetic leader who infects others with his commitment and enthusiasm" by Acadia University president Gail Dinter-Gottlieb, Bercovici was recently named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 business and community leaders

He was recently recognized in the national program founded and managed by the Caldwell Partners to honour Canadians who have reached a significant level of success but have not yet reached the age of 40.

"I have two years to go to the big 40," said Bercovici, vice-president of operations at Acadia in Wolfville, N.S., about 100 kilometres west of Halifax. His nomination was initiated by longtime Halifax lawyer and Acadia board member Ron Mitton and supported by former employer Fred MacGillivray, chair of Trade Centre Ltd. in Halifax, and by Dinter-Gottlieb.

At Acadia since 2001, Bercovici manages multimillion-dollar budgets, chairs several university committees, negotiates business contracts, has created a program at the university that brings academics' ideas to the marketplace and holds responsibility for generating new university revenues from outside interests.

A Montreal native, he graduated from McGill University with a BA in economics in 1991 and earned a master's degree in business administration at Dalhousie University in Halifax in 1994.

He was general manager of World Trade Centre Halifax from 1995 to 2001, doubling revenue of the member-based organization and assisting more than 200 firms in finding new customers in global markets, while attracting the international World Trade Centre Association with 355 delegates from 90 countries to Halifax for its international conference in 1998.

While at Acadia, Bercovici developed the Acadia Classical International Guitar Festival in 2005. "What I thrive on is finding a new concept, implementing it and seeing it through, from start to finish," he says.

He also marketed an innovative, faculty-owned software company that enables interactive online master music- class instruction. Two faculty members developed the MusicPath software that is now used by schools and conservatories across the country.

"Innovation is the successful implementation of an idea – it's not just the idea," Bercovici said.

In addition, he volunteers in the community.

"I enjoy putting on events that make a difference," says the married father of two.

A member of the Halifax Canadian Progress Club, Bercovici was co-chair of consecutive sport celebrity dinners in 1999 and 2000 that raised $170,000 for a home for mentally challenged adults.

Bercovici has always relied on his people skills to bring together resources and opportunities.

"I can get along with almost anyone," he said. "The major challenge [at Acadia] is to operate in a business manner at a university. You learn to accept little successes."

# Canada urged to help in reforming UNRWA

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

David Bedein has visited Canada many times and delivered his appraisal on UNRWA, the UN's agency responsible for Palestinian refugees, on more than a few occasions.

Last week, for the first time, Bedein, bureau chief for the Israel Resource News Agency, was guardedly optimistic that his suggestions on reforming the massive UN agency – to actually push it to rehabilitate and resettle refugees – might actually bear fruit.

Canada, he said, is preparing "for a modest diplomatic step in the Middle East. This is one issue where Canada can take the lead."

Bedein was in Ottawa last week for a series of meetings with parliamentarians, senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office. Altogether, Bedein briefed about 50 legislators and officials in three meetings, including members of the Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Friendship Group.

He was invited to Ottawa by Jason Kenney, the prime minister's parliamentary secretary.

As chair of the refugee working group, an international body established 15 years ago to examine a solution to the Palestinian refugee question, Canada has some leverage on this issue, Bedein told his hosts.

"Canada has two tremendous opportunities at a time when the political aspects of the process has stalled. Canada can take the lead in looking at the refugee situation as soluble."

Bedein suggested Palestinians languishing in refugee camps face a choice between continued squalor or normalization of their lives. The UN maintains the status quo, he said, and he urged Canadian representatives to "enter dialogue with the refugees themselves" to address the humanitarian issues related to the peace process.

Normalizing Palestinians' lives might also defuse some of the political volatility in the camps, he suggested. "If you have permanent housing around you, you are less likely to be pushing for the 'right of return,'" he said.

Palestinians have called for the right of refugees and their descendants to return to homes in what is now Israel, and they consider that prospect "very real," he said.

Since there are no political prospects that that might occur, Canada could push for rehabilitation of refugees along the lines adopted elsewhere by the UNHCR, the UN agency responsible for refugees everywhere in the world outside the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Bedein also suggested that UNRWA, which Canada funds in part, should not employ members of the terrorist group Hamas.

Kenney was unavailable for comment.

**EMUNAH HONOURS KALB:** **Emunah Women of Toronto's recent Family in Israel Dinner honoured Edie Kalb, seated in centre, and was dedicated to the memory of Sharon Rosenblum Leff. Guest speaker was Edith Weiss. Almost $100,000 was raised to support underprivileged children in Neve Michael Children's Village in Israel. Pictured standing, from left, are Shawna Magence, Sara Rachlin, Laurie Teperman, Aryella Weisz and Alina Mayer; seated, from left, are Marlene Segal, Joyce Rifkind, Kalb, Elaine Genesove and Esty Yeres. [Rebecca Ansel photo]**


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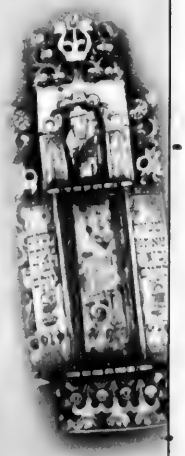

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# Winnipeg shul, food bank unite to pack food for city's needy

By REBECA KUROPATWA
*Special to The CJN*

**WINNIPEG** — Last year more than 39,000 people received food each month from the Winnipeg Harvest food bank. More than half were children and many were from single-parent households.

**Rick Lee, president of Sha'arey Zedek Synagogue helped pack food.**
**[Rebeca Kuropatwa photo]**

On May 11, a team of volunteers from Sha'arey Zedek Synagogue and Winnipeg Harvest worked together packing food for Winnipeggers living well below the poverty line.

"Synagogue volunteers try to come and help out at Harvest six or eight times per year, and in a variety of ways," said the president of Sha'arey Zedek Synagogue, Rick Lee.

"Sometimes Harvest needs us to pack perishables to send out to needy Winnipeg families. Other times, like tonight, we portion out donated rice...

"Many of the synagogue volunteers here tonight are regulars who have been coming to help out at Harvest whenever they can. Members of our synagogue have been volunteering for about three or four years now. Some of the volunteers include three generations of one family."

> ***'Making this kind of big difference in people's lives takes so little, but it is so important'***

Sha'arey Zedek has founded several programs to help fight hunger and poverty with Winnipeg Harvest.

"We organize group volunteer trips to Harvest for bar and bat mitzvah children with their friends. This is organized as part of the bar and bat mitzvah's training in learning what it is means to live as a responsible, caring adult," said Lee.

"Another one of our programs is bringing children who are having trouble in school to volunteer at Harvest for a course credit."

Norman Bager, a food-bank volunteer from Sha'arey Zedek, said, "My wife was the one who wanted me to come here." When asked if he was glad that he had come, he replied, "Absolutely. Making this kind of big difference in people's lives takes so little, but it is so important. I am glad I came, and I will be back."

Winnipeg Harvest is a non-profit organization, and relies completely on donations and volunteers to operate. Lee Newton founded Winnipeg Harvest in 1984, and the organization opened its doors in 1985.

Harvest has a 10 most-wanted food list that includes canned fish and poultry, baby food and formula, canned vegetables and fruit, canned stew, chili and brown beans, peanut butter, dry pasta, rice, canned spaghetti sauce, cereal and canned soup.

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## YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

**יידיש־ווינקל**

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

### דער יידישער פאָלקס־כאָר גרייט צו אַ פייערלעכן קאָנצערט

פון אַלעק סילווער

געווינען דעם קאָנצערט נאָך דער פֿאַרשטאַלונג, אבער דאָס מאַל שרייבן מיר פֿאַר דעם קאָנצערט, ווייל מיר ווילן צוציען די אויפמערק־זאמקייט פון אונדזערע לייענער צו א ספּעציעלער דאטע. דער טאָראָנטער יידישער פאָלקס־כאָר גרייט א פייערלעכן פרילינג קאָנצערט, וואס וועט פֿאַרקומען

**דעם 4טן יוני, 2006, 7 אזייגער אין אָוונט,**

**אין דעם ליאַ פאַסלונס טעאַטער.**

דאָס איז דער 80־יאָריקער פרילינג קאָנצערט פון כאָר, וואס איז א גרויסע דערגרייכונג פאַר דעם „טאָראָנטער יידישן פאָלקס־כאָר". דער כאָר איז באמת געגרינדעט געווארן אין אפריל פון 1925 אונטערן נאמען „פרייהייט געזאנגס פאראיין". דער ערשטער דירידזענט איז געווען היימאן ריגעלהאופט און דער ערשטער פרילינג קאָנצערט איז געגעבן געווארן אין 1926. דער רעפערטואר האט אריינגענומען יידישע פאָלקס־און ארבעטער־לידער און אפערעטעס. דערייבער ווערט היי־יאר אפגעצייכנט דער 80סטער קאָנצערט. און דאס וועט זיין א פייערלעכע פארשטעלונג.

אין 1937 האט דער כאָר געענדערט זיין נאמען צו „טאָראָנטער יידישער פאָלקס־כאָר". פון 1939 ביז 1959 איז דער דירידזענט געווען עמיל גארסנער. א טאָלאָנטירטער מוזיקער, וועלכער האט אויסגעבריטערט דעם רעפערטואר און אריינגענומען לידער אויף יידיש טעמעס אין אנדערע שפראכן און אינטערנאציאָנאלע פאָלקס לידער. ביים היינטיקן טאג איז דער דירידזענט פון כאָר אלעקסאנדער וויפּרינסק. וועלכער האט א סך צוגענעבן צו די אלגעמיינע פארשטעלונגען פון כאָר.

פון מיין ערשטן אריינבליק אין היינטיקן פראגראם קען איך זאגן, אז עס וועט זיין א וווּנדערבארער קאָנצערט. דער הויפּטונקט וועט זיין א ניי־באשטעלטע מוזיקאלישע ארבעט „אין אמעריקע". געשאפן פון באקאנטן קאָמפּאָזיטאר פון ווינניפעג, סיד ראבינאוויטש. עס איז באזירט אויף פינף טיילן פון א נאוועלע אין מערז „אין קאנאדע" פון פארשטאַרבענעם באריטן מאנטרעאלער יידישן פּאעט שלום שטערן.

די פינף טיילן פון דער קאָמפּאָזיציע זיינען: „אויף דער שיף", „אין דער גאס", „אסל איז פארליבט", „דער שטרייק" און „שבת". זיי וועלן אריסגעפירט ווערן פון כאָר און פון דער אויסגעצייכנטער קלעזמער גרופּע „בעיאנד דהי פּעיל". עס איז אוממעגלעך פאר מיר צו געבן דעם גאנצן פראגראם, וועלכער וועט אויך אריינגענומען „אכט יאָרצייטלעך פון נעמאנ". אראָזשירט פון דירידזענט אלעקסאנדער וויפּרינסק.

סאָלאיסטן וועלן זיין: די סאפראנאס מרים עסקין און בעלווא שפיעל. דער באס הערמאן ראבאוסס און דער טענאר מיסס סמאלקין. איך קען איך נאך אמאל צוזאגן, אז איר וועט האבן גרויס הנאה. און דערייבער שרייב איך פארויס, כדי צו מאכן זיכער, אז איר וועט נישט דורכלאזן אזא גלעגנהייט צו הערן איינעם פון די בעסטע כארן אין לאנד.

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# 'Women give because they see a need,' says feminist

## *Lilith* founder addresses endowment fund luncheon

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Just five percent of charitable giving in North America goes to support programs for the betterment of women and girls, says Susan Weidman Schneider.

"That's why an organization such as the Women's Endowment Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba is so important," the founder and longtime editor of *Lilith*, North America's leading Jewish feminist magazine, told the fund's sixth annual luncheon on May 11.

The former Winnipegger was the keynote speaker at this year's luncheon. Her topic was philanthropy and how women approach the subject differently than men do. (Weidman Schneider also spoke at the fund's launch in 1994.)

She began by explaining the difference between charity and philanthropy. The former refers to one-shot giving, such as a fundraising dinner, while the latter she defined as a "habit of giving," she said.

"Women and men approach philanthropy differently," she noted. "Men tend to give because they have been asked by their peers. Women give because they see a need – and they don't need plaques. Women also tend to ask a lot more questions."

Philanthropy, she suggested, is often an alternate route to power for women, and philanthropic women are viewed positively in the community.

"They can't be accused of being too aggressive," she said.

She noted that North American women are earning more money than ever before and are, therefore, giving away more.

"In my mother's generation, society disapproved of women working unless they had to out of absolute need," she said.

As well, she said, family businesses used to be left to sons, but today daughters often receive an equal portion.

"One of our problems is that women are still expected to be modest," Weidman Schneider said. "We spurn honours and recognition. It makes it harder for women to find philanthropic role models."

Jewish women are different from their non-Jewish contemporaries in North America when it comes to attitudes to money and charity, Weidman Schneider said.

She noted that two-thirds of North American Jewish women have university degrees, compared to just 12 per cent of other Caucasian women.

As well, she added, "Jewish women have a more positive attitude to giving, because we have a slightly different history of ownership of money."

That stems from the days when daughters worked in sweatshops and gave their earnings to their parents to supplement the family income.

"They felt the power of holding the purse strings," she said.

She also noted that long ago, Jewish women created free loan societies to help other women who needed a loan for such things as a sewing machine to help support their family or money to pay for medical treatment for a sick child.

**Susan Weidman Schneider**

Then there were the stock shtetl characters: the yenta, whom Weidman Schneider described as a "wonderful networker who was adept at asking for donations for others," and the balabuste who "could feed 70 people with a quarter of a chicken."

"Jewish women have always had a tradition of giving," she said.

Cal Shell, chair of the endowment fund's grants committee, reported to the audience that last year, the fund was able to donate $27,000 to eight different organizations, including to the Rady Jewish Community Centre for the Canadian premiere of "*Lilith* Magazine: The Voices of Jewish Women," an exhibit about the impact of feminist Jewish journalism, which runs until mid-June.

"We hope to double the amount of money we can contribute next year," Shell said.

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# Haredi rabbis from Israel visit Montreal

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — A historic visit to Montreal by two leading haredi rabbis from Israel went ahead without incident after having been suddenly cancelled out of fear certain chassidic sects would stage a public demonstration against the sages.

Rabbi Aharon Leib Steinman, considered by some as the greatest Torah scholar of his generation, and Rabbi Yaakov Aryeh Alter, leader of the Gur Chassidim, came to Montreal last Wednesday, a day later than originally planned and not at the venue they were scheduled to appear at. The day before, word spread that their visit was off, only to be back on again the day of their arrival.

The rabbis first toured the Yeshiva Gedola Merkaz Hatorah and then went to the nearby Young Israel Synagogue on Hillsdale Road, the hastily arranged new venue, arriving about an hour later than announced. Police cordoned off the short dead-end street and the rabbis arrived in a convoy of vans, sirens sounding.

About 1,000 people waited for them, the men in shul's reception hall and the women in the sanctuary, where they watched the proceedings via closed-circuit video feed.

The rabbis were expected to speak, but Rabbi Steinman gave only a brief brachah, blessing the children present. Symbolically important was the fact that the Vaad Ha'ir's chief rabbi, Avraham Niznik, and his deputy, Rabbi Yonasan Weiss, sat beside them.

Men jostled to take photos of the visitors or just be close to them. Women tried to make out the grainy black-and-white images on the screen. Many left disappointed at not hearing from the rabbis and by the confusion.

Others were simply pleased with what they felt was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Just to know that they came so far for us gives us strength," one woman said.

The rabbis then left for the Belz and Skver chassidic synagogues, also staying only a short time and under police surveillance.

The original plan had been to have them speak at one gathering at a large reception hall in Laval.

The rabbis were on a 10-day North American tour that began in Los Angeles May 14, continued in Toronto, the day before Montreal, and was to conclude in New York. In Toronto, they spoke to a capacity audience at Beth Jacob School.

The two rabbis are both spiritual guides of Israel's United Torah Judaism (UTJ) party, an alliance of two small haredi political parties, one chassidic and the other non-chassidic.

The non-chassidic Rabbi Steinman of Bnei Brak, who is in his 90s, is reviled by extremely anti-Zionist chassidim because of accommodations he has made over the years with the State of Israel. Tensions are especially high at the moment because Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is in coalition talks with UTJ.

A particular point of contention between the anti-Zionists and Rabbi Steinman is his purported support for the creation of a special haredi unit within the Israel Defence Forces upon the expiration next year of the law allowing yeshiva students to indefinitely defer military service. (On May 17, while the rabbis were abroad, Olmert promised the UTJ that if it joins the coalition the 1948 Tal Law would be extended for five years.)

Some Israeli media reported that local Satmar chassidim had obtained a police permit to stage a protest in Montreal that was being instigated by one of its two leading rabbis, Moshe Tyrnauer.

Alex Werzberger, a spokesperson for the community, firmly denied the report.

"This is a figment of somebody's imagination," he said.

He thinks a protest may have been planned by the Neturei Karta faction, based in Monsey, N.Y., as was also reported, possibly with the participation of the small group of Tasher chassidim in Boisbriand, Que.

Werzberger distanced Satmar from the Neturei Karta, which campaigns actively for the dismantling of the State of Israel, as "vociferous."

He said that it's true that Rabbi Tyrnauer referred obliquely, without mentioning names, to the rabbis' impending visit in a Shabbat sermon, but he merely advised the community to stay away from the event. Anonymous flyers later circulated in the neighbourhood, urging a boycott.

"It was an uncharacteristically mild speech for Rabbi Tyrnauer, who I would call a militant," said Werzberger, who is also president of the Coalition of Chassidic Organizations of Outremont.

Werzberger said the Satmar have a serious disagreement with the visiting rabbis because they are "pushing Orthodox kids to go into the army," but most don't think that Orthodox Jews protesting against rabbis in the streets is the right way to express that.

Montreal has one of the world's largest Satmar communities, with about 300 families.

Rabbi Steinman, and possibly Rabbi Alter as well, were slated to spend Shabbat in Monsey, despite reports the Neturei Karta would demonstrate there.

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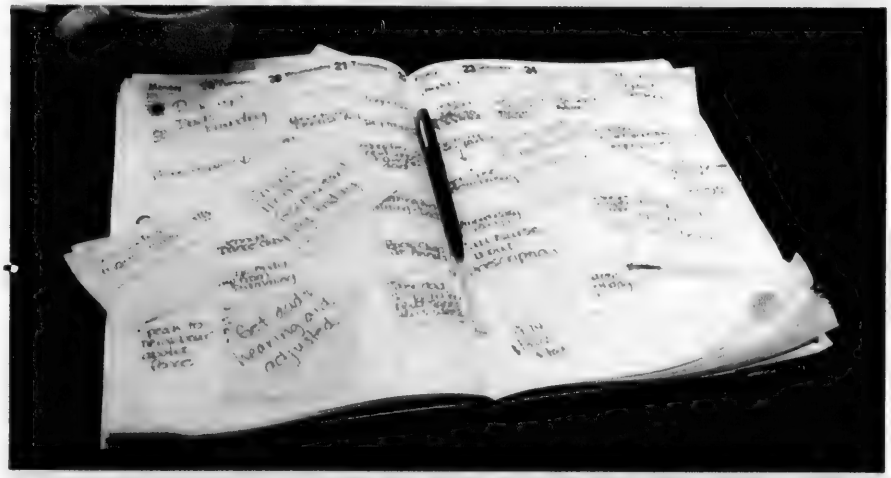

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## *Becel cycling fundraiser planned for June 4*

Millions of Canadians are at risk for developing heart disease and stroke – and some much too early in their lives. Just ask Sheila Corman, Richard Pettit and Beth Gibson.

They know the importance of raising funds for research into heart disease and stroke. One of the most popular ways is the Heart and Stroke Foundation's annual Becel Heart&Stroke Ride for Heart, the foundation's largest cycling fundraiser. This year, it takes place on June 4 in Toronto.

Corman, now 45, had a heart attack when she was 42. Pettit, who has just turned 56, had triple bypass surgery last year. And Gibson, 46, has a family history of stroke – her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother all died of strokes.

Mayor David Miller has proclaimed June 4 Becel Ride for Heart Day. That day, more than 13,000 eager cyclists and in-line skaters, including Corman, Pettit and Gibson, will participate in the ride.

This show of support will help the foundation continue to lead the way toward a greater understanding of the causes of heart disease and stroke. The fundraising goal for Toronto this year is $2 million.

The 19th annual Becel Heart&Stroke Ride for Heart begins at the west gates of Exhibition Place, and cyclists will pedal along the Gardiner Expressway and up the Don Valley Parkway – the world's longest bike path.

The event starts at 8 a.m., and cyclists can take the 25-, 50- or 75-kilometre route, while in-line skaters can complete a five-, 10- or 20-kilometre route.

For more information, or to register, call the RIDEline at 416-486-RIDE (7433) or visit the website at www.heartandstroke.ca/rideforheart.

# Media shines light on Mubarak's heavy hand

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

The Canadian media are giving increasing coverage to developments in the Middle East that are unconnected to Arab-Israeli relations.

The West, along with many Arabs themselves, is concerned with the tension between democratization versus Islamization in Arab societies, and its ripple effects abroad.

U.S. President George Bush has been trying to shake up an Arab world mired in corrupt, inertia-ridden authoritarianism by pushing for democratic reform in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the region. The very mixed results have had adverse repercussions.

For instance, the election of the radical Islamic Hamas as the PA government in the West Bank and Gaza in March had a chilling effect on supporters of liberal democracy. To their disappointment, religious fundamentalists bent on destroying prospects for substantial democratic reform came out ahead.

As a result, the West has been placed on the proverbial horns of a dilemma. It must support democracy in principle, but not necessarily always in practice. As a prime example, the United States has remained mostly silent as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's authoritarianism has grown.

Mubarak fears that an open democratic process might weaken his grip on power and allow, among other things, the rise of the theocratic Muslim Brotherhood. (Though the Brotherhood is officially banned as a party in Egypt, individual members ran in last year's elections – elections widely seen as manipulated by Mubarak.) The broader issue is that the Bush administration is reportedly concerned that a strong push for open elections in Egypt could unleash the counter-productive forces of Islamic extremism.

Hosni Mubarak

Most recently, considerable media attention on Egypt has focused not only the April 24 terrorist attacks in the Red Sea resort of Dahab and continuing Islamist threats, but also on clashes in the streets of Cairo between pro-democracy activists and government forces intent on maintaining firm control.

In "Judiciary leading protests against election fraud" (*National Post*, May 10) Peter Goodspeed examined the struggle between pro-democracy forces, including some elements of the judiciary, and Mubarak's government as it tries to clamp down on them.

Goodspeed opened his report as follows: "Egypt's brief taste of an 'Arab Spring' is over. Last year's promise of free presidential and parliamentary elections, political reform and openness have been crushed by a new campaign of repression that seeks to silence nearly all anti-government protest."

Goodspeed described a country where a 25-year-old state of emergency has just been renewed, where thousands of armed riot police patrol Cairo in an ever-present show of force, where large numbers of pro-democracy activists have been jailed, and most famously, where Ayman Nour, who challenged Mubarak himself in the country's first multi-candidate presidential elections last year, was subsequently sentenced to a five-year prison term. Human rights groups maintain the charges of election fraud against Nour were completely trumped up.

Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party won 70 per cent of the parliamentary seats. Two of Egypt's top judges suffered government harassment after they complained about the possibility of election fraud. A good number of the country's judges have supported them to protest governmental interference.

* * *

For the record: While Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas continues to urge Hamas to renounce violence, recognize Israel and respect signed peace agreements, PA Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh (considered by some in the West to belong to the moderate, more pragmatic wing of Hamas) told Palestinians in Gaza marking the May 14 anniversary of the "Naqba," the "catastrophe" of Israel's founding, that Hamas will not waver at all from its rejection of Israel. "I swear to God we will not make concessions" he promised his audience. Hanyieh's words should answer those who keep insisting that Hamas can be encouraged to be moderate.

Perhaps the most sobering observation about why Hamas cannot genuinely moderate itself came from Eyad Sarraj, a well-known Gaza-based Palestinian psychiatrist and peace activist. According to Steven Erlanger (*New York Times*, May 11), Sarraj has appealed to Hamas leaders to "recognize the idea of a permanent Israel" even though he recognizes the futility of his efforts. As he told Erlanger: "But for Hamas [rejecting Israel] is metaphysics, not politics – it's ideology, that all of Palestine is Islamic land."

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*


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# The battle of the pareve desserts

By KIM PEKOFSKY KUSHNER
*Special to The CJN*

Shavuot is my mother-in-law's favourite holiday. She looks forward to it all year long, not only because of its meaning, the Jewish people's acceptance of the Torah from Moses on Mount Sinai, but rather because she claims, "It's the only holiday when I can finally serve some decent dessert."

Of course, my mother-in-law is referring to the tradition of serving dairy foods on Shavuot. And, of course, as you've certainly come to realize, my mother-in-law is one of those people who argues with 100 per cent certainty that no pareve dessert can ever come close to tasting as good as a dairy dessert.

Well, she is not alone in her thoughts. Many people get excited around Shavuot because they look forward to baking that mouth-watering cheesecake recipe that they've been dying to try, or that real ice-cream cake that looks so divine.

Well, dairy desserts are good – I won't deny that. Still, I'd like to prove my mother-in-law wrong, because I truly believe that pareve desserts can be just as good as dairy desserts. Over the last little while, I have experimented quite a bit in this area, and have uncovered three key techniques for converting almost any dairy dessert into an equally as delicious pareve one.

• Substitute for butter. Sure, we all use margarine in place of butter to convert the recipe to pareve, but in order for the margarine's consistency to work like butter, the margarine must be frozen. Simply replacing one stick of butter with one stick of margarine won't cut it. Keep several sticks of margarine in your freezer at all times, and when a recipe calls for butter, replace it with chunks of frozen margarine. This will surely do the trick. Your crusts will be flakier, your dough will be firmer and easier to work with, and your fillings delectably smoother and tastier. Trust me.

• Substitute for milk. Non-dairy creamers or soy milk are only partially the right answers. Yes, they will work, but once again, the key lies in the texture of these liquids. If you slightly heat your creamer, the liquid will thicken enough to allow for a creamier taste and texture. But don't overheat the creamer – 20 seconds in the microwave usually does the trick!

• Substitute for sour cream or yogurt: Replace each cup of sour cream or yogurt with one cup of chilled non-dairy whipped cream plus 1 tbsp. of freshly squeezed lemon juice. It works!

Don't forget that some pareve desserts speak for themselves, without needing any substitutions – a pavlova or a sponge cake – how can you ever go wrong? There is a reason that some pareve desserts have been around forever!

### TRIPLE CHOCOLATE-RASPBERRY PAVLOVA

**Chocolate meringue:**
7 egg whites, room temperature
1 cup granulated sugar
3 tbsp. cocoa powder, sifted
1 cup pareve semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted and cooled
1 tsp. balsamic vinegar

**Topping:**
2 cups pareve whipping cream
1 pint raspberries
4 tbsp. shaved pareve baking chocolate

Preheat the oven to 350. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. Beat the egg whites with an electric mixer until soft peaks form, and then beat in the sugar, one spoonful at a time, until the meringue is stiff and satiny. Gently fold in the cocoa powder, the melted chocolate and the vinegar until well incorporated.

Pour the meringue onto the prepared baking sheet, and using a spatula, form a disk approximately 9 inches in diameter. Place the meringue disk in the oven and immediately reduce the temperature to 300. Bake for 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes, until crisp around edges, but soft inside. Turn off the oven and leave the meringue in the oven for an additional 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely.

When ready to serve, gently invert the meringue disk onto a large plate, peel off the parchment paper (meringue may be slightly cracked – this is fine). Whip the cream until stiff peaks form and dollop it into the centre of the meringue disk, leaving a 1-inch margin. Scatter the raspberries over the whipped cream and sprinkle with the shaved chocolate. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Note: Meringue base can be prepared 1 day in advance. Pavlova can be assembled and refrigerated up to 3 hours in advance. Serves 8 to 10.

**A chocolate soufflé as seen in *Fast Healthy Food*, Readers Digest publishers**

### CHOCOLATE SOUFFLES

1½ cups pareve semi-sweet chocolate chips
1¼ sticks frozen margarine
3 eggs
3 egg yolks
1¼ cup powdered sugar
⅓ cup all purpose flour
6 ceramic ramekin dishes
soft margarine for greasing

Preheat oven to 450. Grease 6 ramekins with soft butter and set aside. Bring a pot of water to a gentle boil and place a glass bowl over the pot of boiling water. Place chocolate chips and margarine in the bowl and melt it slowly over the boiling water, stirring constantly. Once both the chocolate and the margarine are melted, remove from heat, and let cool slightly.

In a large bowl, using a whisk, beat together the eggs and the yolks. Whisk in the powdered sugar, then add the chocolate mixture and the flour. Mix well to ensure all the ingredients are combined. This can be made up to one day in advance, covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated until you are ready to bake.

Pour the batter into the ramekins, filling them part way, and place the ramekins on a baking sheet.

Bake the cakes for 11-13 minutes, until sides are set, but centre remains soft. Let cool for 2 minutes. Serve in the ramekins or run a knife around each cake to loosen and immediately turn out onto a plate. Be careful, ramekins will be extremely hot! Serve with sorbet or pareve ice-cream. Makes 6 individual souffles.

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# International

*Israel & the Jewish World*

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## Bush won't set a timetable for Israeli withdrawal

By NATHAN GUTTMAN
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — U.S. President George W. Bush will ask Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert if his plan to unilaterally set Israel's borders is compatible with the idea of a two-state solution when the two leaders meet this week.

According to a senior Bush official, Bush will expect Olmert to explain how a unilateral move could be compatible with his administration's wish for a negotiated final status agreement.

The official told the *Jerusalem Post* that Bush will not express his opinion on the plan at this stage. "We need answers before the president can make a decision. There will be no decisions made at this meeting," the official emphasized.

The U.S. administration believes there is sufficient time to pursue both the idea of direct talks on a final status agreement and the unilateral withdrawal plan, since no settlement would be removed before the end of 2007 or the middle of 2008. According to the official, it would still be possible to go ahead with negotiations if there was a political change in the Palestinian Authority by the time Israel is ready to implement the plan.

Although "there is no timetable and no fixed date," the official said, "Olmert has limited time in office" and wanted to implement his plan while Bush is still in the White House. Even so, the United States would not set a deadline for Olmert to implement his plan.

Though it doesn't support PA President Mahmoud Abbas' request for entering final status discussions, the Bush administration expects Israel to speak to Abbas on issues of humanitarian assistance, border crossings and tax revenue.

Bush and cabinet members will present several questions regarding Olmert's plan for unilateral withdrawal plan in a series of meetings to be held in Washington this week. The questions will deal with issues of IDF forces that may remain to the west of the fence, negotiations with Jordan on border issues, protection of the holy sites in the West Bank after Israel withdraws, and the legal status of the new border. The administration official estimated there were at least two-dozen unanswered questions about Olmert's plan.

[File photo]

George W. Bush

"The Gaza disengagement was easy, because the borders were clear and there were no Israelis left there," the official said, adding that a plan for unilateral withdrawal from the West Bank is "extremely complicated."

The official stressed that the U.S. view is that most of the settlements in the West Bank "need to go," though he added that the administration remained committed to the statement in Bush's letter to former prime minister Ariel Sharon, in which Bush spoke of the reality on the ground created by major Jewish settlement blocs.

Bush was also expected to raise the issue of sending assistance to the Palestinian Authority without allowing aid to go through the Hamas-led government. The administration still believes that pressure on Hamas is building, and that this pressure might bring about a change in Hamas' policies. According to the senior official, the administration believes Hamas is trying to keep terror at a low level while not doing anything to eliminate it.

In related developments, Olmert said last week in a private meeting that his "convergence" plan for a major West Bank withdrawal will involve the removal of fewer than 70,000 settlers, the figure most widely quoted in the media. Other sources in Kadima, meanwhile, now say that the eventual number of settlers to be evacuated will be much lower than 70,000.

The total number of Israelis living in settlements to the east of the separation fence is some 70,000. This has therefore been widely assumed to be the number slated for withdrawal, since the plan presented by Olmert before the election included moving the settlers from areas beyond the fence into "settlement blocs" within the fence.

But Kadima members involved in the ongoing talks between Olmert and the settlers now say 70,000 is "a media invention and the actual number will be much lower."

Former settler leaders Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun and MK Otniel Schneller, who joined Kadima before the elections, are studying ways to keep as many settlements as possible within the fence or subject to alternative security arrangements. Olmert does not intend to refer to a number in public so as not to be pinned down by a commitment.

Members of Kadima involved in the talks are also claiming that the estimated price tag for convergence is much lower than the NIS 80 billion sum commonly mentioned, which is 10 times what Gaza pullout cost. The lower estimate, they said, is not solely because of the smaller-than-anticipated number of settlers to be evacuated, but also because a different range of compensations was needed for Gaza settlements, which included a large number of farms and other agricultural assets. There is little agriculture in the areas slated for withdrawal in the West Bank.

The West Bank pullout is planned to take place over a much longer time frame than the Gaza withdrawal and its cost will therefore be spread over four years, instead of coming from one year's budget, as was the case with Gaza.

The settlers who were evacuated from Gaza were moved to hotels or temporary housing. Under the West Bank plan, the intention is to avoid such costs by building permanent houses before the settlers are removed.

Schneller is also hoping that at least some of the settlements will be moved by agreement, saving the costs of mobilizing thousands of soldiers and police officers to enforce evacuation.

## *Rocket fire turns Israel's southern coast into war zone*

By URIEL HEILMAN
*JTA*

**ASHKELON, Israel** – The boom of artillery fire along Israel's southern coast provides an incongruous backdrop to the bikini-clad girls, scruffy fishermen and ice cream stands just upwind of these sandy Mediterranean beaches, in the city of Ashkelon.

But with a Hamas-run quasi-state next door in Gaza, constant rocket fire in the direction of Israeli communities and daily attempts by Palestinians to infiltrate into Israel, this new frontier – occasioned by Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip last summer – has become the site of a massive Israeli military buildup.

The Israel Defense Forces is beefing up positions atop sand dunes all along the coast here, fortifying lookouts, increasing patrols and, lately, firing almost non-stop artillery barrages into the Gaza Strip.

"This border is not cooling off," says Eli Toledano, vice platoon commander at an IDF base just east of Gaza. "I would not call it a stable situation."

Hardly a night passes where the IDF does not catch Palestinians trying to infiltrate Israel through the Gaza border fence, hit IDF patrols with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades or bomb IDF patrols.

But the most irksome – and deadly – Palestinian action so far has been the firing of rockets at Israeli towns near Gaza.

More than a dozen civilians, including several Palestinians, have been killed in the past two years from rocket fire. Militants have stepped up their attacks since Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip last summer.

Most of the rocket fire nowadays is aimed at Ashkelon, the closest Israeli city to Gaza, about eight miles away. No rockets have reached Ashkelon yet – but some have fallen in the industrial zone just south of the city, where a major power station, desalination plant, oil refinery and more than 60 other factories are located.

Anat Wienstein-Berkovits, a spokesperson for Ashkelon's mayor, says the rockets are terrorizing the 5,000-plus people who work in the industrial zone.

"It's not the damage that a Qassam causes," she says. "If a Qassam falls onto a sand dune or a road and doesn't cause any damage, the workers there still live in fear that one day they will fall in a place where it will cause damage."

"It's really terror," Wienstein-Berkovits says. "It's just like the threat of a suicide bomber."

This week Palestinians fired a Katyusha rocket toward Ashkelon. It was the second time in recent months that a Katyusha, which has a range of up to 15 miles, has been fired from Gaza. It landed in a chicken coop in the Israeli town of Netiv Ha'asara, killing some 30 chickens.

The Israeli army responds to the rocket fire with heavy artillery barrages, which the IDF says helps deter Palestinians from firing more rockets.

"Terrorist organizations need to understand that Qassam fire is not worthwhile," says Tal Lev-Ram, spokesperson for the IDF's Southern Command. "But they are still not convinced and they continue to fire. And our response will continue to be harsh and to exact a heavy price."

Most days, the IDF fires hundreds of shells into Gaza. They come from artillery batteries to Gaza's east and north, from navy vessels patrolling the Mediterranean west of Gaza and sometimes from Israeli helicopters crisscrossing the sky above.

The IDF says the idea is not so much to hit the terrorists firing rockets – artillery fire is not accurate enough for that – but to make it difficult for terrorists to safely launch their rockets, and to deter rocket fire through the unpleasantness of the constant shelling.

The IDF says the strategy has reduced the frequency of rocket attacks and ultimately will help bring quiet, without the need for an incursion into Gaza.

"If there won't be quiet on our side, there won't be quiet on their side," Lev-Ram vows.

Two weeks ago, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh reportedly warned senior Islamic Jihad officials that their rocket fire was harming Palestinian interests by provoking the Israeli artillery barrages.

Some of those barrages have killed Palestinian civilians.

But Israelis who live in the region say the near-constant refrain of artillery is more troublesome than the Qassams themselves. On one recent day, Israel fired more than 1,200 shells into Gaza.

The artillery fire "has become very troublesome," Ashkelon's mayor, Roni Mehatzri, told JTA. "We demanded that the IDF do everything possible to halt the fire. The noise of the firing of the artillery is simply terrible. It really is harmful. Citizens are afraid of it."

"We can't live like this," he adds.

The IDF says its goal is to protect the residents of southern Israel while disrupting life as little as possible.

That means that IDF jeep patrols share the road with tractors and farm vehicles; weekend cyclists may find their picnics interrupted by the roar of an armoured personnel carrier nearby; and residents have had to adjust to the artillery refrain.

Residents say they've learned to distinguish between the whoosh-whistle of the Qassam rockets, which leave a trail of white-gray smoke, and the booming of the artillery, which is more steady, shakes the windows of houses and frightens dogs.

## Israel Briefs

***Peace seen unlikely***

Almost two out of three Israelis and Palestinians don't anticipate a peace accord in the near future, a survey found. According to polls commissioned by the grassroots group One Voice and released last week, 65 per cent of Israelis and Palestinians believe peace will not be possible within the next four years. Asked if they could have a personal impact on the conflict, 73 per cent of Israelis and 45 per cent of Palestinians said no. On both sides, approximately 45 per cent believe the media give more and perhaps too much attention to extremist voices. "The numbers reflect the growing desensitization among both peoples, after seeing a bloody past and living a shaky present," One Voice founder and president Daniel Lubetzky said in a statement. "What we need is to focus them on a concrete future where they can play a role in taking their lives back."

***PA arms funding disclosed***

Millions of dollars in foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority was used to buy weapons, Israel's Shin Bet security agency says. The Shin Bet released a transcript of its interrogations of Fuad Shobaki, a former PA financier and confidant of former PA president Yasser Arafat who was jailed in the West Bank city of Jericho until Israeli troops took him into custody in May. Shobaki was quoted as saying that Arafat ordered the mass procurement of weapons when the intifadah began in 2000. This included the purchase of arms from Iran, some of which were sent to Gaza on the Karine-A ship in 2002, only to be intercepted by Israeli naval commandos. Shobaki was also quoted as saying that Arafat passed weapons to the Al-Aqsa Brigades terror group via activists in his Fatah faction.

***France warns Israel***

France warned Israel against setting its border unilaterally in the West Bank. On a visit to Israel, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said Israel should restart negotiations with the Palestinian Authority toward a peace accord. "Unilateralism will not allow either side to achieve its goals," he told reporters. "It is inconceivable that an international border would be set unilaterally." Douste-Blazy's Israeli counterpart, Tzipi Livni, said Israel would prefer to reach a negotiated deal if possible.

***Economy beats forecast***

Israel's economy beat first-quarter forecasts. The country's GDP rose 6.6 per cent, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported last week. Most of the increase was caused by a 76 per cent jump in new car purchases. Israel's trade balance also improved, with a 5.2 per cent drop in imports and a 2.4 per cent rise in exports.

***Israel joins UN body***

Israel was appointed to a spot on the United Nations committee on non-governmental organizations. The committee of the UN Economic and Social Council meets twice annually and reviews applications for special status with the commission. "Maybe our membership in the committee will help make Israeli NGOs more aware of this avenue and encourage them to seek a relationship with the economic and social council," said Marco Sermoneta, a counselor at Israel's UN mission. As well, he said, membership would be a "good way to diversify our visibility in the United Nations." A handful of Israeli NGOs already have special consultative status with ECOSOC, including, most recently, the Israel Women's Network, which was recommended for the status last week.

*JTA*

# Jewish groups mobilize against call for boycott

By CHANAN TIGAY
*JTA*

**NEW YORK** — Jewish groups are mobilizing to defeat another potential boycott of Israeli academics, this time by Britain's largest union for college teachers.

The 65,000-member National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) will meet May 27 to 29. Barring procedural stumbling blocks, the association will vote on an emergency motion to blacklist Israeli lecturers and academic institutions that don't publicly declare their opposition to Israel's presence in the West Bank.

The motion accuses Israel of "apartheid policies" and asks NATFHE members to boycott Israeli educational institutions and individuals who don't publicly distance themselves from Israeli policy.

The move comes a year after another British union, the Association of University Teachers (AUT), passed a similar Israeli boycott. It later rescinded the decision in the face of international criticism.

> ***'Once again, a group of British academics is targeting Israel'***

"Once again, a group of British academics is targeting Israel, only this time, their goals are even more insidious," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "Members of this union are being told that it's acceptable to boycott Israeli scholars on the basis of their nationality and to question them about their political views. By singling out Israel, these activists are once again demonstrating the anti-Semitic agenda which lies at the heart of the boycott movement."

NATFHE Resolution 198C, a copy of which was obtained by JTA, cites "continuing Israeli apartheid policies, including construction of the exclusion wall and discriminatory educational practices. It recalls its motion of solidarity last year for the AUT resolution to exercise moral and professional responsibility."

The resolution further "invites members to consider their own responsibility for ensuring equity and non-discrimination in contacts with Israeli educational institutions or individuals and to consider the appropriateness of a boycott of those that do not publicly dissociate themselves from such policies."

It is one of two resolutions relating to Israel. The other asks British academics to support Palestinian colleagues in the face of "the continual attacks by Israel's government" and to reaffirm that support by contacting the Palestinian Authority government. The United States and the European Union have cut off contact with the Palestinian Authority now that it is run by the terrorist group Hamas.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of Canada-Israel Committee, said NATFHE tried the same thing about 18 months ago when it tried to boycott University of Haifa and Bar-Ilan University academics.

"Their decision was overwhelmingly reversed after there was a substantial outcry in the United Kingdom and internationally.

"This is simply a second effort to flog the issue again. [This group] is determined to delegitimize Israel, but there is growing impatience at every level for the kind of efforts that don't advance peace and constructive understanding," Fogel said.

Meanwhile, the American Jewish Committee has reinstated its anti-boycott fund, launched last year to help combat the AUT resolution. The group last week pledged an additional $10,000 to the fund.

"The track record from the experience with the AUT showed that a variety of tools need to be used to combat this type of boycott, and one of them is that people have the ability to sue or at least assert their legal rights," said Kenneth Stern, a specialist on anti-Semitism and extremism at the AJCommittee. "We're raising funds to help whoever is impacted by this to fight it in any way possible. They shouldn't have to bear the cost."

The teachers association, which is planning a summer merger with the AUT, won't comment on the motion "unless and until it is certain that it will be discussed at the conference."

"It's an emergency motion," NATFHE spokesperson Trevor Phillips told JTA. "Not all emergency motions are discussed. This one is in some doubt because of procedural issues."

The American Jewish Congress has made it possible for those who oppose the boycott to automatically generate e-mail letters to NATFHE and AUT leaders. So far, 1,500 e-mails have been sent.

"NATFHE's proposed resolutions are indefensible," said Congress executive director, Neil Goldstein.

"One resolution advocates support of the Palestinian government run by Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization that proudly takes credit for the murder of innocent Israeli civilians. This support of terrorism reveals the one-sided political nature of the NATFHE resolutions and the moral blindness of its statements on the tragic Middle East conflict."

In Britain, efforts are underway among some anti-boycott members of NATFHE to lobby against the motion, a model based on the effort that overturned last year's AUT measure.

"The important grassroots work has to be done by people who are members of the union," said Jon Benjamin, chief executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. "We are certainly keeping a close eye on what's going on and providing whatever assistance we can in terms of logistical help.

"It's like a bush fire," he added. "You think you've put it out and then it pops up somewhere else. It's going to be a constant thing."

The World Jewish Congress and other groups were very upset by the NATFHE motion.

"Any boycott call that is based on whether Israeli academics support their government's policy is like the AUT call last year – discriminatory and effectively an anti-Semitic act," Ronnie Fraser of Academic Friends of Israel said in a letter posted on the Bar-Ilan University website. Bar-Ilan was one of two Israeli universities specifically targeted by last year's resolution, while this year's NATFHE motion would affect all Israeli academic institutions.

Meanwhile, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East launched an online petition to oppose the resolution.

"Academic boycott actions are antithetical, not only to the principles of academic freedom, but also to the quest for peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict," the petition said. "Those who perpetuate and participate in such boycotts are separating themselves from the academic community as opposed to bringing it together to work for peace and support academic freedom."

Letters to NATFHE and AUT can be sent through http://www.ajcongress.org/Action-Alert.asp

The Scholars for Peace in the Middle East petition is available at http://www.spme.net/cgi-bin/display_petitions.cgi?ID=2.

*With files from Carolyn Blackman in Toronto*

Israel & the Jewish World

# Syrians won't release Eli Cohen's remains

**Continued from page 1**

Their parents hail from well-known Syrian Jewish families: on his mother's side, the Tawil family, on his father's the Gindi and Cohen families.

Writing in *Moment* magazine, Maurice described their early years in Alexandria as difficult.

"As Jews, we were double outcasts," he stated. "Egyptian Muslims were growing increasingly hostile toward Jews and the British, who ruled Egypt until 1954, did nothing to temper the discrimination. From our earliest childhood, we knew we were interlopers in Egypt and longed to create a place where we could truly belong."

Both brothers became ardent Zionists, with Eli joining the Zionist underground. While at university, studying electrical engineering, Eli and other Jews were continually persecuted by the Muslim Brotherhood, a forerunner to today's Islamic extremists.

Eli joined the Haganah underground and after the creation of the State of Israel, he remained in Egypt, where he was implicated in the Lavon Affair, an attempt by Israeli intelligence to sabotage relations between Egypt and the United States and Britain. Although questioned by Egyptian police, he was released. He eventually made his way to Israel and for several years, worked an an accountant and inspector for a chain of retail stores.

In 1959, he married Nadia Magled, and they soon had their first child, a daughter, Sophie.

Cohen was recruited by army intelligence and later was transferred to the Mossad. He was dispatched to Argentina, where he established his cover as Kamel Amin Sa'bet, a wealthy merchant of Syrian descent. He established good relations with the local Arab community and with expatriate Arabs. One was the Syrian military attaché, Amin el Hafiz, who would later become the country's president.

When he later moved to Syria, he became a confidant of the president and was able to obtain key intelligence about Syrian economic and military policy, Maurice said.

Maurice, for his part, was also recruited by Mossad and was given the job of cryptographer. During his tour of duty, he came across information provided by their man in Damascus, at first not realizing it originated with his brother. As far as the Cohen family knew, Eli was working for the Israeli government in Europe, purchasing spare computer parts and electronic equipment to be used for military purposes.

In Damascus, Eli circulated among the highest echelons of Syrian society. He was invited to attend the national convention of the ruling Ba'ath Party and he learned of Syria's plans to cut off Israeli water supply by diverting the headwaters of the Jordan River. Using information provided by Cohen, the Israeli Defence Forces bombed Syrian positions and put an end to the plan.

Syrian intelligence got wind of Cohen's espionage and he was arrested and tortured prior to his execution.

In 1968, three Israelis with ties to various intelligence branches attempted to smuggle Cohen's remains out of the country, but they were caught near the Lebanese border. In the mid-1970s, Israel captured several Syrian generals on the frontier and its offer to trade them for Cohen's remains was again turned down, Maurice said.

In the intervening years, Maurice Cohen sent a personal appeal to then Syrian president Hafez Assad through the president's British biographer, journalist Patrick Seale. In his letter to the Syrian leader, Cohen noted the pain Assad must have felt over the loss of his son in a car accident and the need to bury him properly.

Assad responded through an intermediary, saying Eli's remains would be returned "in good time," Cohen recounted, which he took to mean when the messiah arrives.

When Bashir Assad took over as Syrian president after his father's death, "we thought the son, educated as an eye doctor in London, would be more open. But because the government is done by ministers of his father and he's a puppet, he is too weak to send the remains," Cohen said.

Today, Cohen is hoping to gather 100,000 signatures on an online petition (www.elicohen.org) to be presented to Bashir Assad asking for the return of Cohen's remains. The number currently stands at upwards of 50,000.

He is also spearheading an effort to build a community centre in Ramat Gan in his brother's honour. An American support group – American Friends of the Eli Cohen Memorial, Inc. – has been established to raise funds.

Eli's widow, Nadia, who Maurice implored in his last letter to remarry but who has not, has also written an open letter to Bashir Assad, congratulating him on assuming the presidency and asking for the return to Israel of her husband's remains as a gesture of more harmonious relations between the two countries. She was turned down.

Maurice, who is now very ill and is being fed through a tube, said that for years "I have all the hope and I will do it [repatriate the body] in my life.

"I don't know how much I have to live. I suffered so much for that."

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## THE SILHOUETTE OF LAG B'OMER

**The outline of a young chassid can be seen against the glow of a large bonfire on Mount Meron last week during the celebration of Lag b'Omer.**

[RNS/Reuters photo]

# BEAUTY SHOP

By STACEY MICHAELS AND FRANCINE BIRKEN

*Dedicated in memory of Carol Wise.*

Beauty Shop is pleased to announce the addition of Francine Birken, a makeup artist with 25 years of experience. Over the years, she has applied makeup to hundreds of faces for all occasions.

**Beauty News:** As we approach the hot weather, the excitement we begin to feel brings a natural glow to all of our faces. Pamper yourself with the wonderful products we are about to share with you.

## STACEY'S TIPS

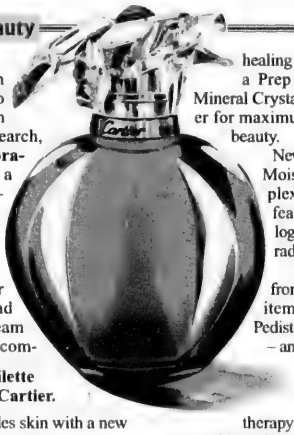
**SPA AND SKIN CARE:** The essence of natural beauty lies in the care of your complexion, not in the makeup you cover it with. If you have fresh-looking, healthy skin, makeup can be simple and easy to apply. Sunscreen is recommended year round, most importantly in the summer, to protect the layers of skin. Use a minimum SPF15 on your face and body.

**Chanel** introduces Rectifiance Intense Eye retexturizing line-correcting eye cream. This innovative cream smoothes lines and wrinkles around the eye area and begins correcting years of sun damage.

**Lancome Laboratories** has a new at-home Microdermabrasion system - Resurface-C Microdermabrasion Skin Polishing and Radiance Renewing System. This unique two-step system combines the benefits of an effective microdermabrasion treatment with the radiance-boosting and skin-texture improving ingredient, vitamin C.

Research has shown that calcium – when it is applied topically to the skin – helps to restore strength and density to mature, thin skin. Now, after a decade of intensive research, **Lancome Laboratories** unveils a skincare breakthrough – Platinéum Hydroxy (a)-Calcium. Try it today!

**Lise Watier** launches Lift and Firm, a day cream that provides a complete anti-aging lifting action. Formulated with the youth profiler complex, exclusive to **Lise Watier**, Lift and Firm provides skin with a new youthful sensation, firmness and tightness in an instant.



**Eau de Toilette Delices de Cartier.**

**NeoStrata** unveils Total Radiance Vitamin C Concentrate, which delivers the proven rejuvenating benefits of L-ascorbic acid to your skin. Its exclusive triple-action formula boosts skin clarity and enhances its elasticity, helping maintain a youthful complexion.

**Vichy Laboratoires** offers the new Lipocure Anti-Dimpling Decongesting Serum, a 14-day shock treatment that unlocks and visibly smoothes stubborn cellulite and dimpled areas on the thighs, buttocks and hips by 20 per cent. The serum works to stimulate the elimination of fatty deposits.

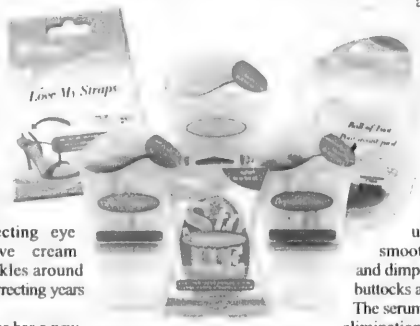
**Freeze 24-7** launches Skin Glacé, a daily detoxifying cleanser and mask that provides deep cleansing for maximum skin purification, detoxification and hydration. This ultra-rich, soothing cleanser and mask is perfect for all skin types.

**Caryl Baker Visage** has a new, innovative At-Home Microdermabrasion System that has been developed to provide healing and regenerative exfoliation and contains a Prep Treatment and a Microdermabrasion Mineral Crystal Treatment. Both products work together for maximum results to enhance the skin's natural beauty.

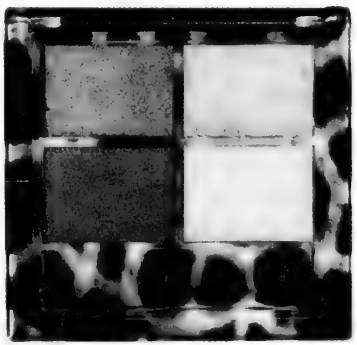
New at **Marcelle** is Hydra-C ComplexE 24H Moisturizing Gel-Cream and Hydra-C ComplexE 24H Hydrating Fluid. Both products feature a combination of the latest technological ingredients to keep skin hydrated and radiant throughout the day.

Spalina, a luxury footcare line, is new from **Airplus for Her**. The line includes five items for a complete foot beauty regimen: Pedistone – a double-sided pumice stone; Scrub – an exfoliant sugar scrub; Repair – a restorative heavy cream for cracked heels; Heal – super-hydrating heel cream; and a Spa Therapy Sock – an ultra-comfortable therapy sock. Don't miss these luxury products!

Boss Skin is the new male high-performance skin care line from the house of Boss by **Hugo Boss**. Boss Skin is made up of seven products, grouped under four simple categories: Clean – refreshing face wash and smoothing face scrub; Shave – performance shave gel and relaxing aftershave balm; Moisturise – instant moisture gel; and Specialty – perfecting skin serum and reviving eye gel.




**Airplus For Her foot products**



**Glamour Safari Eye Shadow Quartet.**

## FRANCINE'S TIPS

**FOUNDATION:** Choose a foundation shade that matches your tanned skin. Test the colour by applying it to the jaw and then blend into the neck area. Make sure to blend well over the entire face. If you are not one who bakes in the sun, choose a bronzing shimmer powder to give you that beautiful suntan look.

**Marcelle** introduces the Sheer Tint Fluid Moisturizer SPF15, which protects and evens out skin tones all in one step. The summer must-haves also include **Marcelle** Bronzing Pressed Powder Duo, which is offered in two shades of bronze to suit all skin tones. Its ultra-fine texture covers the skin with a soft tone of bronze and glistens with a rich gold shimmer.

**Lancome** has created a self-tanning gel for the body that protects against rub-off on clothes. Flash Bronzer Glow 'N Wear is a bronzer that dries in less than five minutes and shows a medium-glow tan in less than one hour.

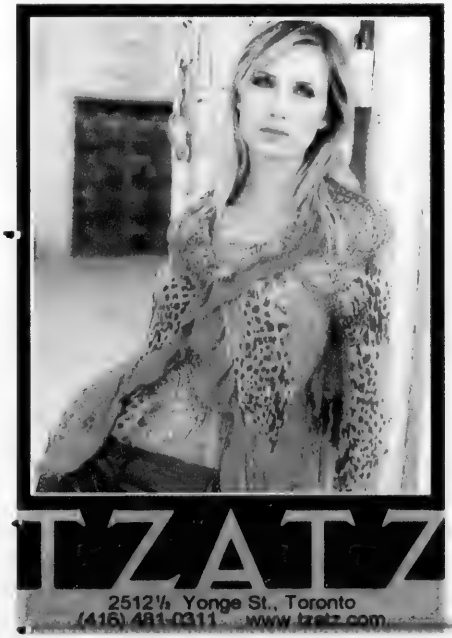
**EYES:** Eyes are the focal point of the face. Choose eye shadow colours that will suit the shape and colour of your eyes. Be sure to apply a beige highlighter on the brow bone, colour on the eyelid, and a darker colour on the corner to add depth. This summer, colours explore a wide range of greens, yellow/beiges and intense hues of violet, orange and gold.

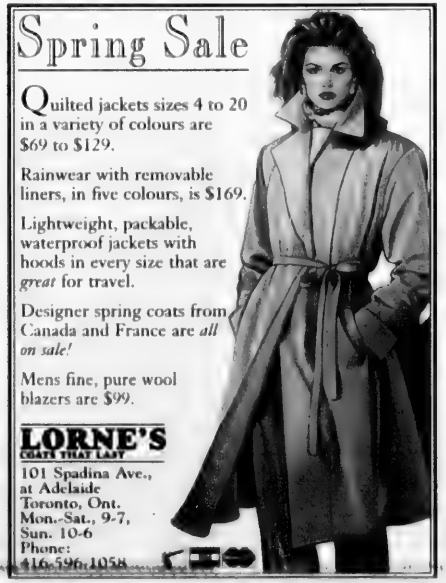
**Lise Watier** again delivers the beauty goodies with Glamour Safari Eye Shadow Quarter. It is packaged in a luxurious compact with a giraffe print. The colours are exotic, mysterious and intense and take care of all your needs. As a wonderful compliment to these outstanding shadows, **Lise Watier** introduces Eye Shine Jungle, a deep green eye liner with a hint of gold.

**Tom Ford Estee Lauder Collection** comes alive with The Eye Duo to complement varying skin tones. Azuree offers an understated selection of peach tones, Cap Bronzee comes in warm hues of sand and St. Tropee features exotic shades of mauves.

**Lancome** has created a high-tech case – round, fun, trendy and convenient eye shadow compact. Colour Design comes in 38 shades and five finishes: metallic, intense, shimmer, sheen and matte. Women can create various looks and become proficient in the blink of an eye.

**Continued on page 39**

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**Continued from page 38**

To create lush eyelashes coat the top and bottom lashes with **L'Oréal** Volume Shocking Mascara in Blackest Black. Give an extra coat to the top lashes only.

It doesn't stop there. **Lancome** introduces L'Extreme Waterproof Instant Extensions Lengthening Mascara, a unique formula that allows you to lengthen your lashes to extremes, without smudging or clumping, with 18 hour wear. A must for the brides to be!

## BEAUTY SHOP

By Stacey Michaels and Francine Birken

**BLUSH:** Gel and liquid blush are best to make the cheeks rosy. **MAC** See Thru Cheek Colour is a gel cheek stain that provides see-through translucent coverage. It is applied with a sponge tip applicator. This gel is a non-streaking, long-wearing, waterproof product. A must to try on hot summer days. When using a powder blush, be sure to clean brushes often to avoid any type of bacteria that can be transferred to the skin.

Sweetie Cake beauty products by MAC

**LIPS:** During the summer months, lips can get dry and burnt. Make sure to use a lip balm if exposed to the sun. Most lip products today contain a sunscreen of an SPF15 or higher. Use this daily to keep those lips in luscious condition. This summer, lip colours are vibrant red, pale pink and shades of orange.

**Lise Watier** adds three new inviting shades to its delicious Rouge Gourmand collection of lipsticks: Baie Sauvage, an uplifting pink, Petale de Rose, a soft and creamy rose; and finally, mouthwatering Peachy Cream. These fabulous lipsticks contain vitamin E and the famous Maxi-Lip©, which helps visibly plump lips, leaving them soft, pouty and moisturized. Too hard to resist!

**Lancome** introduces Juicy Tubes, an ultra-shiny moisturizing lip gloss available in four fascinating colours.

Energize your lips with **MAC** Sundressing/Colour lipsticks, iced in frost, pearl and shimmer. An interesting array of colours.

**Chanel** proudly reinvents lipstick with the introduction of a unique range, in Rouge Allure Luminous Satin Lipcolour. Scanty in design but maximum in coverage.

Boss Selection Eau de Toilette spray

**PROM TIME:** Girls, makeup is a very serious part of looking beautiful for prom night. You have chosen the perfect dress, the amazing accessories and your handsome date. Now make sure to choose the perfect makeup.

**MAC** introduces the limited edition of Sweetie Cake. The line consists of Eye Shadows x 4: 4 Sweetie Cakes – eye pencils, (Softsparkle, Pigments), nail lacquer, lipglass and petit-gloss. You are bound to knock him off his feet.

**FRAGRANCE:** Choose a fragrance based on the strength of your needs. In the summer months, try and wear a light scent during the day and a stronger scent for evening wear.

The exquisite gemstone bottle of **Parfums Cartier's** Delices de Cartier is an irresistible and delicious fragrance that combines freshness with sensuality. Stunning!

**Lacoste's** latest limited edition fragrance, Touch of Sun, was created with summer in mind. With feminine green accords, a fresh modern heart of rose, peony and jasmine, these wonderful ingredients evoke the radiance of sunset.

**Estee Lauder** introduces Pure White Linen, a fragrance that has a feeling of sunlit freshness. The soft spicy hints of white ginger and cardamom intensify the scent's sensation of cool, clear crispness.

**Michael Kors Beauty** introduces Island Michael Kors Fiji, a new destination in fragrance. It contains the Fijian tiare flower, the richness of tropical petals and the distinct quality of sparkling Polynesian waters.

The limited edition Ete by **Valentino** had created a fragrance to enhance a woman's femininity and beauty. It has a beautiful aroma of summer flowers. This elegant V-signature bottle is available exclusively at select Bay Stores.

For the modern man, **Chanel** introduces Allure Homme Sport. This fresh, sensual fragrance comes in a high-tech, attractive spray design.

**Hugo Boss Brand** presents Boss Selection, a high-end brand for the established man, bottling the smell of success and elegance. This remarkable scent combines grapefruit, mandarin and spicy pink peppercorn. This will launch exclusively at The Bay in June 2006.

The key to smelling good is finding a fragrance that you most enjoy! Have a great summer!

*For makeup consultations please e-mail Francine Birken fbirken@rogers.com*

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Arts & Travel

# The remarkable life of Gershon Iskowitz

By IRENA KARSHENBAUM
*Special to The CJN*

With Calgary booming, there are some remarkable things happening in the city's art scene.

Helen Zenith and her daughter, Tamar, recently scored a major coup for their gallery, and the city. They became the official western Canadian dealers for the late painter Gershon Iskowitz.

After years of building a relationship with the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation, Zenith got 12 of the painter's works – ranging in price from $10,000 to $35,000 – from his estate. The foundation released a few of the painter's works to help fund the Gershon Iskowitz Prize. The works were on sale at Zenith's gallery, the Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, from April 6 to May 6.

The Miriam Shiell Fine Art Gallery in Toronto is planning a similar exhibition and sale for eastern Canada in September 2006.

One week before the show's opening, the most expensive of the works, *Deep Mauve Painting #2, 1976*, a giant oil on canvas, selling for $35,000, was sporting a red dot beside it, which in art gallery parlance means sold. "There are people who come to my gallery on a regular basis," Zenith says. "There was one person who was particularly interested and said as soon as you get them in I want to see them."

To see Iskowitz's works is to see a completely fresh and new vision of the Canadian landscape, one that is bursting with colour and innocence and one that is quite surprising considering it sprang from the imagination of a Holocaust survivor.

Born in Kielce, Poland, in 1921, Iskowitz survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald to come to Toronto in 1949, where his first major obstacle was to survive his extended family's lack of understanding for his calling. Adele Freedman recounts in her 1982 book *Gershon Iskowitz: Painter of Light* how his Aunt Frieda once cautioned her young nephew, "Look, Gershon, that man is an artist," pointing to a drunk lying in the gutter. Friedman wrote, "They believed anything was preferable to becoming an artist, even selling nylons or buttons. At least those were steady jobs and an ambitious person could make something of them."

Helen Zenith with paintings by Gershon Iskowitz. [Irena Karshenbaum photo]

Iskowitz was unable to tolerate his family's lack of support, quickly striking out on his own. For the next 10 years, he lived with artist friends and in an endless series of boarding houses. His meagre existence didn't seem to bother him. His relative freedom and his expanding circle of supportive friends allowed him to become prolific. "He found something that could take the place of what he lost," writes Freedman.

Iskowitz lost his entire immediate family: his parents, his brother, Itchen, and his beloved sister, Devorah, who perished in Treblinka, and his brother, Yosl, who disappeared at Auschwitz.

What might have ensured Iskowitz's survival was his endless passion for his art that never dwindled even during his internment. He managed to scrape together whatever art supplies he could: "Bits of brown paper and German inks bribed from the guards, coffee substitute, stray pieces of cardboard," Freedman writes, and he would draw at night the madness he witnessed around himself.

"I did it for myself," he recounts. "I needed it for my sanity, to forget about my hunger. I needed it to calm down." He hid his drawings in the floorboards of the barracks. He wasn't the only one. According to the *Art of the Holocaust*, more than 30,000 works of art survived by being either stuffed in various crannies around the camps or by being smuggled out.

While imprisoned, Iskowitz even managed to secure a couple of commissions, drawing the wife and children of one of the guards who was "bored with killing" for which he got a loaf of bread and a salami.

Iskowitz left Buchenwald with two of the drawings he did in the camps and a sense of an awakening. "He had discovered inside himself," Freedman writes, "a tremendous will to live, a love of life, which was inseparable from his need to keep drawing and painting. It is his experiences at Auschwitz and Buchenwald that allow him to say, now, that 'if you have got talent, you have got everything.'"

His art saved him again. After being rejected by the Canadian consul for having a limp, he met a certain Miss Shapiro who worked for the Joint Distribution Committee and arranged for a second interview. Iskowitz listened patiently as the Canadian consul rambled, drunk, and finally asked for a pen and paper. He did a quick line drawing on the spot of the consul and presented it to him. The consul was so stunned, he offered Iskowitz immediate entry into Canada, "You're going to be a famous person in Canada," he said.

The drunken consul clearly had vision because that is exactly what would eventually happen.

Iskowitz went on to represent Canada at the prestigious XXXVI Venice Biennial in Venice, Italy, in 1972 and his works were exhibited during his lifetime, a rare honour, at the National Gallery of Canada.

Iskowitz was faithfully married to his work and worked hard to evolve as an artist over his life. For the first 10 years after World War II, Iskowitz exorcised his demons through sketches and paintings that were dark and troubled. But with time and trips to the Ontario countryside, his vision began to change. He began to paint his adopted country with more colour and more abstraction.

But it was a single event, a simple helicopter ride in 1967, over Churchill, Man., thanks to a $1,750 grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, when his vision changed completely. The experience caused him to paint nature as if from above, through wild, childlike blotches of colour. These vibrant explosions, ironically, were born at night.

From 1960 onward, Iskowitz was living in his own home complete with a studio on Spadina Avenue in Toronto. He spent his days in cafés and restaurants, strolling through the streets and venturing into the numerous galleries daily to see what other artists were up to. Come midnight he would return home and paint until dawn his glorious visions of nature as he saw them. "My paintings are not abstract, they are real, they are very very much real, I see those things…I paint what I see," he said.

Iskowitz also gave back to the arts community by teaching, mentoring young artists and setting up the $25,000 Gershon Iskowitz Prize, considered one of the most prestigious visual arts awards in Canada.

Iskowitz has much in common with his younger contemporary, Elie Wiesel, who also survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald, kept silent about the horrors for 10 years and then spoke to the world through his first novel, *Night*, published in 1960, which led him to write more than 40 books and win the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize.

Zenith, whose parents are also Holocaust survivors, is thrilled to be bringing in Iskowitz's works to her gallery. She first discovered Iskowitz in 1975 while a fine arts student at the University of Calgary, "Knowing his background… I saw this wonderful burst of colour and energy, and I was in art school and it totally defined my direction."

Iskowitz, who died in 1988, left behind the testament that the human spirit can renew itself and happiness is once again possible after experiencing almost unimaginable horrors. Wiesel followed *Night* in 1961 with *Dawn*. Similarly, Iskowitz managed to see and convey beauty again, proof that hope springs eternal.

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# *Spielberg's* Munich *questions the morality of conflict*

By JOSEPH SERGE
*Arts Editor*

Three movies of note have recently been released on DVD.

*Munich* is Steven Spielberg's movie about the Israeli covert effort to assasinate the leaders of Black September, the group that claimed responsibility for the murder of Israeli athletes in Munich in 1972.

**Golda Meir plots Israel's response in Steven Spielberg's *Munich*.**

Some criticized it for being sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, indeed Spielberg was rebuked as "no friend of Israel." Actually, though, Spielberg's love for Israel is highly apparent, especially in the scene when the main characters's mother, played by Gila Almagor, tells her son Avner, "Whatever it took, whatever it takes, we have a place on earth at last."

Spielberg goes though great lengths, also, to show how careful the Israeli team was to avoid collateral damage. One scene shows them painfully trying to abort a bomb explosion on one suspect when they see his daughter in the house.

At first the movie moves slowly, almost repetitiously, from one bomb strike to another. It is only towards the last half that we see some character development as Avner, the lead Israeli agent, begins to grapple with the ethics of what he is doing, and becomes increasingly paranoid.

In the end, one suspects, Spielberg is questioning the whole morality of both the Middle East problem, as well as other current global conflicts. Do attacks and counter-reprisals settle anything? Are they worth it?

Will there ever be peace?

****

Lajos Koltai's *Fateless* is a dark, shocking film about the Holocaust as it unfolded in Hungary. Based on the semi-autobiographical book by Imre Kertesz, it follows a young teenager from his home in Budapest through to Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

Like any teen, Gyuri is a happy-go-lucky resourceful kid interested in the girl upstairs. But his arrest by a zealous Hungarian policeman begins a chain of cataclysmic events that will alter his life forever.

Marcell Nagy plays Gyuri with a lot of depth. His transformation from a hapless young lad to a beaten, yet determined young man full of life experience is remarkable.

The cinematography is stark and uncompromising. Nothing is held back in depicting the horror of the camps. This is a very thoughtful Holocaust film.

****

If the previous two films are too serious for your liking, then *The Producers* may be your cup of tea.

For a production that did so well on stage, the movie version of Mel Brooks' film was, ironically, a box-office flop. Susan Stroman's film seems stilted in comparison to the musical and to the original 1968 movie.

Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick reprise their Broadway roles as Max Bialystock, the greedy, amoral producer, and Leo Bloom, the young accountant who hatches up the scheme to profit from producing a flop.

Bialystock settles on producing *Springtime for Hitler*, a musical about Hitler and Eva. Will Ferrel's role as the German playwright is delivered with his trademark over-the-top exaggeration, which fits this role perfectly.

Uma Thurman is equally entertaining as the sexpot Ulla.

This is a fun family movie, although I found some of the musical numbers dragged on a bit.

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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## JEWISH FOLK CHOIR PRESENTS 80th SPRING CONCERT

**The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir** celebrates its 80th annual spring concert with the première of a new work for choir and klezmer band and a new medley reflecting eight decades of music-making.

The 30-voice choir premières *In Amerike* (*In America*), by Winnipeg composer **Sid Robinovitch**, for choir and klezmer band. The popular Toronto quintet **Beyond the Pale** joins the choir in the new work, and also gives its own short set of instrumental music.

Robinovitch based the composition on a two-volume novel in verse by Montreal Yiddish poet **Sholem Shtern**. The piece was chosen, in part, out of a desire to honour the immigrants who founded the choir in the '20s.

**Alexander Veprinsky** conducts the choir. The soloists are **Miriam Eskin**, **Belva Spiel**, **Mitch Smolkin** and **Herman Rombouts**. Pianist is **Lina Zemelman**. Tickets $23-$19; children 12 and under free. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Sunday, June 4, 7 p.m. For details, please phone 416-665-7766 (business hours), 416-636-0936 (evenings, weekends) or e-mail tjfolk choir@sympatico.ca.

* * *

**Sister of Sheynville:** The high-energy female sextet **Sisters of Sheynville** have performed their upbeat Yiddish, English and original material in many sold-out houses.

Band founders **Lenka Lichtenberg** and **Isabel Fryszberg** began working together in 2004. After a year of learning from the rich harmonic stylings of the **Barry Sisters**, the duo established the band with **Fern Lindzon** on piano and vocals, **Lorie Wolf** on drums, **Kinneret Sagee** on clarinet, and **Rachel Melas** on bass.

The band celebrates its first birthday with a performance at the Nadal JCC's Al Green Theatre on Thursday May 25, 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $12 in advance, $15 at the door. 416 924-6277, ext. 143. E-mail harriet@mnjcc.org.

* * *

**Jewish Jazz:** After a lengthy absence from Toronto, saxophonist **John Zorn** is preparing to perform with his group, **Acoustic Masada**, at the TD Canada Trust Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival in June.

Desirous of creating a new radical Jewish sound that would be relevant today, Zorn merged traditional Jewish scales with the sound of **Ornette Coleman** to create Masada. Besides Zorn, the band consists of **Dave Douglas** on trumpet, **Greg Cohen** on drums and **Joey Baron** on drums.

The festival is celebrating its 20th anniversary with more than 1,500 musicians performing across the city. It runs for 10 days, June 23 to July 2. John Zorn's Acoustic Masada performs at the Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave. June 28, 7 p.m. Tickets are $55 & $40. 416-870-8000, www.ticketmaster.ca

* * *

**Yiddish Poems:** *Songs to a Moonstruck Lady: Women in Yiddish Poetry* is a bilingual collection of Yiddish poetry by and about women, compiled and translated by **Barnett Zumoff**. The volume presents masterly translations of 85 Yiddish poems by women poets and 60 Yiddish poems about women by male poets. The hardcover book is available from Tsar Publications. 416-483-7191 or www.tsarbooks.com

* * *

**Names in the News:** Toronto publisher-editor **Cynthia Good**, formerly of Penguin Canada and more recently of Humber's School of Creative and Performing Arts, received an honorary degree last week from Mount Alison University in New Brunswick… Violinist **Maxim Vengerov** plays with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in two upcoming **Shostakovich** concerts, May 31 and June 1. And violinist **Itzhak Perlman** fiddles some **Beethoven**, **Gabrielli** and **Bruch** with the TSO on June 10 (416-593-4828, www.tso.ca)… Toronto singer-songwriter **Jamie Wayne**'s recent CD for children, *When I Grow Up*, is reportedly being purchased by school libraries all over Canada. Wayne opens for country-bluegrass performer Whiskey Jack at Hugh's Room in Toronto on May 25.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• *Hit the Road: Holy Land*, a five-part TV series produced by Crossroads Christian Communications, airs May 22 to 26 as part of the Christian program *100 Huntley Street*. Producers of the series, which offers a fresh and hip approach to travelling in Israel, received assistance from the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO). The program "is instrumental in reaching out to its viewers, encouraging Christians from across Canada and even the United States to visit Israel – the Holy Land," said **Dani Shahal**, the IGTO director in Toronto.

• **The Paul Gellman Band**, with guest **Richard Keelan**, appears at Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W., Wednesday, May 31, 8:30 p.m. $15 in advance, $17 at the door. www.paulgellman.com

• The Hello Again Collective presents the Canadian première of the adult musical *Hello Again* by **Michael John Lachiusa**. The story, based on a work by **Arthur Schnitzler**, features 10 nameless characters who explore the joys of sex, love and intimacy, jumping from bed to bed and decade to decade as they intimately examine the painful secrets of love. Tarragon Theatre Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Ave. $22; Sunday PWYC. Previews begin June 6, runs June 8 to July 1. 416-531-5018

• Author **Bonnie Burstow** reads from her novel *The House on Lippincott* at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. June 1, 7:30 p.m. Free admission.


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# Hebrew theatre comes to Leah Posluns

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — Milli Raviv loved the theatre, but her practical parents did not want their daughter to become an actress and insisted that she train for a profession with a steady income.

She became a dentist, and so did the man she literally fell in love with on stage, Eli Raviv. They met in their native Israel while acting in the same play; she had the role of his girlfriend.

Raviv is still practising dentistry, as well as working as a natural health consultant, but with her two daughters now grown, she has returned to the theatre.

*Volunteers make up Montreal Israeli Theatre*

She is the founder and director of the Montreal Israeli Theatre, an all-volunteer, independent troupe she created two years ago that performs in Hebrew. The company's aim is to produce "socially and politically relevant" plays, softened by humour.

The approximately 15 members all have day jobs outside the theatre or are students. Some, like the Ravivs, who have lived here 15 years, acted in Israel. The artistic director is Shimon Aviel, a Herzliah High School teacher.

"We just do it for the love of the theatre. We are like a family," she said. Raviv also wants to introduce Montrealers to contemporary Israeli plays and show another side of Israel that does not make the news headlines.

The troupe presents its first major production, *Rabbi Kameah*, June 5 at 8 p.m. in the 850-seat Salle Pierre Mercure of the Centre Pierre Peladeau, with English and French supertitles. *Rabbi Kameah* will be presented at Leah Posluns Theatre in Toronto June 15.

The playwright, Shmuel Hasfari, one of the leading theatre personalities in Israel, will be present to introduce the play and take part in a discussion afterward.

Inspired by Moliere's satire on religious fanaticism, *Tartuffe*, Hasfari's central character is a con man who sells charms that purportedly can produce miracles to gullible believers.

Rabbi Kameah (Eli Raviv) finds an ideal victim in Yaacov Suissa (Daniel Benlolo), a wealthy, middle-aged and secular businessman who turns his back on everything he achieved in his life when he falls under the rabbi's spell.

**Milli Raviv is the founder and director of the Montreal Israeli Theatre.**

The comedy has been popular with Israeli audiences, who are familiar with the divide between Orthodoxy and secularism.

Milli and daughters Tal, 19, and Nicole, 12, also have parts. The family also acts in the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre. Eli, incidentally, is a Sephardi of Moroccan origin who has learned Yiddish.

The Montreal Israeli Theatre rehearses evenings in space at Decarie Square made available by its owner, David Azrieli, who lived in Israel for some years and has considerable business interests there today.

Although the subject of *Rabbi Kameah* may sound contentious, Raviv believes the show will be an opportunity for Jews of different religious backgrounds to get "together to debate, discuss and laugh." She is also hoping that non-Jews will also attend.

The theatre's motto is "changing the world through theatre, one play at a time." Raviv believes that through theatre, people will gain an appreciation of Israel and its people that is quite apart from politics and conflict.

"By viewing our plays, the Jewish and non-Jewish communities will have an opportunity to better understand the Israeli life and mentality. Maybe they will leave with their minds changed about us. We are the only Hebrew-speaking theatre in Canada with simultaneous translation in English and French," she said.

Any proceeds from *Rabbi Kameah* will go to the Jewish General Hospital for the purchase of equipment.

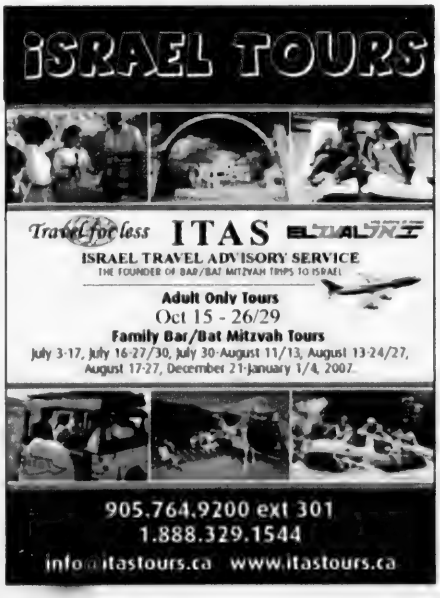
The company's first play was *Best Friends* by Anat Gov, a comedy presented by Milli and Rachel Yane at Concordia University's Oscar Peterson Hall last November, with English supertitles, to a sellout crowd of more than 500. The play explores the long-term friendship among three women.

Raviv is confident there are enough people in Montreal interested in Israeli theatre to fill a hall of the Mercure's size.

She was instrumental in bringing a professional production, a family comedy titled *I Raised Children and They Betrayed Me*, starring popular actor Ze'ev Revach as the old-fashioned Moroccan patriarch, to the same theatre last year. Although there was no translation, more than 1,000 tickets were sold, and a second show was added.

Raviv's dream is to develop the Montreal Israeli Theatre into a touring company, and she is eager to take reservations in North America and elsewhere in the world.

For tickets to the Leah Posluns show on June 15, call Shula, 905-881-1826. The theatre's website address is www.mtlisraelitheatre.com.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Books & Authors

# A tale of pickpockets and Toronto in the '30s

By BILL GLADSTONE
*Special to The CJN*

***The City Man* by Howard Akler, Coach House Books.**

Howard Akler has made an auspicious literary debut with his first novel, *The City Man*, a crisply written tale that conjures up the look and feel of Toronto in the 1930s.

The story focuses on *Toronto Star* reporter Eli Morenz who, freshly returned from a convalescence in the country, writes a riveting series about a busy gang of pickpockets. His confidential source is Mona Kantor, a female Jewish pickpocket who teaches him the secrets of the trade as well as its peculiar underworld slang. Words like "prat" and "whiz" and "bates" become part of the book's core vocabulary.

Howard Akler

Mona works with a partner named Chesler. Delicately manoeuvring through the streaming crowds at Union Station, she helps get their intended victim into position so his lightning fingers can make the pinch.

Akler depicts their silent choreography as a complex dance in which they communicate by subtle gestures. Although he told me he sees pickpocketing as "a real legitimate, gentle art," it's a form of crime that doesn't always pay – as when Chesler lifts the promisingly thick wallet of a chassidic Jew only to find it filled with photos of naked women.

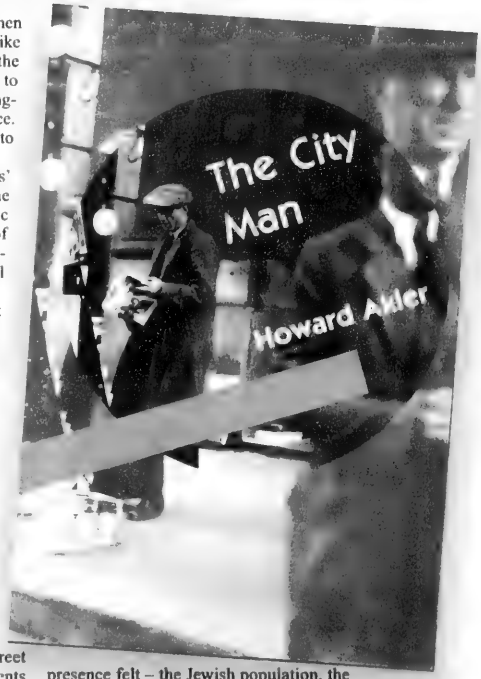
Chesler's relationship with his moll is stilted except when they're working, but Eli and Mona seem to fit together like hand and glove: they soon need each other as much as the city's dailies need crime stories to sell papers. They cling to their torrid clandestine relationship even as it is increasingly threatened by pressure from the newsroom and the police. Although it would be so easy, neither party seems ready to betray the other.

As Akler explores the minute corners of his characters' interior worlds, he offers fleeting views of the city that can be exhilarating. His spare poetic style bears affinities to the poetic prose of Michael Ondaatje as well as the hard-boiled detective fiction of '30s crime writer Dashiell Hammett.

The subtlety of the writing and the constant need to process and interpret the language remind us how subjective the act of reading actually is. Inevitably, every reader brings something different to the page. A minimalist with a healthy aversion to extraneous verbiage, the writer crafts his scenes like intimate snapshots of a much larger world that cannot be fully realized without the reader's imagination.

Born in the city 37 years ago, Akler writes of Toronto with reverence. Three of his grandparents came here early in the century and the fourth was born here in 1908; his father grew up on the very streets and era featured in *The City Man*. Thus, he explains that he's "reinventing and re-imagining" a setting central to his family history.

"Toronto became identifiable to me as a modern city, as the city I recognize, in the '30s," he says, citing Union Station, Maple Leaf Gardens and several Bay Street skyscrapers as among the familiar architectural monuments that rose around that period. "It was also the era when the early waves of immigrants were really starting to make their presence felt – the Jewish population, the Italian population. Toronto was starting to lose some of its British flavour."




Akler grew up in the Lawrence-Bathurst area and graduated from Ryerson's journalism program; he now lives on the edge of the Annex. He worked as a freelance journalist for years, supplementing his income by working in a bookstore. He is co-author of a previous non-fiction book, *Toronto: The Unknown City*, a travel guide published by a Vancouver press in 2003.

When he began the first draft of his novel about eight years ago – "it took years to write, for such a small book" – he envisioned it as a true-crime story involving an actual Toronto murder from the Depression. Eventually, he grew bored with his main characters and jettisoned them in favour of his secondary characters, who became his protagonists.

"So much of the image that I had of Toronto was 'Toronto the Good' and I don't think it was all that good," he says, in explaining what attracted him to the criminal underclass. "I think there was a whole range of characters that were unexplored."

Even so, he acknowledges that pickpockets are about the most genteel sort of criminals imaginable, very different than the truly violent gangsters and criminal types often featured in American crime fiction. In fact, pickpockets are often sneered at in criminal circles, he contends: "Bank robbers look down on them, safecrackers look down on them, even loan sharks look down on them." For all their gentility, however, Akler's pickpockets seem suited to their setting because "despite some evidence to the contrary these days, Toronto has never been that violent of a city."

*The City Man* has been nominated for two prestigious literary awards so far – the Books in Canada/ Amazon first-novel award and the Commonwealth Writers first-novel award for Canada/ Caribbean region. The book has also been optioned as a feature film and Akler has been commissioned to write the screenplay.

Meanwhile, it seems that his love affair with his native city will continue. "I've started another novel, but it's on the back burner until I finish with the [film] script," he says. "The next novel is set in Toronto in the '70s, and it's another attempt to re-imagine my city."

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# Alli's Journey helps young adults face cancer

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Alli Shapiro and her mother, Pam Shainhouse Shapiro, don't want other people to go through what they have experienced for the last seven years.

Especially not alone.

When Alli was 19 and in her first year at Ryerson University, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes. Since then, Alli, now 26, has had radiation and a stem cell transplant, and she's now undergoing experimental chemotherapy and taking medicines to regulate her condition.

"Every day is a struggle," she said.

She considers herself lucky that her family, particularly her mother, and good friends, have helped her through.

But many of the young people she has met over the years don't have that, she said. "One friend of mine came here for a job. Her family is in Manitoba."

She and her mother decided to found Alli's Journey, a non-profit organization that raises funds for critical care, counselling and assistance for young adults, 18 to 35, who are battling cancer, especially those with no support.

It really hit home for her, she remembers, during the SARS crisis in 2003. "No caregivers were allowed in, and everyone was dealing with things alone. I was an old pro at getting therapy, but there were kids of 16 and 18 who were there for the first time."

Princess Margaret Hospital, where Alli has been having treatment, has started Healing Beyond the Body, a chemo buddy program that will train volunteers to be with and support young people through cancer treatment. Alli's Journey is holding a fundraising event to help this project.

*Take My Hand – An Evening of Musical Celebration and Mentorship* will take place at the Toronto Centre for the Arts' George Weston Recital Hall, on June 1 at 8 p.m. It will feature the Canada Pops Orchestra, Michael Burgess, Jackie Richardson, Guido Basso and Bob Egan from Blue Rodeo, under the musical direction of David Warrack.

Pam Shainhouse Shapiro said the organization also plans to fund other projects.

"The next project might be a room at Gilda's Club [a support facility for cancer patients] for young people, or help for Wellspring, another support facility at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, to have more programs for young people."

The years between 18 and 35, Alli said, are a time when people are just starting to live – getting mortgages, starting relationships, choosing careers. Instead, cancer patients are suffering.

Despite all her treatments and therapies, Alli has managed to graduate from Ryerson in theatre production "with a high grade point average."

Best of all, two years ago she got married to her "quite remarkable" husband Philip Amar, who is "continuing the journey with me," she says.

Pam considers the couple's relationship "the ultimate love affair."

Tickets, which range from $100 to $180, are available through Ticketmaster, 416-872-1111 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

For more information, visit www.allisjourney.ca.

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# Walk/Run set for colon cancer research

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

The National Colorectal Cancer Campaign (NCCC) is urging you to "Put Your Butt on the Line" and support its 10th annual Body N'Soul Walk/Run for Colon Cancer Research.

The event, which includes a five-kilometre walk or a 10-kilometre run, will take place June 4 at the East Don Parkland at Leslie Street and Sheppard Avenue.

Amy Lerman-Elmaleh, who at 19 lost her mother to the disease, and her aunt Bunnie Schwartz, whose husband Howard died after a long battle with colon cancer, founded the NCCC in 1996.

"We don't want people to go through this experience, and we want them to be screened so that they don't lose loved ones," Lerman-Elmaleh said.

Amy Lerman-Elmaleh

The NCCC has raised more than $2 million since its founding through the Walk/Run, its annual golf tournament (held in July), and its annual gala dinner (held in September).

Getting young people involved is a major goal for Lerman-Elmaleh and Schwartz, and they have incorporated a family fun day into the Walk/Run.

"The place is full of kids, strollers and dogs," Lerman-Elmaleh said, and everyone can enjoy clowns, bouncy castles, pony rides, and games with prizes. Participants also get a loot bag that includes a T-shirt and a water bottle.

The NCCC notes that colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in North America for both men and women. It's also one of the most preventable, provided proper and early screening detects it soon enough.

Screening is best done through a colonoscopy, where a light is passed through the rectum and colon to detect polyps, which can be precursors to full-blown cancer.

The NCCC and the Canadian Cancer Society advises colonoscopies for anyone over 50, or anyone over 30 with a family history of colorectal cancer.

The NCCC has established fellowships and research chairs, financed state-of-the-art equipment, and supported research initiatives at many facilities, including Sunnybrook Cancer Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and Toronto General Hospital, as well as the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

Its Wendy Bear campaign is named after Wendy Sittler, wife of hockey star Darryl Sittler, who lost her battle with colon cancer. Sales of the $20 teddy bear provide patient support, such as the purchase of special equipment, palliative care and professional psychological services.

Darryl Sittler, honorary chair of the NCCC, will be at the June 4 event.

Registration on the day of the event is $25 per person or $50 per family, or you can pre-register online for $15 per person and $40 per family. Tax receipts will be issued. If you have raised $150 through sponsorships or any other way, registration is free.

For more information or to register, call 416-785-0449, or toll-free at 1-888-571-8547, or visit www.coloncancercanada.ca.

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248 DAY CARE WANTED
250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE
255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE
258 HEALTHCARE WANTED
259 SENIORS
260 BUSINESS PERSONALS
265 PEOPLE SEARCH
270 PERSONALS
273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES
275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED
279 PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY
280 ANNOUNCEMENTS
290 LOST & FOUND
295 PETS
300 ARTICLES FOR SALE
305 ARTICLES WANTED
313 BOATS
315 CARS
320 CONTENTS SALE
325 GARAGE SALE

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

345 ACCOUNTING
350 APPLIANCES
355 AUDIO-VISUAL SALES/REPAIRS
357 AUTOMOTIVE
358 BRIDAL
365 CARPENTRY
368 CARPETS
370 CATERING
372 CHUPPAHS
375 CLEANING/CLEANING SUPPLIES
379 CLOCKS/WATCHES
380 CLOTHING
382 COUNSELLING
385 COMPUTER
386 DANCING
387 DECORATING
390 DRIVING
392 DRY CLEANING/LAUNDRY
394 EDUCATION
395 ELECTRICAL
396 ELECTRONICS
400 ENTERTAINMENT
402 FINANCIAL
404 FITNESS & WEIGHT LOSS
405 FURNITURE
406 GARAGE DOORS
407 GIFTS
410 HEALTH & BEAUTY
412 HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING
415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS
416 HOME INSPECTION
419 INTERNET SERVICE
420 INVITATIONS/PRINTING/CALLIG
425 JEWELLERY
427 JUDAICA
430 LEASING
431 LANDSCAPING/LAWNCARE
432 LAWYERS
433 LESSONS
434 LIMOUSINE/TAXI
435 LIQUIDATION
438 LOCKSMITH
439 MAKE UP
440 MISCELLANEOUS
442 MUSICAL SERVICES
443 MORTGAGES
445 MOVING
449 PEST CONTROL
450 PAINTING/WALLPAPERING
452 PARTY SERVICES
455 PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
476 SATELLITE & EQUIPMENT
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
512 WAITERING SERVICES
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW SERVICES
550 WORKSHOPS

# Forest Hill

**Real Estate Inc. Realtor**

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

### CENTRAL PROPERTIES

**SPECTACULAR EXECUTIVE/FOREST HILL**
$1,549,000 Outstanding Design & Finish. Built '98 4+1 Bdrm, 6 Bath, 5 Fp., W/O to Deck & Grdn. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

**LOCATION LOCATION NEAR UCC $1,279,000**
5+2 Bdrm, Centre Hall, Living Room, Wine Cellar, Den, Private Garden & Drive w/Gar., Fin Bsmt. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

**54 ALEXANDRA WOOD! FAB 50X132'!**
$1,165K! N/Glencairn! Build Your Dream In This Most Sought After Local! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**BALMORAL ESTATES BEST LOCATION $959,000.**
Stunning 4+1bdrm. Excellent design+finishes. Beautiful finished basement with walkout to great yard. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

**ELEGANT VICTORIAN DUPLEX – PRIME ANNEX $925,000**
Main Residence (3 Bdrms), Rear Res (2 Bdrm), Loft Ceilings, Reno'd, Double Garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**IMMACULATE UPPER VILLAGE HOME**
50 x 125.58 ft. Centre Hall Plan, 3 Bdrms, 3 Baths, Finished Bsmt, Garage, Eat-in Kitchen. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**451 GLENGROVE AVENUE! NOW $659K!**
East Of Bathurst! Value Packed 5Bdrm 3Bth! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! Fab 41x140'! Walk To Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**AVENUE ROAD & WILSON/BEAUTIFUL $569,000**
All renovated 1+1 bdrm. Bre SOLD g 30 x 110' Landscaped lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

**416 KENNETH AVENUE! YONGE N/FINCH!**
$499K! Fab Curb Appeal! Spac'us 2St, 3+1Bdrm, 2Bth! Mn Fam O/L's Gorg'us 31x135'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416 226-1987

**111 GLOUCESTER GROVE! 27X125'!**
$299K! Eglinton S/Allen Rd! Developers Take Note Of This Opportunity! Sandon Schwartben** 416-226-1987

### BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

**266 MAPLEHURST AVENUE! FAB 30X120'!**
$369k! Bayview N/Sheppard! Rare Lot W/Private Drive! Build Approx 2400'! Don't Miss! Sandon Schwartzben** 416 226-1987

### CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

**10 DELISLE AVE ! STUNNING 2BDRM 2BTH!**
$599k! Yonge N/St Clair! Gorg'us East Facing Ste. W/Terrace+ Prkg+Locker! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**500 GLENCAIRN AVENUE! TOTAL RENO!**
$389K! Amazing 2Bdrm 2Bth! Hi-Tech Kosher Kit! Marble, Granite, Hrdwd+2Car Prkg! Wow! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**YONGE/ EGLINTON PENTHOUSE SUITE**
1150 sq.ft. $325,000. 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Solarium, Ensuite, Laundry. 1 Parking. Walk to Everything! Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**2 COVINGTON RD - BATHURST/LAWRENCE**
$274,900 Renovated 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath Suite. Open Balcony. 1 Parking, 1 Locker. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**778 SHEPPARD AVE.W! 2+1BDRM 2BTH!**
$254K! Just W/Bathurst! Designer S/E Corner Ste. W/Terrace+2 Car Prkg! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**1 KING ST W. NEW CONDO HOTEL $263,000**
553 Sq. ft. Partially Furnished. Owner Occupy, Rent Out or Use as Office Space. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**ORIOLE/ KILBARRY- COOP APT. $224,900**
Charming 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Eat-in Kitchen, Hardwood Flooring Throughout. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**2 NEPTUNE DRIVE! AT BAYCREST!**
$159K! Seniors Bldg. W/Fab Amenities! Impeccable 1Bdrm 1Bth S/W Ste! Immediate! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

### RENTAL PROPERTIES

**BATHURST/ EGLINTON UPPER 4-PLEX**
$1500/mo. 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1 Car Parking at Rear, Renovated in '02. June 1. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

**www.foresthill.com**

## SALLY ROSEN
## 905-764-7111

**BATHURST & SHEPPARD**
3 bdrm huge sidesplit, 2 car garage, 60 'x 150' lot. Completely renovated, 3 baths, family room, rec room, huge lot. Steps to all amenities.

**OLD FOREST HILL**
Elegance & grandeur. 5 bdrm, 3 baths, family room, 12' ceilings, lrge garden, w/o from kitchen, 2 car gar. See it–love it!

**NEW WESTMINSTER & CLARK**
Great 3 bdrm townhome, 3 baths, super location.

**CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP**

## SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

**SHEPPARD/ALLEN ROAD**
Large bungalow, next to commercial plaza, 6 rooms + finished basement, double garage, 56' x 179' lot, steps to subway.

**CLARK/YONGE CONDO**
Corner unit, 1,855 sq ft, 2 bedroom + den, living & dining comb, parquet floors, balcony, laundry ensuite, 2 parking, locker, move-in condition.

**416-633-7373**

# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

# ALAN NEWTON

**REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR**

### HOUSES FOR SALE

**BATHURST/CENTRE "WESTMOUNT"**
Approx 3200 Sq.ft, Large 4 Bdrms, Main floor Family Room & Library, Cathedral Ceilings, Extra's Galore!! Shows Great!! On a pool size lot!! Asking 519,000. Call *Ted Waxman

* * *

**BATHURST/STEELES**
Beautiful Home In High Demand Area Thornhill, 4 Bdrms, 3 Baths, Hardwood, Granite, French Doors, Fenced Yard, Inground Pool, Extra's Galore. Asking $499,900. Call *Larry Wronzberg

* * *

**YONGE/YORK MILLS**
5+3 Bdrms, Stunning Home, Great Location! Interlock, Fenced Yard, Inground Pool, Wine Cellar, Exercise Room, Extra's Galore. A Must See! Asking $1,599,000. Call *Larry Wronzberg

* * *

**BATHURST/CENTRE**
Fab. Home, 4 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2 Car garage, Steps to all amenities, Thousand $$$ spent on Reno's, Gleaming maple hardwood Floors, Luxury Bathroom Accessories & Vanities, Beautiful Lay-Out. Asking $489,000. Call *Mila Gurfinkel

* * *

**YONGE/GAMBLE**
Exquisite 4 bedroom home with finished basement. Upgraded kitchen with crown mouldings. Approx. 2400 sq. ft., Appliances, CAC, Extras galore! Must See! Call *Jerome Schrier

* * *

### CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**BATHURST/STEELES**
Approx 1500 Sq.ft, Large 2 Bdrms, Main Floor Family Room & Solarium, Eat-in Kitchen, Locker & Parking, Close to all amenities, Must See!!! Asking $212,000. Call *Ted Waxman

* * *

**BATHURST/CENTRE**
Luxury Penthouse Condo, Asking $599,000. Newest Condo in Thornhill, 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths. 3 walkouts to 2 Balconies, 9ft ceiling, Designer Decorated Showplace!! Approx $100K spent on Upgrades. Must See!! Call *Mila Gurfinkel

* * *

### CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

**YONGE/SHEPPARD**
For Rent, Prestigious 33 Sheppard 1+1 Bdrms, Parquet Floors, Granite Countertops, Unobstructed View, Open Balcony. Asking $1400.00. Call *Mila Gurfinkel

* * *

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

# 905-764-7200

**LES AARON**
Sales Representative

**NEW LISTING - CEDARVALE**
**$879,000.** 4 bdrm, 3 bath, centre hall plan home on SOLD lot. Ideal footprint for renovation. Main flr fam room, eat-in kitchen, private drive, spacious backyard. Steps to ravine and park.

**NEW LISTING - BATHURST/WILSON**
**$484,900** Detached, 2 storey, 3 bdrm, 4 bath home on 55x120' lot. Absolute character and charm. Hardwood on 1st and 2nd floors, renovated kitchen, w/out to deck and backyard, finished basement, private drive. Close to shopping and TTC.

**BUNGALOW - LESLIE/SHEPPARD**
**$414,900.** Fabulous 3+1 bdrm, 2 bath bungalow on 50x150 lot! Large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, plaster mouldings, wood fireplace, large finished basement with high ceilings. Loads of storage. Great value

Forest Hill REAL ESTATE INC • REALTOR

**416-785-1500**
**www.lesaaron.com**

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

# DAVID EICHORN REALTY LIMITED BROKERAGE

"WE OPEN DOORS FOR YOU"

416 787-1712 Visit our website: eichornrealty.com

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE – EXCLUSIVE!**

3 bedroom, 2 storey home on 50 ft lot! Combined living room / dining room, renovated kitchen, hardwood floors, renovated basement & bath. Prime central location close to TTC, shops, schools. Asking $500,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / RANEE – NEW PRICE!**

Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. Only $699,000. Also available for rent @ $3,500 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE – NEW PRICE!**

**ATTENTION BUILDERS!** Building lot with 51.25 ft. frontage, only $429,000. **ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK**

**AFFORDABLE LUXURY in prestigious Cortleigh Park location!** Custom total renovation & addition. 3,700 sq. ft. + bsmt., designer decor & luxurious upgrades throughout. Dream French country kit., palatial bathrooms, gleaming hardwood floors on both levels, steps to Cortleigh Park. $1,679,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**3000 BATHURST CONDO**

Renovated & decorated 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, modern kitchen, limestone floors, marble counter, built-in bookcase & closet organizers, sandblasted glass doors. **ONLY $289,900 – ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE – BUSINESS FOR SALE**

**INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS KOSHER RESTAURANT FOR SALE** in high-traffic Bathurst / Lawrence area. **ONLY $329,000 INCLUDING EQUIPMENT – ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

***BROKER OF RECORD**

**ENJOY YOUR INVESTMENT**

48+ Acre Estate/Hobby farm in Innisfil. 2700 Sq. ft. Century barn transformed into a uniquely exquisite country estate home. Extras include but not limited to, 60'x120' main outbuilding featuring indoor auto showroom, inside heated garage with hoist, 25'x62' greenhouse, outdoor b.b.q. pavilion, pond, stream and more. Two paved road frontages (future dev. potential). Minutes to golf and 2 marinas. All situated just 45 minutes to Toronto city limits. Asking $1,795,000. **Andrew Masters**, Homelife/Vision Realty Inc. **1-800-420-4105**

*1 Alexandra Wood Open House May 27 & 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m.*

$998,000. Beautifully renovated 3 bdrm centre hall. Fabulous gourmet kit. cathedral ceiling and w/o to secluded deck. Amazing ensuite. Billiard room, wine cellar. Call today.

**Ellie Burns**, *Sales Representative* **416-487-4311**
Royal LePage R.E.S. Ltd. Brokerage

**www.RUTHHALPERIN.com** sales rep.
Top 1% in Canada in Re/Max since 1993
Re/Max Ultimate Realty Inc. Brokerage
**416-487-5131**

**Upper Forest Hill – Rare custom bungalow!**

Now $839,000 - Great 50'x12[SOLD] 3+2 bedroom bung, 3 baths, huge kit., large LR/DR w/vault[illegible]ings, m.f. laundry, fab. lower level w/walk outs, dble gar.,nr. subway!

**BELLE EWART**

**$2.2M** - 87' lake frontage, 6 bdrms, 6 baths, perm. dock, dble wet boathouse.

**$1.1M** Approx. 93' lake frontage, 4 bdrms, 1 bath.

**$539,000** 50' lake frontage, 4 bdrms, 4 baths. Walking distance to shuls, close to all amenities, 40 min. from Toronto.

**MARTY BROMBERG**
SUTTON GROUP ASSOC. RITY
**416-960-0300**

**A BATHURST MANOR BEAUTY**

Upgraded & immaculate 3+1 bedroom sidesplit on a beautifully landscaped 50' x 120' lot within steps to public transportation, schools and shuls. Gleaming hardwood floors, large upgraded white kitchen and main floor family room w/ walkouts, finished basement, dble garage and much more!

**PERRY STEINBERG, Broker**
**416-441-2888 x 334**
**Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd.**

## 15 HOUSES FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Lawrence Stormont**, renovated 11 room sidesplit, 4 full/wash, 2 kitchens, July 1, $3000/mo. Call 416-789-5214.

**Cedarvale house for rent**, 4 bdrm. + den + finished bsmt. 1 year from approx. Aug. 1st. 416-785-9770 / 416-978-6416.

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**Desirable Skyrise on Yonge.** Over 1800 s.f., immac. S/E corner, 2 split bdrms, 3 baths, 2 lockers, 4 car park, Mill $$ fitness club, 24 hr sec, Motiv. vendor. $459K. **Inna 416-854-2404 C/B Terrequity Rlty.**


# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

to place an ad call
**416-391-1836** (ask for classified advertising)

*Classified Deadlines:*

**Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.**
**8 days prior to issue date.***

**PLEASE NOTE!* On a week before a statutory or Jewish holiday, the deadline will be earlier. Please call for exact times.

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

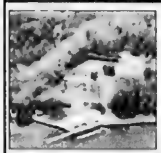
The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.


# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

**LAKE SIMCOE • COTTAGES TO CASTLES**
**BERNICE WHELAN REALTY INC.**
**(705) 739-8000**
*I Cover the WATERFRONT* *#1 WATERFRONT Specialist*



**LAKE SIMCOE COMPOUND - ROCHES PT.**

$2,299,000. Gold coast of Lake! Gated 5 acre, 350' lakefront, 6,500', 11 year old, gorgeous. ESTATE design & material unmatched!! Gatehouse, 8 car garage, 50'x90' landmark boathouse with guest quarters & sunsets.

**LAKE SIMCOE ESTATE $1,749,000**

6,500', granite, hardwood, 9' ceilings, 7 bedrooms, 3 fireplaces, boathouse, 3 car garage, wooded enclave. 50 minutes to Toronto.

**LK SIMCOE WORLD CLASS DIRECT WATERFRONT CONDO**

age 3, 3000 sf, grand foyer, grand interior, sunsets, 38'x22' stone patio, 9' ceilings, cherry floors, 2 fireplaces, double ovens & dishwasher, RARE GORG. ENCLAVE in the city of Barrie, 40 mins to Tor. $1,349,000.

**LAKE SIMCOE 6 ACRE ESTATE**

Small stone year round cottage, stone frplce, wood flrs, $$$ spent on lakefront, boathouse, permanent pier etc. $1,250,000.

**LAKE SIMCOE FAMILY CAMPGROUND**

Alfred St.-Belle Ewart – (walk to synagogue). Private hedged level lot 75' x 348', (2) separate homes + newer boat house, main home in mint condition, 6 bedrooms, wood floors, gorgeous sun room/family room 27' x 10' off large LR with FP - Newer dream cottage, wood floors, main floor laundry, 2 baths, 3-4 bedrooms. $1,199,000

**LAKE SIMCOE (LITTLE CEDAR AVENUE)**

Stunning reno'd 2375 sf, 6+ bedrooms, 3 bathroms, large lot, boathouse, stone gate/fence, immediate possession $890,000. Walk to synagogue

**LAKE SIMCOE - (STRATHALLAN WOODS) $550,000**

2 lots, 1 waterfront approx. 100'x400', gorgeous building lot + lot with 2,000' cottage, not water but abuts water lot.

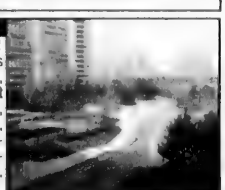
**LAKE SIMCOE - BIG BAY POINT**

Gorgeous, 2.49 acres, estate building lot, $499,000. Area of large estates

**ALL THE ABOVE COTTAGES & CASTLES ARE APPROX. 40 MINS. FROM TORONTO. LAKE SIMCOE/KEMPENFELT BAY ARE AMAZING BEAUTIFUL BODIES OF WATER AND RIGHT AT TORONTO'S DOOR STEP!**

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**BATHURST/CENTRE**



**$304,000 JUST REDUCED!**

One of the largest suites avail., approx. 1450 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, open concept with great front facing view, beautiful decor paint finish, granite foyer, eat-in kitchen, 4 pce. master ensuite, locker and parking. Steps to Promenade Mall.

**Nellie Ali**, *Sales Representative*
**Homelife Bayview** Realty Inc. Brokerage
**905-889-2200**

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**CLARK & BATHURST PROMENADE TOWERS**

Bright, spacious, 2 bdrms, 2-bath suite, eat-in kit, w/window, hrdwd flrs, crown mouldings. Neutral elegant décor. Royal LePage Partners Realty. Call **BARBARA YANOVER** at **416-229-4454** to view.

## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Lawrence**, stunning 2 bedroom condo in Chrystal Towers. Avail. July 1st, large eat-in kitchen, 4 appl., separate washer/dryer, 2 full bathrooms, walkout balcony facing south, 2 parking spaces; 1st class building with all the amenities included: heated out pool, indoor, jacuzzi, gym, party room, guest room, Shabbath elevator. Please call Martha at 416-402-5720.

## 45 CONDOMINIUMS WANTED

**Single ret. orthodox gentleman** looking for 2 bdrm. + 2 bath condo in Conservatory/ Promenade for 2 yr. + occ. from July-September 2006. Call 905-881-4386 Esther. NO AGENTS PLEASE.

## 60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**Furnished rm**, tv, a/c, use of kitch., near TTC. Call 905-882-5323/ 905-882-2346 in a.m. (lv. msg.)

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**BATHURST-SHEPPARD**
***ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.***
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths. Ample closets plus cedar. Roof laundry, pool, ravine setting. 6 Apts. per flr.
**416-960-3238** - Bus.
416-631-9277 / 416-631-0388 / Super

**120 SHELBORNE AVE.**
***"THE CORONET"***
Suites available immediately. Walk to synagogues & shopping. Sabbath Elevator. TTC at your door. ***Call...***
**416-282-6631**
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**BATHURST & WILSON**
Great living at this immaculately maintained building. *Its nothing like you have seen before.* Large, bright and newly refurbished suites with oversized balconies, breathtaking views and shabbat elevator. Indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi. 1 & 2 bedrooms from only $950. Please Call
**416-931-2206**
**OPEN HOUSE every Sunday 10-2**

**460 EGLINTON EAST**
Upgraded one & two bedrooms, new kitchen cupboards, windows. Steps to Yonge St, parks, schools, shopping. Super on-site.
**416-322-3178**

**BEAUTIFUL SETTING**
Spacious suites with double door entrance. Parks, restaurants, walking trails in the neighbourhood. 1 bedroom suites from $1050 & 2 bedroom suites from $1250. Call or visit today! Bathurst & Eglinton
**20 Shallmar Blvd. 416-848-9645.**

**Bathurst/Finch**, lrg 2 bed, 2 bath Avail immed Decorator allowance - you spend/we pay $1190/mo Call collect to 705-887-1188

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**LUXURY BUILDING!**
Prestigious building at a very convenient location
Parking valet. Indoor pool. Security system.
Walk to shopping & subway station.
Great Views!
**Call Merita for your personal tour!**
**416-961-0024**
355 St. Clair Ave. West
**www.capreit.net**
CAPREIT

**FOREST HILL LUXURY RENTAL SUITES**
**20 Shallmar Blvd. Call 416 848 9645**
1 Bedrooms starting from $950, 2 Bedrooms starting from $1200
- Renovated Suites
- Double Door Entrances
- Walking Trails
- Close to Bathurst and Eglinton

MOVE IN BONUS
**$500 dollars off**
www.caprent.com
CAPREIT

## 110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Lake Couchiching, Orillia**, priv. waterfront, 3 bdrm., den, sleeps up to 10, full amen., hot-tub, boat w/motor, docks. Avail July only. Call 416-489-1205

**Belle Ewart**, lakefront, fully furn., synagogue, 4 bdrm., 1 1/2 baths. Call, leave msg. 416-789-7484

**Belle Ewart**, beautiful 4 bdrm., large living room, close to shul. July Call 416-633-3151

**Priv. home** avail. for summer, N. of Gravenhurst, Lake Muskoka. Spacious, 3 bdrm. ++. 1 mo. $5,800, 2 mos. $9,600 or 3 mos. $10,500 Call 705-684-9287

## 125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Hallandale & A1A**, on the beach, 1 bdrm + den. Brand new! Must sell. Call 416-837-4950

## 190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

**Mt. Tremblant**, 5 bed., 2 bath. Sleeps up to 14. Pool, tennis, close to beach and village. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Short term. 1-866-955-9961.

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Toronto based children's book publisher** seeking f/t admin. assistant/marketing assistant, previous marketing & computer skills an asset, applicants should be a self starter, motivated and have a good sense of humour. Interested applicants should send a resume to Dani at 416-781-4010 or dani@tumblebooks.com

**Jewish daycare** in Thornhill seeks exper. ECE for toddler room, July & Aug. 905-764-6663.

**Kosher Restaurant** looking for cooks, waitresses & an Assistant Manager. **Must be Shomer Shabbat**. Fax resume to: 416-784-9943 or e-mail sssss@rogers.com

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Telemarketer B2B**
for software company launching a new Internet product. University students welcome.
**PM103@rogers.com**

**Catering bus.** looking for a cook with kosher exper. Full-time, immed. CJN Box #5099.

## 250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

**WEE CARE!**
**Dedicated to Caring Since 1996**
Nannies • Housekeepers • Baby Nurses
Sponsoring from abroad
Live In & Live Out • Full Time & Part Time
Candidates pre screened • References checked
Service guaranteed
**416-789-3070**
**www.weecareplacement.ca**

**McCaskill Household Services Ltd.**
**Homemakers, H.C.A., P.S.W.'s**
*Live in - Day/Night Shifts*
•The Elderly •The Chronically Ill
•Hospital Recovery
*We cover all your needs to help you stay at home*
**Personal care, Light housekeeping, Meal preparation**
*Providing service for over 60 years*
**416-431-2443**

**LIVE IN CAREGIVER** Babysitters avail. for you. Local, overseas No sign up fee for employer Call 416-901-3811 or 416-561-9445

**Latino lady**, exper., avail. to do housecleaning in houses & apts Call Clara at 416-248-5998.

**25 years exper. nurse** will care for an elderly, live-in, speaks English, Yiddish, Hebrew, Romanian Call 905-294-3809

## 250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

SENIOR CARE
NANNIES
COMPANIONS
HOUSEKEEPERS

**EO HOMECARE**
*trusted since 1961*
Extensive 4 Phase Screening Process
Service Guaranteed
Full time or Part-time • Live-in or Live-out
We have an excellent selection of trusted caregivers available to begin working now.
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**www.eohomecare.ca**

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Greater Toronto Area

# Iran called dangerous political entity

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

The former director of Israeli military intelligence brought a message of gloom and doom to Toronto last week.

Maj.-Gen. Aharon Zeevi Farkash, who stepped down from his post recently, told a fundraising dinner that Iran is on the cusp of developing a nuclear arsenal, and that jihadists, or Muslim extremists, are using the nascent democratic process in the Arab world to their advantage.

Fresh from speaking engagements in Warsaw and Tel Aviv, Farkash tempered his pessimistic comments by saying that the West can face these challenges by exercising strong leadership.

Farkash, who was recently quoted as saying that the Middle East stands before a "global jihadist tsunami," spoke at the Elmer S. McVety Centre-Canada Christian College in support of the Aleh Negev Foundation.

Founded in 1982 by a group of Israeli parents with severely disabled children, Aleh administers three residential facilities in Israel for mentally and physically impaired people.

It's currently finishing a 25-acre rehabilitative care village in the Negev for people aged 21 and older.

Aleh's chair, retired general Doron Almog, who appeared at last week's event, has a 22-year-old autistic and retarded son who lives in the partially completed village.

Farkash, Almog's friend and comrade-in-arms, described Iran's determination to build nuclear weapons as "a revolutionary development."

Warning that Iran is on the threshold of achieving this objective, he branded Iran as "the most dangerous political entity on the planet, the most crucial threat of the 21st century."

Farkash said that "hyper-proliferation" will plague the Middle East should Iran succeed, adding that Iran's efforts to increase the range of its surface-to-surface missiles and export its Islamic revolution are threatening.

Arab states are growing weaker under the process of democratization because Muslim fundamentalists, whom he branded as terrorists, are using it to advance their interests.

As an example, he cited last year's election in Egypt, in which the Muslim Brotherhood, an opponent of Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, won more parliamentary seats than ever.

Farkash also pointed out that Hamas' victory in recent Palestinian legislative elections underscored the risks of promoting democracy in the Arab world.

He suggested that Arab-style democracy nurtures the forces of sectarianism.

Declaring that jihadists pose a "real threat" to the stability of Arab states, Farkash reminded his listeners that Al Qaeda's goal is to undermine and remove these regimes.

But Israel is a very important target for Al Qaeda as well, he observed.

Farkash said that a U.S. victory over the insurgents in Iraq will be a positive turn of events for the region, but for now, Iraq teeters between nation-building and violence.

Without elaborating, Farkash said the year ahead will be crucial in Iraq's efforts to rebuild itself after the fall of Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime in 2003.

Citing Israel as an example, Farkash said such challenges can be confronted through unstinting resolve and strong leadership, adding that Israel's armed forces contained Palestinian terrorism through a combination of good intelligence and motivated manpower.

"We reduced the capacity of the terrorists," he said, noting suicide bombings have fallen dramatically since 2002, the worst year of the intifadah in terms of terror attacks and casualties.

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# Collector turns his basement into a baseball library

By BILL GLADSTONE
*Special to The CJN*

Give Peter Seidman a book about baseball that he doesn't already have and you're likely to score a bases-loaded home run with the Montreal-born collector of baseball paraphernalia.

But chances are you'll strike out in the attempt, because the 57-year-old teacher and administrator for the Toronto District School Board has already amassed more than 4,000 books and other collectibles on his favourite subject.

Seidman's baseball library fills a room in the basement of his home in the Glencairn-Bathurst neighbourhood of Toronto. The floor and shelves also hold a cornucopia of various knick-knacks, souvenirs and ephemera on baseball, from beer cups to round playing cards, team wristwatches to wall clocks.

The walls are lined with books from floor to ceiling. A row of toy baseball players stands on a shelf and a dozen pennants decorate the ceiling. Even the mezuzah on the door is adorned with baseballs. (The collection also includes a Chanukiyah featuring players on a baseball diamond.)

"We moved from our last house in Thornhill nine years ago – I just filled it up so quickly," he said. "I like to tell people that's why we moved."

A board member and former gabbai at Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Seidman often goes on "baseball trips" in the United States, scouting for new property. As with many collectors, the thrill is apparently as much in the chase as in the acquisition.

He pulls some books from a shelf – including *Safe!* by Harold Sherman, all part of the "Home Run Series" for boys – and begins rhapsodizing. The books are rare and date from the 1920s. Seidman found them in a used bookstore in Madison, Wisc., and amazingly, the proprietor hardly knew they were there.

Seidman can't hide his excitement as he recounts the discovery.

"I asked, 'Got any stuff on baseball?' and he said, 'No, not really.' So I asked, 'Any books for juveniles?' and he said, 'Yes, I do, they're over there.' And there they were. They're old books and signed by the author. And he wanted $5 a piece for them!"

*Baseball Joe Around the World* is one in a series by Lester Chadwick, a prolific writer of nearly a century ago. According to Seidman, many of these old-fashioned, illustrated popular volumes were meant to provide role models for urban kids who might otherwise have fallen into street gangs. "A lot of it is a Horatio Alger type of thing, with a lot of moral teachings. In these stories, there's no swearing or smoking, and the good always wins out over the bad."

His library runs through multiple genres in both fiction and non-fiction. Mystery writers, for example, include Troy Soos, whose oeuvre encompasses such titles as *Hunting a Detroit Tiger*, *The Cincinnati Red Stalkings* and *Murder at Wrigley Field*. "I have them all," says Seidman, while professing not to be a fan of other sorts of mysteries.

As expected, his collection also includes the most popular literary works on baseball, such as *The Boys of Summer* by Roger Kahn, *The Natural* by Bernard Malamud, and *Field of Dreams* by W. P. Kinsella. Another is *Hoopla* by Harry Stein, which is "very well respected in baseball."

He also raves over *False Spring* by Pat Jordan, *Small Town Heroes* by Hank Davis, and *October 1964* by David Halberstam. His personal favourite is *Bang the Drum Slowly* by Mark Harris. "It's a wonderful book, about a guy who's a third-string catcher. Robert DeNiro played him in the movie."

Why are so many baseball writers Jewish? By way of explanation, Seidman suggests that many American (and Canadian) Jews, from the immigrant generation onward, have cultivated an affinity for baseball as a wholesome outdoor physical alternative to the cerebral indoor world of the yeshiva.

Curiously, Seidman hasn't devoted any particular energy to chronicling the careers of Jewish ball players.

"A lot of those guys were not such great ball players," he explains. "They were in the minor leagues and they never made their Jewishness an issue, so why should I?"

A member of the Society for American Baseball Research, he receives its journal six times a year and often attends its international conferences, as well as local meetings of its Hanlan's Point Chapter when they don't coincide with Shabbat.

"I like dollar stores. I look for baseball stuff. They always have something." He holds up a package of paper napkins with purple baseballs printed on them. Then he unrolls a poster showing the evolution of the ballpark, featuring dozens of examples, including the historic Elysian Fields in Hoboken, N.J., and Montreal's Olympic Stadium, where his beloved Expos played.

More than an hour goes by in an interview with Seidman and he is still showing off baseball artifacts: a plastic View-Master with a slidewheel of ball players; cardboard placards from sports bars and newspaper boxes; vintage programs from the 1950s; a box of Wheaties breakfast cereal; even a souvenir baseball made of popcorn. Only the proverbial peanuts and crackerjacks are missing.

An eight-inch-high pile of index cards on his desk attests to the fact he has not updated his personal collection catalogue in many months. Even so, he says he can hardly wait for his planned retirement a few years down the road, so that – God willing – he can devote even more time to his collecting passion, tokens of which are evident throughout the house.

He produces a pair of nail clippers shaped, however improbably, as a baseball. "All of my friends are always giving me things related to baseball," he said. "It's a great out for everybody. They don't have to think 'What shall we get Peter for his birthday?' They already know."

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Employees and family members of The CJN and the Toronto Lynx are not eligible to enter.

# Israeli hockey teams recruiting players

The Israeli Ice Hockey Federation will hold a tryout camp for their national teams on June 11 at the Canadian Ice Academy, 3111 Universal Dr., in Mississauga.

Tryouts are open to any player who holds an Israeli passport.

The federation is looking for players for the junior team, as well as the women's and senior men's teams.

Juniors and women will be on the ice from 12 to 2 p.m., while the senior men will skate from 2:15 to 5 p.m. The tryouts will be supervised by national teams coach Jean Perron, a Stanley Cup winner with the Montreal Canadiens, and junior team general manager Peter Friedman.

Prospective players are asked to confirm their attendance by contacting either Perron at coach@maisliner.com or Brian Sandler at 416-495-1781 ext 23.

# Pe'er sweeps Prague; wins singles, doubles titles

By FRANKIE SACHS
*Jerusalem Post*

**PRAGUE** — Shahar Pe'er won the singles and doubles titles at the Prague Open earlier this month.

The Israeli 19-year-old defeated Australian Samantha Stosur in the singles final and was aided by a rain delay early in the doubles final as she regained strength before teaming with Marion Bartoli of France to take down unseeded Americans Ashley Harkleroad and Bethanie Mattek for her first doubles crown.

"It is my second final and second title. It was a great week and I'm happy for that," an elated Pe'er told the WTA website.

The wins saw Pe'er shoot up to personal bests in WTA rankings. WTA is the world governing body for women's tennis.

After coming into the week at 35th in the world, she moved up to 32nd. She also cracked the doubles top 50, settling in at 49th place.

# Not necessarily too old for surgery

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Senior Side of Life

"I'm too old for surgery" said Morris, an 80-year-old gentleman sitting in my office. "My doctor told me it was too risky."

This comment followed my suggestion that I refer him to a neurosurgeon, as his CT scan showed severe spinal stenosis, a narrowing of one or more areas in the spine, which, in his case, caused great back and leg pain on walking, and severely limited activities he previously enjoyed. Morris' children and family physician had convinced him to see me. He was feeling very depressed, and they wondered if he might benefit from treatment for a mood disorder.

After the examination, it was clear that he was not suffering from a primary depression. He was despondent because of his pain and loss of independent function. It had progressed gradually and initially responded to pain treatments, acupuncture and some chiropractic care. But during the previous six months, he had become completely dependent on his children or a hired caregiver to get him out. He could not walk more than 50 feet without stopping for a few minutes because of pain, before being able to walk a short distance again. He was miserable.

When I suggested a referral to a neurosurgeon, he lamented: "I'm afraid of surgery. What if it doesn't work?"

I explained that indeed it doesn't always work and some people have bad outcomes, but I had a number of patients who did very well. I told him that getting a surgical opinion does obligate him to surgery, but it will allow a better understanding of the risks and benefits of the operation. I said the surgeon in question was very good with older people and explained things in a way that decreased their fear and anxiety and allowed them to consider their possibilities in a supportive way.

Morris agreed to go to the surgeon, saying, "The way things are going right now, I don't think I can go on – it is just too miserable."

He returned to me after the surgical consultation – Morris had agreed and a date was booked. He was quite animated. "He thinks I have a pretty good chance of improvement," he told me, "and anything is better than what I have now. I decided to take my chances."

I received a note from the surgeon some weeks later, saying the procedure had gone well. Morris was discharged home to an ambulatory rehabilitation program.

I waited impatiently for the next visit, six weeks later. I could hardly recognize the patient. He looked younger, and I realized that his facial expression had changed. Previously, he had always had an almost perpetually pained look on his face. I observed Morris come around the corner of the clinic and walk, unaided and briskly, towards my office. It was a wonderful sight!

During the visit, he told me how the surgery went and some of the minor post-operative difficulties, mainly related to his enlarged prostate, that were dealt with. Now, the rehabilitation program was going smoothly. He left with a firm handshake and assured me that he would come again in six months to let me see his progress.

The important lesson I learned from this patient is that we should not discount the possibilities of potentially beneficial surgery based on age criteria alone. Contemporary surgical and anesthetic techniques allow many older people to successfully complete challenging operations – joint reconstruction, bypass and other surgeries – which can transform the quality of life from one of misery and dependency to one of comfort and personal fulfilment. Explore and learn and then decide what feels good to you with your personality. Get good advice, consider it and then decide whether or not to follow it. It's ultimately your choice.

*Dr. Michael Gordon is vice-president of medical services at Bayerest Centre.*


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## Epi on Education

# The medium is the message

Seymour Epstein

I want to thank readers who voiced their appreciation of my last column ("My problem with Jewish continuity," *CJN*, April 27) on Jewish education as a force for creativity and development, rather than mere survival and continuity. Obviously, my intent was to expand the scope of Jewish education, not diminish it.

Many times, we at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education are asked for measurable outcomes. Is there hard evidence that Jewish learning and Jewish experiences counter assimilation and intermarriage? In fact, there is such statistical evidence, but I wouldn't count on it. For one thing, there are too many variables. Anyone who thinks, for instance, that Jewish schooling and a Jewish camp can always undo the influence of an indifferent home environment is wrong.

And, in addition, Jewish education is a mitzvah in its own right, an expression of our tradition, with stand-alone qualities. If we look carefully at the mitzvah of talmud Torah, we learn something about its unique qualities. In the Talmud, this mitzvah is listed with others as having two characteristics: firstly, you can't have too much of it; and secondly, you enjoy the "interest" in this world, but the "principal" lasts forever.

Then the Talmud teaches us that talmud Torah is equal to all the others. It's almost as if the rabbis had consulted John Dewey and Marshall McLuhan on this topic. (Or was it the other way around?) Jewish education is seen to be meaningful itself, a mitzvah of its own. But it is also the one commandment of Jewish living that prepares us for all the others and insures the future of Jewish life. An hour spent with a Jewish text is at one and the same time *Torah li'shma* (study for its own sake) and learning for the future. Its value is measured by the learner and God, no one else.

It is both the means and the end, and that peculiar quality gives it the potential and the energy to far surpass mere continuity.

*Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto*

# Losing a loved one to terror

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

An Israeli changes his/her baby's diaper. Within a blink, that child is starting school, and before the parents know it, their little boy/girl is a soldier in the Israeli army.

Knowing you live in a country threatened by terrorists and tyrannical leaders and recognizing that one day the little eight-pound mass of miracle in your arms will protect your country must create an underlying fear that likely finds its way into the mother's breast milk.

Then one day an Israeli parent picks up the phone and the voice on the other end somberly says, "There has been a terrorist attack." No more words are required. Parents are parents and they know. Israelis are Israelis and living on the front line is part of their citizenship.

On March 5, 2003, Yossi and Lea Tzur received such news about their son, Asaf, who was one of 17 people killed in a suicide bombing of an Egged bus on Moriah Boulevard in the Carmel section of Haifa.

Asaf was an 11th grader, a lover of music and computers, and a sweet boy. One day Asaf was travelling home from school with his girlfriend, Ortal. She kissed him goodbye and descended from the bus. Three stops later a bomb, strapped to the body of a terrorist, exploded and Asaf was dead.

Death of a family member, especially through violence, frequently brings out a need within the survivors to grab hold of life with a fiery passion. Yossi and Lea Tzur, despite the depth of mourning they experienced, did indeed continue living, and only two short years after Asaf was murdered, they gave birth to another son – Eitan. While some of us might curse life and God and refuse to grow ever again, Asaf's parents, Israelis, did the opposite.

On March 12, 2002, Eyal Lieberman, 42, of Tzoran, was killed in a shooting attack near Modi'in. Eyal, a lieutenant colonel in the reserves, had many Arab friends for whom he helped secure working permits at the real estate company at which he worked.

After Eyal was savagely murdered, his wife, Idit, decided not to return to her place of work but instead began building a second career in music, an area in which she blossomed.

Amazingly, a year after Eyal's death, Idit performed in Eyal's memory at the memorial site at Yad Lashirion in Latrun. Idit has continued to use music as a way of expressing her feelings about her loss, and about the life she lives with fervour. She has turned her musical talents into a way of making money for the family, in addition to helping strengthen others.

Literature supplied to me by the OneFamily Fund, an organization that assists victims of terror, states that Eyal was survived by his parents, Ora and Dor, two brothers, his wife, Idit, and two children, Tomer, 7, and Alon, 4. Interestingly, the writer saw Eyal first as a son.

The Israeli-based fund provides financial assistance, therapy and legal assistance to victims of terror. OneFamily also distributes information on Israel's victims of terror because of the belief that "we cannot let victims of terror bear this burden alone." Since its launch in 2001, OneFamily has provided more than $12.2 million worth of assistance and programs for victims of terrorism in Israel.

Friends of OneFamily was launched in Canada through the efforts of such people as Pam Albert, the national director. Recently, OneFamily brought Idit Lieberman and Yossi Tzur to Toronto to speak about their lives after the horrendous experience of losing a loved one to a terrorist attack. To learn more about OneFamily, visit www.onefamilyfund.org.

God bless those who have died. Because of their courage, we can live safer as Jews everywhere.

*Avrum@yeahavta.org SUDAN?*

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## This Week

### National

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**Send troops** to Darfur, retired general urges. *Page 23*

### Arts & Travel

**Awards highlight** regional character of Canadian Jewish literature. *Page 36*

### CJN Profile

**Glass Tiger** frontman forges connection with Israel. *Page 41*

### Sports & Leisure

**Book lists** great Jewish athletes. *Page 46*

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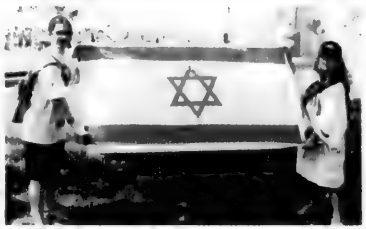
# Walking with Israel



**Some 20,000 people showed their support for Israel on Sunday by participating in the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's *Walk With Israel*. The downtown event raised approximately $350,000 for youth at risk around the world.** [*Jessica Freiman photos*]

# *Fanaticism is a threat, Wiesel warns*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor who has been a voice for the voiceless for decades, received a standing ovation both before and after he addressed an audience of almost 2,000 people about the dangers of fanaticism and why we must fight it.

Wiesel, a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1986 and the recipient of more than 110 honorary degrees from universities and colleges in the United States, Europe and Israel, was invited by Hillel of Greater Toronto to speak last week at the University of Toronto.

Before Wiesel, a Boston University professor, began his lecture on "Confronting Fanaticism: Building Moral Unity in a Diverse Society," he thanked Hillel for its work in helping to promote messages of love, respect and tolerance within the framework of a Jewish identity.

Throughout his lecture, Wiesel warned the audience, including hundreds who watched a live feed in a neighbouring building, that fanaticism is a threat to us all, and he tried to explain why people are easily seduced by it.

"The fanatic is seduced because [he] believes simply that he is superior… The fanatic believes that he alone has the key to God's paradise. The fanatic believes that only his words carry weight and others are empty of meaning and consequence …The fanatic has no questions, only answers, and the same answers. He doesn't have dialogues, only monologu…

and the fact that he is not bored by that is beyond me. The fanatic lacks a sense of humour. You will never see a fanatic laugh. He can shout, but not whisper."

**Continued on page 24**

## *CJN* wins award

**MONTREAL** — The Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA) has named *The Canadian Jewish News* the best overall specialty newspaper for 2005. In conferring the award, the QCNA said: "*The Canadian Jewish News* is superbly presented, well laid out and a varied read from cover to cover."

**Shabbat Shavuot: Yizkor**
**Candlelighting: 8:35**
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*Greater Toronto Area*

**CUPE Ontario joins anti-Israel boycott — please see page 29**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Bernard Ostry Dies

**TORONTO** — Longtime federal and provincial civil servant Bernard Ostry died last week in Toronto of metastasized prostate cancer at age 78. The Wadena, Sask.-born Ostry was married to economist Sylvia Ostry and was a deputy minister in various federal ministries from 1974 to '85. He helped shape prime minister Pierre Trudeau's multiculturalism policy and also headed TVOntario from 1985 to '91.

#### New MDs Go Global

**TORONTO** — Esther Prince and Sigalit Hoffman of Montreal and Hagit Bergman of Toronto are among 19 graduates this year from the Medical School for International Health (MSIH), a venture of Ben-Gurion University's faculty of heath sciences and Columbia University's medical school. As the world's only medical school that trains students in global health, it includes subjects such as infectious diseases, nutrition, disease prevention and community health. The women spent three years in MSIH at BGU in Be'er Sheva and one year at Columbia in New York.

#### Arbib Sends Aid

**TORONTO** — Following Canada's recent $40-million aid pledge to the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan, Canadian Jewish Congress has facilitated a private shipment of $430,000 worth of medical supplies to Darfur from Walter Arbib, head of Canada's Skylink Group of Companies. The shipment was to arrive Monday in Khartoum.

#### *Post* Apologizes

**TORONTO** — The *National Post* apologized last week for a May 20 front-page report that said Iran decided to make its Jews wear a yellow strip of material on their clothing. The *Post* report raised a storm of protests in the West, including from Prime Minister Stephen Harper. But the newspaper ran another front-page story the next day saying that while Iran's Parliament had passed legislation setting a dress code for Muslims, there was no specific law singling out Jews.

### WORLD

#### Cotler Speaks at YU

**NEW YORK** — Former justice minister Irwin Cotler spoke about "Jewish Values and the Pursuit of Justice" as keynote speaker at Yeshiva University's May 25 commencement, where he also received an honorary degree.

#### Hillel USA Plans To Double Its Numbers

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Hillel pledged to double the numbers of students involved in Jewish life on campus over the next five years in the United States.

In its five-year strategic plan, released last week, the largest Jewish campus group in the United States pledged to double the number of students involved in Jewish life, double its annual campaign, double funding to local Hillels, and launch an aggressive recruitment drive for campus professionals.

To help fund the effort, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman International Center will increase its endowment from $10 million to $100 million. Hillel also pledged to strengthen relations with university administrations, Jewish studies departments and Jewish communities where it works.

As a first step, Hillel sponsored a conference of university presidents and Jewish leaders last week in Washington.

#### Pioneer to Retire

**NEW YOR** — Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained as a rabbi in the United States, is retiring from Monmouth Reform Temple in New Jersey to become rabbi emerita. Ordained by the Reform Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1972, she told the *New Jersey Jewish News* she "didn't set out to be a pioneer or champion women's rights. I simply wanted to be a teacher of Judaism."

#### Appeal Denied

**DETROIT** — A U.S. appeals court upheld a 2005 decision to strip a former concentration camp guard of his U.S. citizenship. On May 22, the court denied the appeal of Iwan Mandycz, 83, a Detroit-area man who lost his citizenship for hiding his wartime activities when he applied to come to America in 1949. He was a guard at two camps.

#### Canadians Graduate

**NEW YORK** — Seven Canadians received degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary at its commencement in New York last month. Jordana Mednick of Toronto and Deborah Zuker of Ottawa received master's degrees, while Vancouver's Isaac Elias and Ari Saks of Calgary received bachelor degrees. Robert Menes of Victoria received a master's of music and cantorial investiture, while Tobias Gabriel and Yvonne Youngberg of Toronto received master's degrees and rabbinic ordination.

#### Jewish Shop Attacked

**BOCA RATON, Fla.** — A teenager, Connor Ranieri, 18, confessed last week to vandalizing a Judaica store in Boca Raton, Fla., on May 21. He drew four white swastikas and a misspelled message that read "Bun the Jews." He faces up to a year in jail if convicted.77


The Canadian Jewish news

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# Birthrighters plant trees in Alicia's memory

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Participants on birthright israel took part in a tree planting ceremony in Israel last week in honour of Alicia Ross, a Toronto woman who was murdered last summer by her neighbour.

Aviad Amitai, the leader of Canada Israel Experience trip Extreme Adventure 1, said he put in a request a few months ago to CIE to dedicate a tree planting ceremony to Ross, whom he became friends with after being in charge of security on her birthright trip in 2001.

While all CIE trips include a tree-planting ceremony – each one dedicated to someone else – Amitai wanted to do it in Ross' honour because of her love for nature and the outdoors.

Ross and Amitai clicked instantly when they met five years ago in Israel, and they remained friends and even travelled together in the years following the birthright trip.

A website created in Ross' memory says that her love for the outdoors and nature began in 1988, after her first canoe trip on Georgian Bay.

Years later, Ross became a tripper at Camp White Pine, where she led groups of children on canoe trips throughout Northern Ontario.

"She loved Israel very much, loved nature, loved the outdoors, and I just found it appropriate to commemorate her," Amitai said.

**From left, Dean Solo, one of Alicia Ross' high school friends, joins Aviad Amitai, the birthright leader, in planting a tree in her memory.**

Ross' connection with nature was so much a part of who she was that her family created the Alicia Ross Memorial Fund for Youth in association with Project C.A.N.O.E. (which is short for Creative And Natural Outdoor Experience), an organization that helps at-risk youth ages 13 to 17 gain self-esteem and life skills through wilderness canoe trips.

Amitai said he and his group planted 50 trees – an entire section of a forest in Modi'in, Israel – during which Amitai spoke about Ross and how much it would have meant to her.

Dean Solo, 26, was Ross' high school friend and one of the birthright participants who planted a tree in her name.

"I thought it was a beautiful moment. It was thoughtful and touching of Aviad to dedicate it to Alicia, because he knows how much she loved nature and Israel," Solo said.

"Aviad spoke about her, said some kind words and showed pictures of her. For the people who didn't know her, this helped put a face to her name," he added.

Vanessa Emer, 25, also went to high school with Ross and planted a tree for her.

"It was extremely touching, and I felt very privileged to plant a tree in her honour. I lived down the street from her and [her murder] impacted the entire community and the Jewish community," Emer said.

"What Aviad said really helped people understand who she was, how connected she was to nature and what this would have meant to her."

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Greater Toronto Area

# To the heart of the editors

*Part 3 of the highlights from the International Conference of Jewish Newspaper Editors, held May 7 to 11 in Israel.*

*From the editor's desk*

The Shalom Hartman Institute in the picturesque Talbieh neighbourhood of western Jerusalem was founded 30 years ago by Rabbi David Hartman. Only the gate of the stone structure is visible from the street, but once you are through its portals, the architecturally elegant building unfolds in sectioned serenity along the gentle southern slope of the small, central Jerusalem hillside.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1931, Rabbi Hartman immigrated to Israel in 1971 with his wife, Barbara, and their five children. Before that, he had spent some two decades in Montreal as a student at McGill University and as a pulpit rabbi.

The institute, which bears his father's name, is "founded on the belief that Judaism and the State of Israel must embody the principles of religious pluralism and respect for multiple approaches to Jewish life." Pluralism and respect are the high purposes and key tenets of Rabbi Hartman and his cadre of outstanding educators.

Our group of editors travelled on a sunny Tuesday morning to meet with the institute's fabled founder and current co-director.

Even though physically hampered by the obviously aching and painful consequences of a fractured vertebra, Rabbi Hartman spent more than two hours with us in an open, frank question-and-answer dialogue on a wide array of subjects.

With each new question and with each new questioner, he related his views to the nature of our work.

Indeed, it was precisely because of our work that he set aside the time to meet with us.

"As editors of Jewish journals," he told us quite emphatically, "you are responsible for our tradition." (But the way that Rabbi Hartman understood tradition, it soon became clear to us, was far broader a concept than that which one would likely find in the contemporary yeshiva world.) With weighty resolve, he reminded us that "editors are the public voice of the Jewish people. And the voice that we must hear is the voice of Jewish history, the voice of Jewish tradition.

"Force your readers to think," he pleaded with us. "Jewish newspapers must be the media of the best voices in the Jewish community. Those voices should be critical, not ideological. Do not allow any rigid orthodoxy [including religious Orthodoxy] to determine who you are!"

**David Hartman**

In his plain-speaking, mentoring manner, Rabbi Hartman was trying to fortify this group of visiting editors against the constant complaining of our respective readerships.

"Moshe did not lick honey with the Jewish people," he further elaborated for us, ensuring that we all understood the point he was making. "Nor did he lie about or to the Jewish people. The Bible is honest about us. Yet, we do not give up loving each other. Love does not preclude honest criticism."

The following are just a few of the many aphoristic capsules of insight Rabbi Hartman shared with us that morning.

• **On the need to view Judaism as an interpretive tradition:** "It is a great mistake to think that we were fundamentalists in the past. We were never stuck on the literal word. We always adapted to meet the needs of the world, we were always open-ended; it was always possible to change to meet the needs of the living world. The tragedy of post-Holocaust Judaism is that Orthodoxy turned inward and left ethics to the Conservative and Reform wings. Orthodoxy failed to try to live a fully integrated lifestyle." He cited Leviticus, Chapter 19 as an example of the Torah's ordaining that we incorporate our values into a fully integrated life.

• **On the need for pluralism:** "I have no problem with Conservative or Reform Judaism. At least they read the Book and are trying to interpret it. The issue is not Conservative or Reform rabbis. They didn't invent secularism. In some places [in North America], they are the only ones on the front lines."

• **On the need to respond to human crisis:** "Jews should be morally awake to problems all over the world. We cannot put on a posture of morality and behave or condone immorality."

• **On the need to persevere:** "I see hope because I am a Jew. God doesn't allow me the luxury of despair. I can't check out. My understanding of Covenant is to never give up, to never abandon this people. We mustn't give up simply because we have problems. We can't afford to despair."

Glancing slowly around the room, looking directly at each one of us in our turn, Rabbi Hartman told us he wants to be remembered as someone who never gave up, someone who always loved the Jewish people.

Scholar, author, educator, essayist, philosopher and raconteur, his insights penetrated the cynical souls of our group of veteran editors like electricity through moist air. It was a truly inspiring encounter with a truly remarkable thinker.

—*MBD*

SeeJN

**LARGER THAN LIFE: Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, centre, met with students from Associated Hebrew Schools on a recent visit to Toronto. The students are involved in Larger Than Life Canada, an association that aims to improve the quality of life of children with cancer in Israel. Pictured with Peres are, from left, parent volunteer Yael Karol; students Alexandra Brener, Adi Steinberg and Dan Amar; Yona Soer, president of Larger Than Life Canada; student Dalia Karol; parent volunteer Hagit Amar; and Anat Strauss, managing director of Larger Than Life Canada.**

# Paul Penna estate faces litigation over unpaid funds

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

The donation that the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School received from the estate of Jewish mining magnate Paul Penna was not authorized under the terms of his will, according to a lawyer for beneficiary charities that were named in the document but did not receive funds.

Fred Tayar said he anticipates that a lawsuit by the estate against the original trustees, including Penna's business associate Barry Landen, who controlled the major decisions regarding the estate, will be filed "very quickly."

"Effectively, it will be on behalf of those charities [that were named in the will]," he said.

At the time of Penna's death in 1996, his estate was worth approximately $24 million, but millions of dollars have disappeared without explanation and no accounts were kept by estate trustees, according to court documents.

The eight-year-old Paul Penna School received approximately $725,000 from the estate, said co-president Michael Miloff, who declined to speculate about what would happen if the school were forced to repay the funds.

A dozen charities – including She'arim Hebrew Day School, Zareinu Educational Centre, Bikur Cholim, Yesodei Hatorah, Canadian Friends of Birkat Moshe, the Scott Mission and Trillium Health Centre – that were named in Penna's will have not received any money from his estate, Tayar said.

The estate's original executors were replaced by the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company and Ronald Rutman, an accountant who is also a board member of Zareinu, by a recent order of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

Paul Penna School spokesperson Schuyler (Skip) Sigel, a former board member, said the school "is committed to honesty, openness and transparency in all of its dealings. However, it's best to reserve any further comments at this time."

He added that a letter, signed by Miloff and fellow school co-president Paula Klein, was sent out to parents last Friday as a followup to an article about the Penna estate that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on May 24.

"While the school has no information about the particular affairs of the estate as reported in the article, as you know, the school is named in memory of Mr. Penna following the donation to our school made through UJA Federation – all in accordance with a proper donor agreement," the letter said.

"No allegations of any wrongdoing have been made against the school in connection with this donation, and we are confident we properly handled all aspects of the donation. There is no impact on day-to-day school operations."

Tayar said the issue of the Paul Penna School is "a very sensitive, delicate issue that will have to be addressed by the estate trustees."

The school, which is housed in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, celebrates Jewish diversity and is set to open a middle school this fall.

Howard English, a spokesperson for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, confirmed that the estate's donation to the school was made through federation "in accordance with a proper donor agreement, and beyond that, because of potential court proceedings, we want to reserve all other comment."

# *Concert to aid disabled Israeli veterans*

Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada, will host a "Celebration of Life" concert June 8 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts to raise funds for disabled Israel war veterans and victims of terror.

The show includes performances by the Latin Dancers Troupe, which features three dancers in wheelchairs, and the Savyon Trio, who will present popular Israeli songs. It will also include personal testimony from four Israelis injured in combat or in terror attacks.

Beit Halochem Canada raises money to help more than 50,000 Israeli disabled veterans and terror victims. Funds raised go in part to support four Beit Halochem centres in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and Nahariya.

Since it became a registered charity in 1984, Beit Halochem Canada has contributed millions to fund medical and rehabilitation equipment for the centres. As well, every year, the Toronto Jewish community hosts a two-week visit by Israeli disabled war veterans.

On Aug. 22, Beit Halochem Canada will host its ninth annual golf day at Angus Glen (home of the Bell Canadian Open) and from Oct. 19 to 30, the organization will lead a mission to Israel.

For tickets to the concert, call 905-695-0611 or 1-800-355-1648.

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# Israeli environmental group comes to Canada

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

When Moshe Shemma makes his daily commute from his home in Jerusalem to his office in Tel Aviv, he passes Latrun, the site of a venerable monastery that's clearly visible from the road.

As he continues toward the coastal plain, he can see a cloud of smog blanketing Tel Aviv, about an hour's ride from Israel's capital.

"It's like a black strip," he said, working up a steam of indignation. "Do you know that more than 1,000 people in the Tel Aviv area die every year from the effects of air pollution?"

Pausing momentarily, he exclaimed, "It's environmental terrorism!"

Shemma has good reason to be upset.

As director of the international relations and resource development department of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), he has a professional interest in Israel's environmental well-being.

A colonel in the Israeli armed forces, Shemma was in Toronto recently to publicize SPNI – Israel's largest environmental organization – and to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a Canadian "circle of friends."

SPNI, whose broad goal is to increase public awareness of Israel's precious landscape, already has chapters in New York, Washington, Paris and London.

"Now it's about time to open a branch in Canada," said Shemma, who for many years was executive director of the Conservative movement in Israel.

"We hope to enroll 10,000 families for our Canadian Friends of SPNI," he added.

Founded in 1953, with 100,000 members today, SPNI strives to conserve Israel's remaining open spaces, protect its fragile environment and preserve its scenic, historic and cultural assets through educational programs, nationwide campaigns and hikes in the countryside.

Shemma believes SPNI has a special role to play.

"Because Israel is so small and so densely populated, we have become crucial in preserving Israel's quality of life," he explained in an interview.

"Since there is constant tension between development and preservation in Israel, our organization wants to ensure that Israelis can coexist with their environment."

In the past half century, SPNI has launched a series of initiatives to save the environment.

Its main concern, however, is to preserve Israel's dwindling green spaces, 14 per cent of which have disappeared since the advent of statehood in 1948, mainly along a corridor from Gadera to Haifa.

"We have urged the government not to build new towns but to expand existing ones," he said.

SPNI also carefully monitors Israel's meagre 200-kilometre coastline.

Fifty kilometres are already closed to the public for the military's use, while 100 kilometres are either built up or zoned for construction.

That leaves a mere 50 kilometres for beaches, and thanks to legislation inspired by SPNI, this stretch of coast will remain basically intact.

In one of its latest endeavours, SPNI has begun work on a 60-kilometre hiking trail around the Sea of Galilee.

At present, a multitude of illegal fences, erected by kibbutzim and businesses, break up the proposed path. But once all 120 fences come down, hikers will be free to walk around the lake without encountering obstacles.

Shemma estimates that each kilometre of the trail will cost $160,000 (US).

As it has over many years, SPNI works to impose controls on unmindful factories that spew waste products into Israel's few rivers.

Due to its efforts, the polluted Yarkon River in Tel Aviv was essentially cleaned up, and now, the Kishon River, near Haifa, is being cleansed of pollutants.

Moshe Shemma

But SPNI faces enormous challenges on other fronts. The water quality of the Jordan River remains abysmally poor, and the Dea Sea is drying up at the rate of one metre a year.

SPNI intends to survey both bodies of water and submit a report to the government, Shemma said.

Air pollution, of course, is another pressing concern. "We encourage people to use trains and urge the government not to build new roads."

But SPNI lost a battle royal to stop construction of a major artery, Highway 6, the route of which extends from the Galilee to Kiryat Gat in the northern Negev Desert.

In his view, the government is not doing enough to protect the environment.

"Definitely not. The ministry of the environment is the smallest ministry with the smallest budget. There are too many priorities. When you have to prepare for war, it's very hard to convince the government to allocate more funds for the environment. But according to surveys, Israelis spend a lot of their time enjoying the outdoors."

SPNI is an accidental organization, having been set up by a group of Israelis to protest plans to drain the Hula Valley. The project went ahead, but years later, the authorities decided to flood the drained area and return it to its original state, thereby vindicating the concerns of SPNI's founders.

In one of its first campaigns, SPNI persuaded the Knesset to pass a law forbidding the picking of wildflowers. The legislation has been remarkably successful, but new Russian immigrants, not being aware of the law, have largely ignored it.

"We're planning an information campaign in the Russian community," said Shemma, whose work never ends.


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# Toronto teenagers work with Arab children

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

The average teenager is reluctant to share his or her personal allowance with anyone. Eighteen-year-old Liat Papular of Toronto and 62 of her closest friends do so with pleasure.

Papular has spent the past nine months in Israel on Workshop 55, Habonim Dror's yearlong program for high school graduates. Since socialism is a core value of labour Zionism, Papular dips into a communal fund whenever she wants to buy ice cream or a magazine.

"We are 63 people, but we function as one," Papular said. "We rely on each other financially as well as emotionally."

**Workshop 55 participants are seen doing activities with Arab Israeli children from villages in northern Israel. [Liat Papular photo]**

Workshop participant Talia Gordon, 19, said living as a socialist is "a complicated experience… It can feel very liberating. You work and play and sleep and eat with the same people. We've learned a lot about tolerance and patience."

Out of 10 Canadians on Workshop this year, Gordon is among the five Torontonians, while the others hail from Sault-Ste Marie, Vancouver and Ottawa.

Currently in its 55th season, Workshop is the longest-running yearlong Israel program with North American participants.

The Workshop adventure kicked off in September with a three-month stint at Kibbutz Netiv Ha'lamed Hey in Beit Shemesh.

In addition to studying Israeli history and socialist Zionism there, students experienced "old-school kibbutz life," Papular said.

"We helped to farm the paprika peppers on the kibbutz. A key value of labour Zionism is physical work, so our group contributed for a few hours each week," she said.

The group did a month-long tour of the country, attending seminars about the Holocaust at the Ghetto Fighter's Kibbutz and on the history of Habonim Dror.

"At the conflict-resolution seminar, we learned about solving problems on an international scale as well as relating to the dynamic within our own group," Papular said.

Resolving conflicts and coexistence are themes that have dominated the teenagers' year in Israel.

For the past four months, Gordon has worked in Migdal HaEmek, a small development town in the Central Galilee.

"I worked with junior high students in the town, and we spoke about the way that Arab Israelis are treated in Israel," Gordon said.

"With high school students, I went once a week with them to Nazareth to participate in a coexistence program with Arab teens.

"We discussed the differences and commonalities in Jewish and Arab societies. It was a cultural exchange," she said.

Papular also worked with Arab children in the north, running classroom programs for teens in the surrounding villages.

"The Arab kids saw that we were North American, but they were so shocked to hear that we were also Jewish," Papular said.

"From time to time, they'll say something stereotypical about Jews, like, 'All Jews want to…'" she said.

"I just tell them that I'm Jewish, too, and that's not what I think."

As time went on, Papular forged friendships with the Arab teens.

"At the final discussion, one of the girls said, 'When we first got here, we thought this was going to be a waste of time. But now we understand that you're trying to send us a message, and one day we'll walk forward together, hand in hand.' She was 14," said Papular.

Working in small villages has broadened Papular's perspective. "We've been exposed to different thoughts and ideas. The Arab villages have much lower standards of living than the rest of Israel. It definitely made me aware of the economic issues facing the country," she said.

Gordon, too, described her time in one of Israel's poorer areas as a learning experience.

"They put us up north in development towns," she said. "I now know that help is needed there. I got a much more realistic version of Israel."

"Migdal HaEmek is a very small town. They only have one main road. But I'm glad we got to live there," Gordon said.

"People got to know who we are, and we integrated ourselves into the community."

Back in Canada, Gordon plans to attend McGill University this fall, while Papular is still deciding between the University of Toronto and York University.

The Habonim Dror movement would eventually like to see the two make aliyah, however.

Papular, whose parents are Israeli, said that aliyah is "definitely something that I'm considering. It's an idea that's out there.

"I have a lot of thinking to do."

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# Union prejudice

Boycotts, divestment and sanctions are once again being wielded as weapons of choice against the Jewish state. But it is a weapon, most fair-minded people will agree, of the deliberately misinformed or deliberately malevolent.

The World Council of Churches recently urged its nearly 350-member denominations to seriously consider divesting from Israel as a way of supporting the Palestinian cause.

This past weekend in London, Britain's largest academic trade union, the 67,000-strong National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education asked its members to vote to boycott Israeli academics and institutions that do not publicly declare their opposition to Israeli policy in the territories. As of this writing, the results of that vote were not yet known.

Closer to home, last Saturday, in Ottawa, as reported by the *Globe and Mail*, the Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Ontario's largest public sector union, voted to support an international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel "until Israel recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination."

The ignorance in the CUPE posturing is breathtaking. Every Israeli government since 1993 has countless times publicly, officially, declaratively and legally recognized the Palestinian right to self-determination. The straw-man invocation by CUPE, therefore, is nothing more than a smokescreen, a high-sounding but malign cover for its real intention: to bring down Israel.

The words of the CUPE spokesperson as reported in the *Globe and Mail* are as transparent on the issue as they are offensive and objectionable. "Boycott, divestment and sanction worked to end apartheid in South Africa," said Katherine Nastovski, chair of the CUPE Ontario international solidarity committee. "We believe the same strategy will work to enforce the rights of Palestinian people, including the right of refugees to return to their homes and properties."

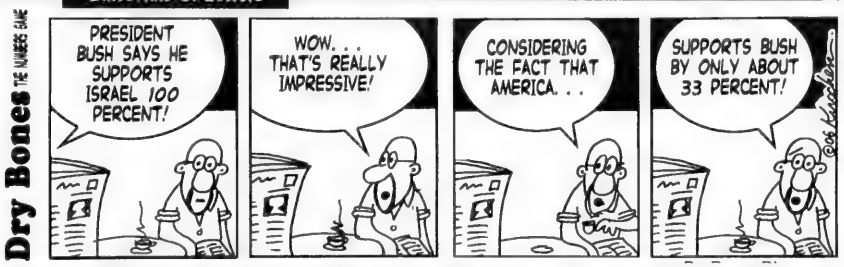
Nastovski hit upon the two key, resonating code-words: "apartheid" and "refugees." And in doing so, she sealed the poison into the envelope that she and her colleagues are intent on distributing throughout Canada.

But there should be no misunderstanding: the apartheid analogy is false, odious and immoral; and calling for the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties is, in effect, calling for the dismantling of the Jewish State of Israel.

The single-minded, zealous preoccupation of these groups in targeting only Israel for exceptional, punitive treatment through boycott, divestment and sanctions – is no longer puzzling. It simply tells us a great deal about the true nature of the groups. We ask the broader CUPE membership, other trade unions and public officials to repudiate and reject the CUPE calumny against Israel.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Figures from Statistics Canada showed that almost 42 per cent of marriages involving Jews in Canada were with non-Jews. If marriages in which the non-Jewish partner converted were included, the figure was nearly 50 per cent.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### Need to re-examine Conservative roots

Elliot Malamet's reference to Conservative Judaism's classic positioning in the middle ground is correct and, in my opinion, somewhat worrisome ("Whither Conservative Judaism?" *CJN*, May 18). In the context of a tennis metaphor, Conservative Judaism is positioned steadfastly between the service line and the baseline, referred to as "no-man's land."

Orthodox traditions are being eroded in the hope that a more egalitarian approach will attract a new and wider base of followers. Although this may be true, my sense is that potential new congregants who are attracted to this "Conservative-lite" process are already in the sphere of the Reform movement and as such will veer toward it. Conservative Judaism needs to re-examine its Conservative roots and stake out this position with a sense of pride and backbone.

**Eric Gralnick**
**Cote St Luc, Que.**

* * *

### Jews who leave Conservative Judaism

Elliott Malamet's column "Whither Conservative Judaism?" did not adequately answer the most important question arising from the answer to his implied question, "What happens to Conservative Jews when they leave Conservative Judaism?"

Malamet hinted at some movement by disenchanted Conservative Jews to Reform, which is largely true. A few of them do return to Orthodox Judaism, but the majority of Conservative Jews who leave that group actually do end up in Reform congregations. That's why Reform has become the biggest branch of Judaism in the United States.

This is very sad for Judaism, because there are so few fourth- and fifth-generation Reform Jews. On the positive side, more disenchanted Reform Jews than ever before are returning to Orthodox Judaism in recent years. Their numbers, however, are not yet great.

**Jerry Brodie**
**Toronto**

* * *

### Remembering Ethel Raicus

I first met Ethel Raicus in 1969 ("Raicus was principal at Holy Blossom," *CJN*, April 27). I was helping pay my way through university by teaching Hebrew part time, and she invited me to teach at Holy Blossom Temple's Hebrew school. In those days, Holy Blossom was far less welcoming of kippot than it came to be later. Holy Blossom's position was that a kippah was not consistent with its philosophy (at that time), and so she could not allow me to teach at Holy Blossom if I insisted on wearing one. I, being used to a more traditional upbringing, was expecting to wear a kippah while teaching, as I did at other Hebrew schools.

I wanted to work in what was known to be a creative environment, and she wanted me to teach for her, but we were at a standoff. This seemingly unsolvable impasse lasted only a few days until she, with Solomonic wisdom, proposed the following compromise. Though not at all comfortable with my wearing a kippah, she would allow me to do so when teaching Bible, Neviim, siddur and similar religious texts. For my part, I would not wear a kippah for history, grammar and other non-religious subjects. In the end, thanks to her sensitivity and insight, I spent the next several years teaching at a wonderful Hebrew school, kippah on, kippah off.

**Sheldon Parker**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETELY REST YOUR ARMS FOR SIX WEEKS.
..SO NO TALKING ABOUT POLITICS AND YOUR FAMILY
OWCH! THE CURE IS WORSE THAN THE DISEASE
BRON

### 'Community should be outraged'

My husband and I are active members of a Reform congregation and raised both our children in this environment. As adults they are both committed Jews who belong to egalitarian Conservative congregations.

While it is true that Reform and Conservative Jews often disagree about some practices of Orthodox Jews, we accept their right to practise as they believe. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about many within the Orthodox community regarding the practices of Reform and Conservative Jews.

Given this situation, I was nonetheless shocked and disturbed to read Rabbi Meir Wagner's letter (*CJN*, May 18), likening the boycott by some of the recent Yom Hashoah memorial program at Earl Bales Park (because of the male-only singing) to Holocaust denial. How dare Rabbi Wagner make such a comparison. The Toronto Jewish community should be outraged.

**Joanne R. Fisher**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

### Morris King started the King Theatre

In Ze'ev Glicenstein's column "Some early film pioneers," (*CJN*, May 4), one name is missing – Morris King, my father, who started the King Theatre on Dundas Street in Toronto.

When my uncle, Harry Alexander, couldn't make a living, my father took him into the theatre and when there was not enough income for two families, dad turned the theatre over to his brother-in-law.

As a teenager, I was the envy of my friends when I could pop into a movie palace by simply waving at an uncle. A free ride!

**Joe King**
**Montreal**

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Perspectives

# 'Be strong and of good courage'

*Excerpts from the address by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to a joint session of the U.S. Congress on May 24.*

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished members of the U.S. Congress, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the people and the State of Israel, I wish to express my profound gratitude to you for the privilege of addressing this joint meeting of the U.S. Congress…

Our two great nations share a profound belief in the importance of freedom and a common pioneering spirit deeply rooted in optimism.

It was the energetic spirit of our pioneers that enabled our two countries to implement the impossible. To build cities where swamps once existed and to make the desert bloom…

I come here, to this home of liberty and democracy, to tell you that my parents' dream, our dream, has only been partly fulfilled. We have succeeded in building a Jewish democratic homeland. We have succeeded in creating an oasis of hope and opportunity in a troubled region. But there has not been one year, one week, even one day of peace in our tortured land.

Our Israeli pioneers suffered, and their struggle was long and hard. Yet even today, almost 60 years after our independence, that struggle still endures. Since the birth of the State of Israel and until this very moment, we have been continually at war and amidst confrontation. The confrontation has become even more violent, the enemy turned even more inhumane due to the scourge of suicide terrorism. But we are not alone. Today, Israel, America, Europe, and democracies across the globe, unfortunately, face this enemy.

Over the past six years, more than 20,000 attempted terrorist attacks have been initiated against the people of Israel. Most, thankfully, have been foiled by our security forces. But those which have succeeded have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians and the injury of thousands – many of them children guilty only of being in what proved to be the wrong place at the wrong time.

These are not statistics. These are real people with beautiful souls that have left this earth far too soon…

Our countries do not just share the experience and pain of terrorism. We share the commitment and resolve to confront the brutal terrorists that took these innocent people from us. We share the commitment to extract from our grief a renewed dedication to providing our people with a better future.

Let me state this as clearly as I can: we will not yield to terror. We will not surrender to terror. And we will win the war on terror and restore peace to our societies.

The Palestinian Authority is ruled by Hamas, an organization committed to vehement anti-Semitism, the glorification of terror and the total destruction of Israel. As long as these are their guiding principles, they can never be a partner…

Like America, Israel seeks to rid itself of the horrors of terrorism. Israel yearns for peace and security. Israel is determined to take responsibility for its own future and take concrete steps to turn its dreams into reality. The painful but necessary process of disengagement from the Gaza Strip and northern Samaria was an essential step…

With the vision of [former Israeli] prime minister Ariel Sharon [Israel as a democratic state with a Jewish majority, within permanent and defensible borders and with a united Jerusalem as its capital that is open and accessible for the worship of all religions] guiding my actions, from this podium today, I extend my hand in peace to Mahmoud Abbas, elected president of the Palestinian Authority. On behalf of the State of Israel, we are willing to negotiate with a Palestinian Authority. This authority must renounce terrorism, dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, accept previous agreements and commitments, and recognize the right of Israel to exist.

Let us be clear: peace, without security, will bring neither peace nor security. We will not, we cannot, compromise on these basic tests of partnership.

With a genuine Palestinian partner for peace, I believe we can reach an agreement on all the issues that divide us. Our past experience shows us it is possible to bridge the differences between our two peoples. I believe this – I know this because we have done it before, in our peace treaties with Egypt and with Jordan. These treaties involved painful and difficult compromises. It required Israel to take real risks.

But if there is to be a just, fair and lasting peace, we need a partner who rejects violence and who values life more than death. We need a partner that affirms in action, not just in words, the rejection, prevention and elimination of terror…

The lesson for the Palestinian people is clear. In a few years they could be living in a Palestinian state, side by side in peace and security with Israel. A Palestinian State which Israel and the international community would help thrive.

But no one can make this happen for them if they refuse to make it happen for themselves.

For thousands of years, we Jews have been nourished and sustained by a yearning for our historic land. I, like many others, was raised with a deep conviction that the day would never come when we would have to relinquish parts of the land of our forefathers. I believed, and to this day still believe, in our people's eternal and historic right to this entire land…

But… we have to compromise in the name of peace, to give up parts of our promised land in which every hill and every valley is saturated with Jewish history and in which our heroes are buried. We have to relinquish part of our dream to leave room for the dream of others, so that all of us can enjoy a better future. For this painful but necessary task my government was elected. And to this I am fully committed.

We hope and pray that our Palestinian neighbors will also awaken. We hope they will make the crucial distinction between implementing visions that can inspire us to build a better reality, and mirages that will only lead us further into the darkness. We hope and pray for this, because no peace is more stable than one reached out of mutual understanding not just for the past but for the future…

And so I ask of the Palestinians: How can a child growing up in a culture of hate dream of the possibility of peace? It is so important that all schools and all educational institutions in the region teach our children to be hate-free.

The key to a true lasting peace in the Middle East is in the education of the next generation.

**Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert addressing the U.S. Congress [RNS/Reuters photo]**

So let us today call out to all peoples of the Middle East: replace the culture of hate with an outlook of hope…

The Road Map [peace plan] was and remains the right plan. A Palestinian leadership that fulfils its commitments and obligations will find us a willing partner in peace. But if they refuse, we will not give a terrorist regime a veto over progress or allow it to take hope hostage.

We cannot wait for the Palestinians forever. Our deepest wish is to build a better future for our region, hand in hand with a Palestinian partner, but if not, we will move forward, but not alone… Success will only be possible with America as an active participant, leading the support of our friends in Europe and across the world.

Should… the Palestinians ignore our outstretched hand for peace, Israel will seek other alternatives to promote our future and the prospects of hope in the Middle East. At that juncture, the time for realignment will occur.

Realignment would be a process to allow Israel to build its future without being held hostage to Palestinian terrorist activities. Realignment would significantly reduce the friction between Israelis and Palestinians and prevent much of the conflict between our two battered nations.

The goal is to break the chains that have tangled our two peoples in unrelenting violence for far too many generations…

Allow me to turn to another dark and gathering storm casting its shadow over the world. Every generation is confronted with a moment of truth and trial. From the savagery of slavery, to the horrors of World War II, to the gulags of the Communist Bloc. That which is right and good in this world has always been at war with the horrific evil permitted by human indifference.

Iran, the world's leading sponsor of terror and a notorious violator of fundamental human rights, stands on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons. With these weapons, the security of the entire world is put in jeopardy.

We deeply appreciate America's leadership on this issue and the strong bipartisan conviction that a nuclear-armed Iran is an intolerable threat to the peace and security of the world. It cannot be permitted to materialize. This Congress has proven its conviction by initiating the Iran Freedom and Support Act. We applaud these efforts.

A nuclear Iran means a terrorist state could achieve the primary mission for which terrorists live and die: the mass destruction of innocent human life.

This challenge, which I believe is the test of our time, is one the West cannot afford to fail.

The radical Iranian regime has declared the United States its enemy. Their president believes it is his religious duty and his destiny to lead his country in a violent conflict against the infidels. With pride, he denies the Jewish Holocaust and speaks brazenly, calling to wipe Israel off the map.

For us, this is an existential threat. A threat to which we cannot consent. But it is not Israel's threat alone. It is a threat to all those committed to stability in the Middle East and the wellbeing of the world at large…

Our moment is now. History will judge our generation by the actions we take now, by our willingness to stand up for peace and security and freedom, and by our courage to do what is right.

The international community will be measured not by its intentions but by its results. The international community will be judged by its ability to convince nations and peoples to turn their backs on hatred and zealotry.

If we don't take Iran's bellicose rhetoric seriously now, we will be forced to take its nuclear aggression seriously later…

The Bible tells us that as Joshua stood on the verge of the Promised Land, he was given one exhortation: "*Chazak ve'ematz*" –"Be strong and of good courage."

Strength, without courage, will lead only to brutality. Courage, without strength, will lead only to futility. Only genuine courage and commitment to our values, backed by the will and the power to defend them, will lead us forward in the service of humanity.

To the Congress of the United States and to the great people of America, on behalf of the people of Israel I want to say *chazak ve'ematz* – be strong and of good courage, and we, and all peoples who cherish freedom, will be with you…

# A half-century of success

I am one of five rabbis in Canada who was ordained by the Leo Baeck College in London, England. Other graduates serve in the United States, Holland, Germany, France, Australia, South Africa and Israel. The six college alumni who today lead congregations in the former Soviet Union have made a historic contribution to the revival of Jewish life there. If the college had done nothing else than ordaining them, it would have earned its place in Jewish history.

*Rabbi Dave Marmur in Toronto*

But it has done much more. Many of the 150 graduates live and work in the United Kingdom, serving the two liberal movements there as well as Conservative congregations. Thanks to them, non-Orthodox Judaism has come to flourish again in Europe.

In the beginning of July, many will gather in London to celebrate 50 years of the existence of our alma mater. The celebrations will include this year's graduation ceremony and a special welcome to the new principal, renowned scholar Rabbi Marc Saperstein of the United States.

The pioneers who in 1956 with meagre resources and little experience established a rabbinic school in London were determined to revive Jewish life in Europe after the Holocaust. The school was originally to be called the Jewish Theological College, and Rabbi Leo Baeck, the great leader of pre-war German Jewry who came to epitomize Jewish survival and continuity during and after the Shoah, was to be the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony. But he was too ill to attend and died shortly afterward. The college was then named in his memory.

I came to the college from Sweden in 1957. I knew that it was a small institution, still in its infancy, but when I discovered that I would be one of only six students, I almost panicked. My repressed Swedish upbringing prevented me from acting out.

Reform Judaism was then still on the periphery of Anglo-Jewry. This further contributed to my sense of marginality and isolation. It was one of several reasons why my time there was difficult. But after five years, I not only had a rabbinic diploma and a position in a marvelous congregation, which I served for seven, very happy years, but my wife and I also had by then two of our three children, one of whom is today a rabbi and a teacher of rabbis in Israel.

The Leo Baeck College gave me direction in life. It imbued me with a sense of purpose in survival. What was true for me as an individual, the college made true for many Jewish communities around the world. I hope and pray that the next 50 years will be no less fruitful and even more successful.

# The uses and abuses of instant messaging

Over the last 10 years or so, online instant messaging has become a hugely successful and popular form of communication for children, teens, young adults and parents who crave an alternative method of communicating with children who have flown the coop. (Being the lone contact on my mother's MSN list seems to work for her, but it's proven to be difficult on my end.)

*Matthew Pattens in Halifax*

One of the earliest forms of instant messaging was a program called ICQ (get it? – "I seek you"). Since then, AOL and MSN messenger have taken over the instant messaging world and have turned what was once a simple forum for two chatting friends into a highly advanced form of communication.

I use MSN Messenger as my primary instant messaging program. I find it most useful for making quick plans with friends, asking a classmate a question about school, or sending a quick hello to a friend who is travelling or away at school.

People use MSN for many different reasons. For example, I've seen friends of mine ask girls they are interested in for their MSN contact information rather than their phone numbers. Why would a guy prefer to speak to a girl via a computer rather than hear her voice on the telephone? Simple: instant messaging eliminates the pressure of putting yourself out there and having to come up with good stories, funny jokes and witty responses to keep that special someone on the other end of the line entertained.

With instant messaging, you have all the time in the world, without the treacherous period of waiting for the positive response of laughter after a telling a silly story. While this can be seen as positive, as it allows you to speak to someone and express yourself concisely, instant messaging eliminates the personal aspect of communication. Besides, how can you really know if a girl is actually laughing when she types "hahaha."

Having girls that you are attracted to on your MSN list can create a number of other anxieties. It may appear that she's avoiding you because of the service's various options. Even if she's online, she may have her computer set to "away," suggesting she's not there – but is she? Some people have their computer permanently set to "away," so is it personal if she doesn't respond? Plus, if she isn't responding three-quarters of the time, is it because you're constantly messaging her and she thinks you're coming on too strong? Are these messages piling up to the point that it bothers her? MSN Messenger can drive someone crazy!

Instant messaging can also eliminate personal confrontation – but not always for the better.

Recently, a friend of mine had to put an end to a relationship with a girl. When he began talking to her in the car during a ride home, he explained that going to different camps and different schools meant that their future appeared bleak. My friend said later that he felt like he was talking to a wall – a plain white wall with no designs or pictures on it. The girl had close to nothing to say to him. Sure enough, after he dropped her off, got home and signed on to MSN, she was waiting for him online – and suddenly she had plenty to say. She hit him with what might be called a romantic novel.

Again, you see how people can express themselves more easily through a computer, as it eliminates the need and pressure for quick, smart responses, and it makes it easier to be direct.

But I disagree with using instant messaging for any kind of important or meaningful conversation. If people become dependent on instant messaging for all of their difficult social interactions, how will they fare in job interviews and real-life, face-to-face communication? I don't know if a future employer would be willing to hold a computer screen over his or her face during an interview while the subject racks his or her brain for the correct response to a question.

# On the topic of weather, I'm just warming up

I've decided that the greatest evil, aside from perhaps the spork, is the weather. It seems that no matter the day or season, the weather always seems to be plotting to make your life harder. While we wait for a bus, wet from rain, frozen in snow, or sweltering in heat, we're never quite comfortable.

*Gershon Richter in Winnipeg*

The one redeeming thing about the weather is its conversational neutrality. What would total strangers talk about without it? It seems that no matter how ignorant or sheltered they are, most people know about the weather. This makes it the safest possible conversation topic. And you never have to worry about offending someone, since it's pretty rare for a person to get angry at a declaration of distaste for rain or snow.

Aside from this, the weather pretty much sucks. Firstly, you never know what it will be. There are con artists – we call them "weathermen" – who pretend to make accurate predictions about the weather. They pretend to use satellites and science, lying through their teeth as they keep changing their guesses. Let's say you're planning a picnic for next week. The first day you check, the forecast looks beautiful: no rain, no wind, and a high of 20 Celsius. Two days later, they've changed the forecast: expect some wind and a high of 15. The day after that, they forecast a small chance of rain, with gusting winds. By the day before your planned picnic, conditions have deteriorated and they're predicting a category 5 hurricane.

Weather has many negative effects. Mosquitoes? They get worse after rain. Drought? No rain when you need it. Hail dents your car. Rain floods your basement. Wind blows your hat off. Sweltering heat makes you sweat. And you can get sunburned, frostbitten, sick, diseased, tired and unhappy, all because of the weather.

Another little-known fact is that the weather displays malicious sentience. It will only rain on days when you don't have a jacket or umbrella, or on days when you've planned some outdoor event, or on days when you're required to wait at a bus stop, or any combination of the above. If anyone mentions snow, it will come. Storms hit open water only when it helps move the plot of a boat-centred B-movie. Tornadoes only strike soft targets, such as trailers, barns and cows.

The most talked about weather-related issue is global warming. It's said to be causing all sorts of natural disasters. If this is true, weather is in fact so evil that it's plotting to destroy us all. After some careful study (two minutes on Google, 1.5 minutes tying my shoelaces, and a quick daydream), I've confirmed that the causes of global warming are greenhouse gases.

Major greenhouse gases include water vapour (made by boiling water), carbon dioxide (made by breathing), methane (farting), nitrous oxide (a common dental anesthetic) and ozone (used to disinfect water before bottling). By extension, any person who partakes in hot beverages, breathes, passes gas, sees a dentist or drinks water is a cause of global warming. Using such lateral thinking, we can clearly recognize the people in society who are callous and uncaring when it comes to our global wellbeing. I can also conclusively state that weathermen all over the world have partaken in some or all of these dangerous and irresponsible behaviours.

It's quite clear that these people have been planning this global warming for some time. Perhaps they were so tired of getting the weather wrong that they decided to heat things up. Once the world has warmed up, forecasting will be simple. Tonight will be hot. Tomorrow, hot. The day after? Hot. Next week? You guessed it.

Actually, I don't think it would be all that bad if it got hotter. There would be no more shovelling the driveway and no more walks to the bus stop when it's 35 below, and every day could be a potential day at the beach. Shorts could be formalwear, and everyone would be tanned. And that picnic you were planning? Next week will be hot. The weatherman guarantees it.

Most importantly, you can still talk about the weather with total strangers.

I should know. I'm doing it right now.

The Kirshner File

# Becker was a prominent literary figure

Jurek Becker did not strike a chord of recognition in North America before his untimely death in 1997 at the relatively young age of 59, despite his status as one of Germany's most prominent literary figures.

A Polish Jew and a Holocaust survivor who settled in Berlin in 1945, Becker was the author of *Jacob the Liar*, the first comic novel about the Shoah, and a successful film and television scriptwriter as well.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

He was born in Lodz, the textile capital of Poland, and his mother tongue was Polish. His secular, middle-class parents had spoken Yiddish as youths, but had let it lapse in adulthood.

During the German occupation of Lodz, Becker worked in a cigarette factory. When the Nazis liquidated the ghetto in August 1944, Becker's father vanished, only to turn up at Auschwitz. He and his mother were shipped to Ravensbruck, a concentration camp in Germany. Becker's mother died of tuberculosis in Sachsenhausen, and after the war, thanks to the assistance of the American Joint Distribution Committee, he was reunited with his father.

As Sander Gilman suggests in his fine, exceptionally well-researched biography, *Jurek Becker: A Life in Five Worlds* (University of Chicago Press), Becker's father was one of those survivors who had no desire whatsoever to return to Poland, and because he was not in the best of health, he was not eligible to immigrate to the United States. So he remained in the eastern sector of Berlin, just too tired to leave, and Becker grew up in the communist German Democratic Republic, or East Germany.

Becker learned German, his window into German culture, by listening to radio broadcasts. He did not want to be marked as a foreigner, but his official status as a "victim of fascism" set him apart as an object of pity and even derision.

As Becker did not wish to be "different," and sought to identify himself as a German, he preferred to be known as a "citizen of Jewish ancestry" rather than as a Jew. And like most Jews in East Germany, which discouraged the observance of Judaism, he distanced himself from his Jewish identity.

The negative associations of being Jewish would permeate his novels, Gilman, his old friend, writes. But as he grew older, being Jewish ceased to be negative to him.

Becker's life as a writer really began when he enrolled at Humboldt University to study philosophy and law. He started writing poetry and film criticism for a campus cabaret and a student's magazine. But in 1960, long before he was due to take his final exams, he was suspended from the university on disciplinary grounds.

Finding himself at loose ends, Becker enrolled in a screenwriter's course at the Film and Television College at Babelsberg, the hub of East Germany's movie industry. That led to a fruitful career.

Becker's first full-length screenplay was a comedy of manners about a Czech traveller who finds himself stranded in East Berlin without a passport. The film added to his growing reputation as a master of light comedies and of dialogue and plot.

In 1961, when he was 24, Becker went back to Poland to find whatever scraps he could of his family's presence in Lodz. The trip prompted him to experiment with a topic that was both very personal and virtually taboo in East Germany: the murder of the Jews of Europe. When Becker finally got down to writing *Jacob the Liar* as a movie script, Frank Beyer's film dealing with the Holocaust, *Naked Among Wolves*, had just been released.

When production of *Jacob the Liar* was abruptly cancelled, Becker rewrote it as a novel. In East Germany, novels were considered less dangerous than films. Published in 1969, *Jacob the Liar* – described by Gilman as "the most important survivor novel written in German" – was unusual, to say the least.

Representing the Holocaust in a comic vein, the novel garnered ecstatic reviews in both East Germany and West Germany. But as a result of his association with *Jacob the Liar*, Becker was pigeonholed as a "professional" Jew.

The book's success coincided with his sense of alienation from the Marxist regime. Prior to its publication, the Soviet Union and its allies, including East Germany, had invaded Czechoslovakia to crush Alexander Dubcek and his band of reformers.

Becker had been a supporter of the Prague Spring and believed that the Warsaw Pact invasion was an arch betrayal. At a meeting of the German Writers' Union, he was among the very few who refused to sign a manifesto in its support.

The events in Czechoslovakia also shaped his sense of identity. How could the Democratic German Republic condemn Israel and the United States when it itself had become an aggressor?

**Jurek Becker**

Eventually, Becker was removed from the leadership of the Berlin chapter of the German Writers' Union and accused of being a "counter-revolutionary," a serious accusation in a repressive country like East Germany.

Nevertheless, due to his belief that the German Democratic Republic could reform itself, Becker considered himself a member of the "loyal opposition." Be that as it may, he was placed under surveillance by the Ministry of State Security (Stasi).

*Jacob the Liar*, whose success enabled Becker to travel to the West starting in 1973, was finally released as a film in 1974 on television. Nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign film, it won the Silver Bear prize at the Berlin Film Festival. Many years later, *Jacob the Liar* was reincarnated as a Hollywood film – a rather poor one – starring Robin Williams.

In 1977, a year before he left the German Democratic Republic for good, Becker was asked to contribute a series of essays on Jewish identity to be broadcast on South German Radio in Stuttgart. Three years earlier, he had written his third novel, *The Boxer*, his most autobiographical one, chronicling the life of a Holocaust survivor from 1945 to the 1970s.

Becker's essays were, to put it mildly, controversial. He expressed ambivalence toward his Jewishness and, in keeping with a 1975 United Nations resolution sponsored by the Arabs, rejected Zionism as a form of racism. Twenty years later, about a year before his death, he withdrew his comments about Zionism as "exaggerated and false."

Becker spent almost a month in Israel in 1984, travelling incognito with his wife. There he realized there was a lot more to being Jewish than being a "victim of fascism."

Upon his return, he attended the first of what became an annual German-Israeli Writers' conference. He also began writing a new novel about the children of Holocaust survivors, *Bronstein's Children*, which was adapted as a movie.

By then, Becker had already written the script for *David*, a film based on the life of a German Jew who been driven out of Germany by the Nazis. He had also been elected to the West German Academy of Language and Literature in Darmstadt, and had started teaching a course in German literature at Oberlin College in the United States.

"American Germanists saw in Becker the perfect German writer: a Jew, a survivor, a dissident and an author of successful books and films that crossed national boundaries," Gilman observes.

After moving to West Germany, Becker lived in West Berlin, where he was something of a celebrity. There he functioned as a specialist on Jewish developments in the German Democratic Republic. But this role rankled him. "I have suddenly found myself forced to feel as a Jew, something that had played almost no role in my life in the GDR… More often than not, I find expressions of anti-Semitism aimed generally in my direction."

In the wake of Germany's reunification in 1990, Becker was troubled by the resurgence of neo-Nazi violence. "I am afraid," he admitted. "I demand to be protected. And if the state denies me protection, then I shall have to live elsewhere."

In 1995, after returning from a lecture tour of South America, he was diagnosed with advanced rectal cancer. He underwent surgery, but the cancer had metastasized into the liver. More aggressive treatment was required and Becker submitted to a regimen of chemotherapy, but to no avail.

A month before he died, he gave his final press interview. He recognized that *Jacob the Liar* would be his principal legacy. He acknowledged that his Jewish background had been an intrinsic part of what he was and did. He affirmed the importance of family. He defined himself as a "new" German, anchored in a multicultural past as a foreigner, Jew, socialist, dissident, East German, West Berliner and, finally, a German.


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Perspective

# Mission participants walk in the footsteps of Jewish history

## *UJA trip to Djerba and Paris offers a unique look at Jewish life*

*UJA Federation's recent mission to Djerba, organized by the Board of Jewish Education, offered participants exposure to the world's oldest existing Jewish community. Despite past persecution and deadly terror attacks against Djerba's historic main synagogue in 1985 and 2002, the Jewish community, although small, is still vibrant. In this edition of Perspective, participant Robert Cohen, a Toronto lawyer, provides his personal look at the Djerba experience. Next week, Dr. Seymour Epstein examines the Paris portion of the mission.*

By ROBERT COHEN
UJA Federation

Djerba, an island off the coast of Tunisia, is the home of a Jewish community that has been there for 2000 years. Its exact origins are somewhat clouded between First and Second Temple dispersion times, but according to tradition, the foundation of Djerba's historic El Ghriba Synagogue contains stones from the First Temple and the gate of the Second Temple.

The Jewish community of Djerba numbers approximately 1000, located primarily in two cities on the island. Although its population has been larger in the past, its present population is stable and growing with a family birth rate of six or seven children, and families that are choosing, with some small attrition, to remain in Djerba.

They are not Sephardim or Ashkenazim - they are "Djerban" and fiercely protective of their identities. The community is homogenous - all observant, with no concept of secularism (and certainly not our traditions of Orthodox/Conservative/Reform).

We spent the better part of a day at a girl's school established many years ago by Rabbi David Kiddushim and his wife. We asked the classroom of older girls what they aspired to and were advised that they aspired to marry at 18 and raise their families. Our group, educated in North American feminist values was, to some extent, shocked. It was explained to us, however, that we could not impose our values on this society. Nothing could be of higher value than raising and educating their children.

They were not necessarily sheltered from the world - they had satellite dishes on their roofs, access to the Internet, DVDs and other attributes of western culture - but they were more comfortable with their culture and their value system.

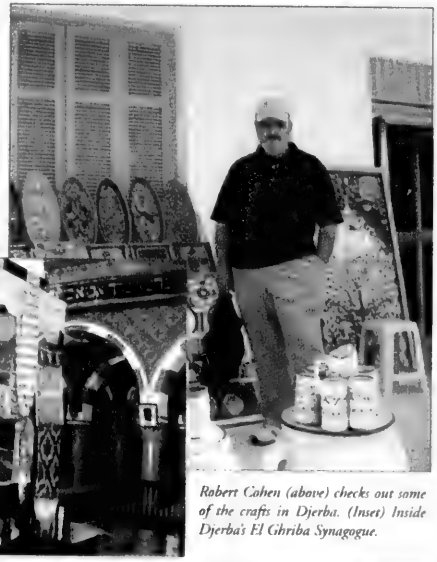
The boys are not as educated in Hebrew, but more involved in Talmud study in the yeshivot. Their texts are Hebrew and Arabic. When they study Torah, they learn it with cantillation (musical notes) - so a significant portion of male society serves as Torah readers in Djerban synagogues - which are traditional, with no women's sections.

Djerban Jews, who are for the most part, financially successful, have a strong connection to Israel - although Israel is not something that is discussed. They live in an Arab country that respects its Jews and hates Israel, and does not see this as contradictory.

When we asked whether the Jews of Djerba have a problem with "fundamentalist" Islam, we were told that the Muslims of Tunisia consider themselves fundamentalist and the true interpreters of the Koran. What the world refers to as fundamentalist, they consider extremists who are not encouraged in their society.

Throughout our Djerban visit, we were royally welcomed and exposed to something very different and so beautiful that we are still reflecting on those experiences.

*Participants on this mission were Austin & Elaine Beutel, Dr. Frances Budden, Robert & Marilyn Cohen, Seymour & Cheryl Epstein, Dr. Jeffrey Erlich, Sarah Erlich, Nathan & Myra Mechanic, Joseph & Elaine Steiner and Shirley Worth.*



*Robert Cohen (above) checks out some of the crafts in Djerba. (Inset) Inside Djerba's El Ghriba Synagogue.*

## UJA Federation in our nation's capital

Twenty five UJA Federation volunteers recently participated in the Ottawa Fly-In, one motivational and educational lesson in advocacy arranged for UJA Federation by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC). The trip - chaired by Michael Levitt and Dan Rabinovitch - allowed participants to see the House of Commons in action and hear from Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, and Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Stockwell Day.

The group also met with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs who deal with the Middle East, and visited a special exhibit on Petra at the Museum of Civilization.

*(Pictured) Ottawa Fly-in co-chairs Michael Levitt (l) and Dan Rabinovitch present Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Stockwell Day (centre), with a copy of* Voices from the Heart

# Truly a ride to remember

Being cheered by legions of adoring fans isn't a regular occurrence for members of Yidden On Wheels (YOW), a Toronto-based Jewish motorcycle club.

But on a recent journey, almost 400 YOWies, who were helped out in the final leg of a 1,400 kilometre journey by a police escort comprised of 15 patrol cars and, fittingly, four police motorcycles, were greeted by enthusiastic supporters as they zoomed onto the premises of Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee.

Tucked away in a remote community made up almost exclusively of white, southern Baptists, this small-town school is the unlikely home to a Holocaust education project that's garnered international acclaim, and is the subject of the film *Paper Clips*, which was sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

Through the school project, students collected six million paper clips, an effort to understand the sheer magnitude of how many Jewish souls were murdered by the Nazis.

Almost one-quarter of those who made their way to Whitwell were from Toronto, and many were first inspired by a showing of *Paper Clips* during last November's Holocaust Education Week, sponsored by UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto.

"What I got out of this was the pleasure of telling the students how remarkable they are for doing this project," says Sid Rochwerg, co-chair of the trip entitled, *Paper Clip Ride To Remember*, along with Steven Stein. "The school's mandate was to educate the students about the Holocaust and tolerance, but they've gone way beyond that. They're educating the world."

The two-day trek in May from Toronto to Whitwell included nearly 250 motorcycles and 400 people, hailing not just from Toronto, but also places such as Boston, New York and even Australia. Participants from Toronto ranged in age from eleven to those in their eighties, including Rochwerg's father-in-law, Jack Sylman, 82, a Holocaust survivor, and his wife Lola.

Stein called it "the largest assemblage of Jewish motorcyclists ever."

While paying tribute to the school was their main goal, the riders also raised $40,000, which helped purchase almost a dozen high-tech teaching aids for the school and also assisted the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Moriah Films division.

"We told school principal Linda Hooper that in light of what you've done, we want to do something for you, so we raised money for the school," says Stein. "And since films serve as a primary means of Holocaust education… what better way to serve this project than support Moriah Films."

*Trudy Blugerman, a member of Yidden on Wheels (YOW), traveled the 1400 kms from Toronto to Whitwell, Tennessee, on the recent* Paper Clips Ride to Remember. *(Photo by Sean Shapiro)*

**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

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# New Jewish campuses respond to challenges identified in recent study

## *Survey profiles community members on margins of Jewish life*

By CARLA LANCIT

Danielle Reich is among those who believe that the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus on Bathurst Street north of Rutherford Road will bring York Region's Jewish community closer together, and closer still to a more complete Jewish life. She, her husband Jamie, and their two young children live in Thornhill Woods, a stone's throw from the 50-acre campus, a UJA Federation Tomorrow Campaign project.

"We're looking forward to it," she says. "We're not a member of any synagogue, or any community organization—this will give us the incentive to be more active," says Reich, who is planning to investigate children's programs with Jewish content, fitness activities and perhaps a lecture series for herself. Reich typifies a significant number of Jews in the Greater Toronto Area who, according to a recent UJA Federation study, are more removed from Jewish life than those who live in areas with a larger number of Jewish programs and services.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is responding to the challenges outlined in the survey through the Tomorrow Campaign, which is building new campuses for Jewish life downtown, in the Bathurst-Sheppard area and in York Region.

"The physical structures and the programs that will take place in those structures on the campuses are revitalizing Jewish life," says UJA Federation of Greater Toronto president and CEO Ted Sokolsky. "We are creating new portals of Jewish life and now we have to develop new methods of engagement. Clearly we have to get involved in grassroots Jewish life in non-traditional Jewish areas."

The Lebovic campus, for example, will house schools, family and social services, fitness and conference facilities and large amounts of green space to address the needs of the more than 60,000 Jews living in York Region.

For Debbie Starr, the Lebovic campus holds the promise of a fuller Jewish life for her four children, aged 12 to 20. "I hope that it will encourage them to get active in some way," she says. "Even if it's just playing hockey with other Jewish kids."

At the other end of the GTA, the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (MNJCC) – the centerpiece of the downtown campus - serves 21,000 Jews who live in the city core and nearly 5,000 downtown Jewish students through the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto.

For many, the MNJCC serves as an entry point to the Jewish community by offering a wide array of programming as well as its state-of-the-art workout facilities.

Frances Enchin was on a stationary bike in the MNJCC gym last week when she overheard two people discussing a Yiddish expression. "I said, 'you wouldn't have this conversation at a commercial gym.'"

This feeling of community contributed, in fact, to Enchin's decision to continue living downtown after having children. "There are plenty of places to go," she says, "but this is where I want to hang my hat."

"We're creating new Jewish life in places where there is currently little Jewish life," says Sokolsky. "The new campuses for Jewish life across the GTA will be magnets for members of the Jewish community. Given the opportunity, people will gravitate toward these magnets."

## Eilat/Eilot honours Toronto

During the recently concluded UJA Federation Prime Minister's Mission, a special dedication ceremony was held in honour of the new Toronto Circle on the main road to Eilat. The circle was dedicated to Toronto because of UJA Federation's long-standing partnership with Eilat and the surrounding Eilot region. Pictured below, dancers at the dedication ceremony are recent graduates of a UJA Federation-supported after-school program for youth at risk in Eilat.

# Pillsbury heiress takes philanthropy to the next level

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

Giving away one's money is more difficult than spending it, because quiet simply, money doesn't come with directions, according to a woman who knows.

Tracy Gary, heiress to the Pillsbury fortune, a donor activist and philanthropic advisor from the United States made her remarks during a two-day series of Toronto forums sponsored by three of Canada's most successful organizations - The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation's endowment arm, the Toronto Community Foundation, and Philanthropic Foundations Canada, a membership organization for foundation leadership.

Author of *Inspired Philanthropy*, a work book designed to help philanthropists with their giving, Gary has served on 30 boards of directors and has worked with a number of donors, families and foundations to develop statements of purpose and guidelines for their giving. Gary was introduced to the importance of giving back at an early age when her great grandfather, who invented the dial telephone, once told her that "you must do something for the city, country and community you live in."

*(l to r) Carol Kassel, vice president, planned giving and endowments, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto; Elizabeth Wolfe, chair, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, Tracy Gary, Hilary Pearson, president & CEO, Philanthropic Foundations Canada, Anne Swarbrick, president & CEO, Toronto Community Foundation (Inset) Karen Morton (l), chair, Family Philanthropy Forum, with Tracy Gary.*

"Tracy Gary obviously stands by what she believes," says Carol Kassel, vice president, Planned Giving and Endowments, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. "She is adamant that collaboration is essential in the role of successful philanthropy and, here she is, sharing with others her secrets and vast wealth of knowledge about philanthropy. Tracy possesses the gift of inspiring and motivating others to get involved in more rewarding philanthropic work, and that's something that ultimately benefits us all."

According to Gary, with a huge transfer of wealth expected over the next 25 years, substantially increasing philanthropy is vital for the success of charitable foundations.

Gary, who began her philanthropic journey during her early twenties, believes that educating donors about the importance of and sense of satisfaction from developing a giving plan that continues to be implemented after death – is essential. At the afternoon session of the Family Philanthropy Forum, Gary said that philanthropy at its best is very intentional. Whether it's $1 or $1 million, its about being committed and thoughtful to a strategic philanthropic goal.

The big question, says Gary, is "what is it that you want to share or preserve after your lifetime?"

"In the United States, 90 percent of all people give to charity but less than 20 percent of them give at the time of their death," she says. "Legacy planning can be done in stages and does not have to be done alone – it's really just another way of dreaming about the future you want. If you only wait until death [to give], there's a lot of fun that you'll have missed because when you give, you are living with a greater purpose."

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

# Artists join fight to end domestic violence

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

A group of about 18 female Canadian visual artists have come together to help in the fight to end violence against women.

In an art show titled "Toronto Caring Hands Artists' Initiative" (TCHAI), to be held at the Papermill Gallery at Todmorden Mills, 67 Pottery Rd., from June 20 to July 2, the women will be selling some of their work to raise money for Jewish Women International of Canada (JWI/C), whose mission is to help end violence against women.

Four honorary patron artists – Doris McCarthy, Helen Lucas, Charles Pachter and Ian Leventhal – have also joined the cause.

Artist Harriet Liebmann says the seeds for the show were planted about two years ago at a meeting of JWI's Golda Meir chapter, when she and two other artists, Judith Sinclair and Lilli Gillman, decided to do a three-women show at the Papermill Gallery to raise money for the chapter.

"We realized that the gallery had 360 linear feet of wall space available and we decided to invite other artists, selected by a jury, to join the show," Liebmann says.

Each artist was asked to bring forward the names of at least 50 people to be invited to the opening and to participate in fundraising, she says.

"These artists have helped raise an enormous amount of money, and we now have 2,000 people on the invitation list for the June 20 opening."

Money raised from the show will help finance the distribution of "When Push Comes to Shove… It's No Longer Love," interactive multi-media workshops specifically designed to alert teenagers to the signs of abuse and to help them understand the social implications of violence.

TCHAI's goal is to raise $50,000, which could help more than 50,000 students across Canada to benefit from the program, Liebmann says.

"It is something that is pro-active. Education and awareness are important at this level – just when teens are starting to date. We want to get this on [the students'] agenda."

Penny Krowitz, executive director of JWI Canada, says the three women visited every artist's studio and met each one before making the selection.

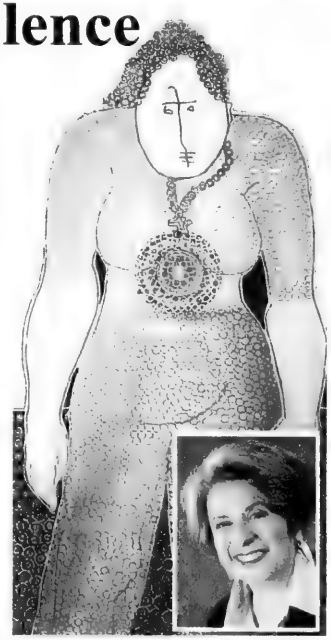
"They also brought sponsor Gabor Szekely [on board], who provided seed money to ensure the project would run."

Liebmann says the project could be "one of the most important artists' initiative in the history of the city. These artists are taking their work – sculptures, florals, still lifes and abstracts – and using it to raise awareness and funds.

"Raising money for this cause is important for the safety of young girls. It could change their lives, and it could even save their lives."

Artists participating in the show – each will contribute about six or seven pieces and donate part of the money to JWI/C – include Eleanor Besen, Bina Cole, Sheila Shapiro Denaburg, Ruth Frankel, Filomena N. Gasparro, Lilli Gillman, Elaine Clarfield Gitalis, Edie Harlang, Lila Lewis Irving, Harriet Liebmann, Patience Morrisey, Gloria Robins, Jill Segal, Kati Siklos, Judith Sinclair, Abbey Smith and Linda Cherry Soudack.

Krowitz says each of the artists has also donated a piece of art, which will be part of a raffle.



**Artists will be selling works of art for charity at the art show to fund JWI's program. Inset: Harriet Liebmann**

The two-week art show is running Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The June 20 opening and June 29 closing are by invitation only.

For information call JWI/C, 416-630-9313 or go to www.jwicanada.com.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# Aging not a problem but a privilege, doctor says

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Memory does not get worse as we age, but our memory functions differently, says Dr. Guy Proulx.

In fact, while 20-year-olds use one particular area of the brain to solve a problem, 70-year-olds use a completely different part of the brain to perform the same task, said Proulx, Baycrest's director of psychology and neuro-rehabilitation.

It is important to talk about the fear that many adults have about changing memory abilities, Proulx told the audience of some 250, almost all seniors and baby boomers, at a recent lecture at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

A lot of that fear, he said, comes from ignorance about the true face of aging.

Proulx's talk, sponsored by the synagogue's sisterhood, countered that ignorance by debunking popular myths about growing older.

It is true that memory changes as we get older, but there is a large difference between normal memory changes and changes to be concerned about, he said. The majority of elderly people do not have brain function diseases.

"If you forget the name of someone you see only once in awhile, that is a normal memory change. But if you forget the name of a close family member, that is a problem."

The same goes for repeating a comment or question a few hours after you've said it: if you repeat a question immediately after asking it, there is cause for concern.

Since one-quarter of Canadians will be seniors in 20 years, the elderly agenda will become an increasingly significant national issue, Proulx said.

He personally believes that aging is not a problem, but a privilege. He showed a painting by Group of Seven artist Tom Thomson depicting a beautiful Canadian autumn. "Autumn is the most glorious season in Canada, and in life," Proulx told his audience.

In order to paint aging in a better light, Proulx demonstrated that the senior population is in fact the most diverse demographic in Canada.

"Many believe that most of the over-85 crowd have dementia. True, 35 per cent does have dementia, but we need to learn from the 65 per cent that does not," he said.

One prevalent myth is that we lose all our skills as we age. Proulx explained that once older people begin to use new areas of the brain, they gain new skills.

"Global pattern recognition is our new skill. Young people can be too focused," he said.

"A 70-year-old reading to a child will remember the story she read better than a 29-year-old will, since the 70-year-old has more of an emotional association with reading to the child."

Aging is viewed as a negative part of life by western society, but in truth, as you age, "you gain in certain areas, lose in others and stay stable in some skills," Proulx said.

"Yes, motor reaction and speed go down with age, but intelligence and knowledge go up."

Life can be easier in other ways, too. Proulx described his 22-year-old son currently grappling with substantial worries about the future: finding a graduate school to attend, a career to pursue and a woman to marry.

"This stress does not have a bearing on older people like us, since we experience more stability and have fewer concerns because major decisions have already been made," Proulx said.

In light of this fact, he added, it is not surprising that the age demographic most satisfied with life is the 65-plus group. The myth that life gets worse as we get older is inaccurate and one we need to fight.

Another advantage is that most of us become much better at regulating emotions and at dumping negative feelings, he said. Older people are much more willing to compromise. Young people are absolutist, wanting black and white solutions to their problems.

Proulx also likened an older mind that works more slowly than it once did to a vast library: "The more your library grows, you get a little slower retrieving information. But who says slower is bad?

"The more knowledge you acquire with age, the richer your consciousness becomes," he noted.

Canadians need to stop worrying about normal aging and start battling abnormal aging. "Type 2 diabetes, obesity and smoking are some factors that increase the risk for vascular and Alzheimer dementias.

"You are never too young or too old to start being active and eating well to prevent dementia," Proulx stressed. "The good news is, studies are showing that a regular walking program can dramatically reduce the danger for vascular dementia."

The secret to avoiding abnormal aging is prevention, he said. "It's very low-tech: eat well, stay healthy and dump the stress."


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| Shaarei Shomayim | Rivka Sonnenberg | 6:00 p.m. |
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Jewish Life

# Message sent, message received

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Shavuot is an anniversary that celebrates the delivery of the greatest message ever: God's instructions to, and expectations of, humanity – the Torah. While the spectacular delivery of this message was witnessed by an entire nation at the foot of Mount Sinai, the divine message itself was transmitted through the medium of Moshe Rabbeinu. He received the message, but more importantly, he was given the task of communicating it to the masses.

What is most fascinating is that Moses was challenged with a lifelong speech impediment, one so severe that God himself advised Moses that his brother Aaron should speak for him before Pharoah.

One remembers Moses' reluctance to accept God's command in taking the people out of Egypt. "I am not a man of words. I am heavy of mouth and heavy of speech." While some commentators understand this refusal as Moses feeling he was no longer fluent in the language of a nation he had left a long time before, most understand it simply as Moses saying he was not a silver-tongued orator. In fact, he had difficulty pronouncing even basic words and sounds.

So why did God again choose someone like Moses, with all his wonderful qualities, to communicate such an important message as the Torah when he simply could not?

Before answering this, I'd like to tell you a story. In prewar Poland, the Polish Parliament considered an accreditation system for all teachers. Since this new law would have a disastrous effect on the yeshivot of Poland, whose teachers most certainly could not meet these secular standards, the Chofetz Chaim himself attempted to intercede. Standing before officials from the ministry of education, he delivered an impassioned plea, even sobbing at times. When the Chofetz Chaim paused to regain his composure, an interpreter offered to translate his Yiddish words. "No need," said the minister. "I understand what the old rabbi wants."

All pieces of communication have two components: content and delivery. One without the other, or too much of one and too little of the other, means the message won't get fully delivered. If a person has dazzling eloquence but little to say, not much is being said, even if it's being said beautifully! Conversely, if you have a great message but no skill in delivering it, then the message, as valuable as it may be, will either be misunderstood or not delivered at all.

In the case of the Chofetz Chaim, the ministry officials did not understand a single word he said, yet they were moved by the sincerity of the saintly Chofetz Chaim.

God specifically chose Moses for his total lack of communication skills. The Torah was so important that the message had to stand on its own merit. Anything but the raw power of the Torah itself would actually diminish it. There could be no flourish of language or persuasion of personality, and there was no place for charisma or oratory. The transmission of the Torah in its purest form was so important that nothing could embellish it, for any embellishment would be to its very detriment.

In today's world of media hyper-sophistication and an ever-shrinking public attention span, public speakers better make sure they have something to say and that it be polished to a shine before they get up to speak.

# Curious Jews

Guest Voice

By RABBI ADIN STEINSALTZ

For most people, the act of studying stops abruptly at the end of formal schooling, whether after elementary school, high school or college.

It isn't that they don't learn anymore once their schooling is over. They have lots of experiences, and hopefully they learn something from them. If they live in a large city, they may have all kinds of lectures to choose from, and perhaps they go, and even go again, if a subject interests them. But few adults sit down and study in a continuous, disciplined way. They find no compelling need or motivation.

Curiosity is a characteristic of youth. Other primates abandon curiosity relatively early in order to deal with the problems of daily living – finding food, rearing offspring – but the prolonged childhood of humans gives them the opportunity to spend more time cultivating their curiosity.

Many educational systems don't understand this. They try to make every subject of study "relevant," and that's a big mistake. Teachers, and sometimes parents, think this enhances the desire and inclination to learn, but it actually destroys curiosity, which is what is most important. Being interested in irrelevant things – things that have no immediate or even remote relevance to our existence – is part of our uniqueness as humans.

In his book on popular physics, Leopold Infeld describes the earliest experiments with electricity. You can do them yourself. Take a piece of glass and rub it with silk, and you get electricity. Or, take a piece of amber and rub it with flannel. You also get electricity, but of a different kind: one is positive, and one is negative.

Now, what would most people do with those things? They would use the glass as a paperweight. They would put the amber on a shelf as an ornament. They would use the flannel to clean their shoes, and the silk to wipe their nose.

So how did we go from static electricity to computers – from the Greek philosopher Thales (who first described creating static electricity by rubbing glass with silk 2,500 years ago) to Apple Computer founder Steve Jobs tinkering in his parents' garage? These people were curious. They had time on their hands, and they had stuff to play with. They played to satisfy their curiosity, and they saw something interesting.

When a school tries to make everything relevant and utilitarian, it's helpful in some ways, but it kills the basic notion of curiosity. In some realms of knowledge, it's fine to ask what good something is, to see if it gives a practical answer to a practical problem. But sometimes I want to find out about what it is. One might even say that it's the lack of continuous curiosity that slows human advancement.

Observant Jews are obligated to study Torah simply to study Torah. This is unusual. Most religions have expectations about belief and about doing the right things, but they don't obligate you to study. Jews, however, study Torah as an activity that is not directly connected with belief or action. In fact, the most studied books in Jewish life, such as the Talmud, are ones with very little practical use.

So why do people study the laws of rare things that happened in remote times, or things the Talmud says never happened and never will happen? We do because we are seeking knowledge for itself, not as something to be used. Not everyone has the same level of active curiosity, but study is encouraged and done as an obligation.

Why does God want us to study? Theologically, it's a way to commune with Him. The ability to study for the sake of study is one of the very true human traits that make us, in a certain way, higher than angels. The angels don't seem to have any curiosity; they know everything. And animals learn only what they need to live. The only beings who are curious about anything are people.

This notion has always been powerful in Jewish life, and it has pushed some people to very high intellectual levels. When Isidor Rabi, who won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1944, was asked what he attributed his prize and his great achievements to, he said his parents. When he came home from school, they never asked him what he learned. Rather, they wanted to know, "Did you ask a good question today?"

The Jewish approach to learning seems to have been ingrained very early and very deeply. Hecataeus, a Greek geographer during the reign of Alexander the Great, wrote about remote countries that were beginning to be known at the time. He said he had heard of an interesting nation south of Syria. All its inhabitants were philosophers – that is, people who ask idle questions and are interested in wisdom for wisdom's sake. That's a very nice statement about our people.

On the upcoming holiday of Shavuot, we celebrate receiving the Torah. We do not dance and sing with it, as we do on Simchat Torah. Rather, alone or together, we sit and we study – whatever text or topic we choose – just to learn and to connect with God.

*Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz is a scholar and social critic best known for his translation of and commentary on the Talmud.*

Jewish Life

# Christians respect and admire Judaism

***A Dictionary of Jewish-Christian Relations*, edited by Edward Kessler and Neil Wenborn, Cambridge University Press.**

**Books**
***Bernard Baskin***

This A-to-Z companion to 2,000 years of encounter between Judaism and Christianity is the most comprehensive dictionary ever compiled on the relations between the two religions. It contains over 700 entries, contributed by more than 100 internationally renowned scholars.

It addresses not only the theological but also the philosophical, historical, sociological and political dimensions of the ongoing encounter between Judaism and Christianity.

In a helpful preface to the book, the two editors point out that it was the impact of the Holocaust, the creation of the State of Israel, the development of the ecumenical movement and the work of the Second Vatican council (1962 to '65) that in combination made the changes in attitude more widespread.

As a result, Christianity, so long an instigator of violence against Jews, rediscovered a respect and admiration for Judaism, and the once-close relationship, which had become a distant memory, has been to a large extent restored.

The editors write, "The efforts of Catholics and Protestants towards respect for Judaism project attitudes that would have been unthinkable a few decades ago. Christian theology has been profoundly revised at the official level: all Churches are now committed to the fight against anti-Semitism, and the vast majority are actively committed to teaching about the Jewishness of Jesus, and the problem of mission to Jews has been significantly reduced."

The following abridged entries, chosen at random, are illustrative of the book's informative nature.

• Noahide Laws – The Genesis account portrays Noah as a pious believer in God who worshipped him through obedience and sacrifice and was given divine commands, including those prohibiting murder and the consumption of blood. He is therefore seen by Judaism, Christianity and Islam as one of antiquity's righteous personalities and a prototype of simple religiosity vis-a-vis God, humanity and animals.

Accordingly, non-Jewish men and women are to be defined and treated as monotheists if they establish courts of law, refrain from blasphemy, idolatry, murder, theft and forbidden sexual relationships such as incest, and do not perform vivisection. They are then regarded by rabbinic codifiers (e.g. Maimonides) as "the pious of the gentile peoples" and worthy of the same eternal bliss guaranteed to Jews who observe the Torah's 613 commands.

• Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) – Cromwell was the person most responsible for the readmission of the Jews to England in 1656, following their expulsion in 1290. He had been petitioned by the Dutch Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel, who saw England as a potential haven for Jews suffering widespread massacres in Ukraine. Cromwell convened a conference in London in December 1655 to decide the issue. Those favouring re-admission argued that the messianic age would dawn once the Jews were scattered to the four corners of the world, which necessitated entry to England.

When the conference failed to deliver a positive response, Cromwell dissolved it. Three months later, a group of Marranos living in London and posing as Catholics openly professed their Jewish identity and petitioned Cromwell to allow them to establish a synagogue and cemetery. He gave his consent. This decision was one of few acts of Cromwell not automatically repealed on the restoration of the monarchy.

• Canada – The United Church of Canada, the largest Protestant body in Canada, published in 1997 an important document called *Bearing Faithful Witness*. It called for repentance for theological anti-Judaism and political anti-Semitism and was hailed as a watershed in its acknowledgment that "the church's rejection of Jews was an act of disobedience to God." It proposed guidelines for Christians in their relationship with Jews and Judaism, stating that "the hope of Israel is the Christian hope, too: Earth under God's rule in peace, prosperity and justice for all."

# The holiday all-nighter

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

On Thursday night, the first night of Shavuot, tens of thousands of Jews around the world will be burning the midnight oil.

They will be staying up all night and learning Torah until daybreak as part of the Tikkun Leil Shavuot tradition, a tradition with mystical roots and modern adaptations.

Why an all-nighter? Shavuot, of course, is the festival during which we commemorate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. As the Orthodox Union site explains, "The midrash tells us that some of the People of Israel slept on the night before Matan Torah and God had to awaken them in order to give them the Torah. Our sages do not fault them for sleeping – they were exhausted from their travels. However, a custom developed to spend the night prior to Matan Torah immersed in Torah study." **[http://tinyurl.com/nc5g2]**

Eliezer Segal writes that the earliest mention of the tradition dates to the 13th century in which the kabbalistic book, the Zohar, tells of the all-night study session held by Rabbi Shimeon bar Yochai more than a thousand years earlier. "Rabbi Shimeon's Tikkun was not so much an educational event as a mystical rite. In the Zohar's rich symbolism, Shavuot, the anniversary of the revelation at Mount Sinai, is depicted as a metaphysical wedding of the male and female aspects of the divine." **[http://tinyurl.com/lwbfb]**

Leslie Koppelman Ross adds that "in addition to wanting to compensate for the Israelites, the mystics had the idea that at midnight the heavens open and favourably receive the thoughts, study, and prayers of those who remain awake on the anniversary of the Revelation." **[http://tinyurl.com/nnb2v]**

Traditionally on that evening, people would read from a volume called "Tikkun Leil Shavuot" that would include a selection from every book in the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings as well as from the Oral Law, the Mishnah. That is followed by a listing of the 613 mitzvot and a brief selection from the kabbalistic work, the Zohar. **[http://tinyurl.com/r4wde]**

Nowadays, many Tikkun Leil Shavuot participants prefer to study, discuss and debate other Jewish issues during their night of learning. The Union for Reform Judaism has created three 64-page study booklets for the evening, which can be downloaded free from the union's website:

• *Journeying Toward Sinai* contains eight workshops including "Revelatory Stories: What Allows for God's Appearance?" and "From Ancient Texts to Modern Teachings: Ruth and the Complicated Art of Parenting";

• *Together at Sinai* includes preparing for a Shavuot seder and "Finding Your Own Personal Torah: A Participatory Exercise";

• *Aseret Hadibrot: Illuminating the Ten Commandments* contains "Broken Tablets: Restoring the Commandments and Ourselves" and "God Revealed at Sinai: Cecil B. Demille and Modern Midrash." **[http://urj.org/holidays/shavuot/tikkun/]**

Meanwhile, in All-Night Learning for Shavuot: You Can Do It!, Esther Kustanowitz provides tips for weary teens who want to stay but are fighting drooping eyelids. One suggestion: relive the moment. Have someone read aloud the account of the giving of the Torah while picturing the "excitement of standing at the base of Mount Sinai… Imagine an ancient version of your contemporary self there." **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/shavuot/latenight.shtml]**

It probably wasn't what the kabbalistic mystics had in mind but thanks to Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the holiday has become "a little bit hip." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reports that young Jews who have never had a connection to the holiday have been attending all-night study and cultural extravaganzas such as the one at New York's 92nd Street Y. **[http://tinyurl.com/heryv]**

But can things get too hip? At a recent Tikkun Leil Shavuot in Tel Aviv, only five of the 15 lectures were related to Jewish sources. Poet and writer Benjamin Shvili told *Ha'aretz* that "the events in Tel Aviv may represent some degree of censorship of the original Jewish festival that this holiday was. On the other hand, it's the time of the giving of the Torah – who knows where the Torah begins and where it ends? Who says that receiving the Torah is only the Tanach [the Jewish Bible]? We are coming to study." **[http://tinyurl.com/g9oqf]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com*

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Wednesday, June 7, 2006

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7:30 am

Program
8:00 am – 10:00 am

Estates of Sunnybrook
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2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto

Registration $75.00

To register or for more information please phone Janice Benatar at 416.631.5847 or e-mail jbenatar@ujafed.org or register online www.ujaevents.com/registration/budgetbriefing2006

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**No telephone calls please:**
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Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
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Wednesday, June 7, 2006
at
Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue, Toronto
Cocktails 7:00 p.m.
Couvert $75.00 per person
*Tax receipt will be issued to the maximum amount allowable*

Greater Toronto Area

# Bridge tournament raises funds for ovarian cancer research

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Mindy Kirsh died three years ago, after a battle with ovarian cancer. Since she was an avid bridge player, it was only natural that when her good friends Anita Gertin, Joanna Slone and Taube Zeifman wanted to honour her, they chose bridge.

Early last month, more than 400 people attended the third annual Mindy Kirsh Memorial Bridge to the Cure bridge and mah-jong luncheon at the Spirale Banquet and Conference Centre.

The event, which raised more than $80,000 for ovarian cancer research at Princess Margaret Hospital, included a silent auction, a raffle draw, duplicate and social bridge and mah-jong.

Vida Seif and Daniel Bernstein, and Lynne Beisswenger and Allyne Alderman won the duplicate bridge tournament.

Guest speaker was Joan Murphy, division head of Gynecologic Oncology and the University Health Network and associate professor at the University of Toronto. She was Kirsh's physician.

Murphy called Kirsh a "special patient who enriched my life."

Beating ovarian cancer, she said, will take an interdisciplinary team of physicians, patients and researchers.

"Together I know that we will find a cure for 'the disease that whispers,'" she said. (Ovarian cancer is referred to as the disease that whispers because there are few, if any, symptoms. By the time there are symptoms, it is frequently too late to do much to help.)

In an interview after the luncheon, Murphy said that although the average risk of getting ovarian cancer is one in 70, for many Jewish women it is 25 to 40 per cent higher.

Taube Zeifman, Anita Gertin & Joanna Slone, co-chairs of the event

"This is because one in 50 Ashkenazi Jewish women has a mutation in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, which makes them at higher risk for not just ovarian and breast cancer but cancer of the fallopian tubes as well," Murphy said.

Part of the problem in dealing with this disease, said Murphy, is that there is no good screening test available. There is ultrasound examination, and a blood test for CA125, a tumour marker often found in the most common forms of the disease, but "we have very little confidence in them being definitive."

The focus, then, she said, has to be on prevention. That may entail surgical removal of the ovaries and fallopian tubes if someone either has the gene mutations themselves, or has a family history of ovarian cancer.

Men can also pass on the gene and can themselves suffer from breast or prostate cancer, Murphy said.

Princess Margaret Hospital genetics counsellor Amy Finch acknowledged the severe emotional effects of finding out that you have either a family history or the gene mutation.

"That's why counselling, and tapping into medical expertise, is so important," she said.

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Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!**

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
**or email them to:**
cblackman@cjnews.com

**Mazel tov Anne Arnold on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Best wishes, much love and admiration from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov to Michele Delory & John Eslava who were married on May 9 at Bavaro Princess Resort Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from the family.**

**Mazel tov Sam Rozencwajg on his 80th birthday from wife Ella, children Willie & Marla, Jerry & Sherry, Morris & Rhonda, and all his grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov to Judy & Anschel Lebowitz who celebrated their 50th anniversary. Love, Ruthie, Hymie, Shlomie, Dina, Aliza, Yoni, Jordana, Danielle, Ethan and Adam.**

**Adina & Richard Ward announce the arrival of Shoshana and Hadassah. Grandparents, Paul & Miriam, Ivor & Jennifer, great-grandmother Ann Seal and great-grandfather Leslie Herman.**

**Happy first and third birthdays to baby Leah and big sister Emma, daughters of Sari Shalcovitch & Gary Kivenko. We love both you munchkins!**

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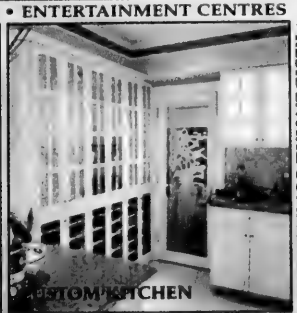

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: Monday, June 5, is the deadline for the June 15 issue and Monday, June 12, is the deadline for the June 22 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, June 1

### GILLETZ ON HEALTH

**Noreen Gilletz**, cookbook author and lecturer, speaks on "Get Healthy, Be Healthy" at the North York Central Library, Room 1 at 2 p.m. Free. 416-395-5672

### SHAVUOT PROGRAMS

**Congregation Habonim** hosts "A Night of Sacred Stories," studying Torah through the retelling of sacred stories from the Jewish oral tradition followed by discussion with **Yitzhak Buxbaum**, **Avrum Rosensweig**, **Eli Rubinstein** and **Michael Soberman**. 8:30-10 p.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave.

**Shaarei Tefillah Congregation** offers a night of learning beginning at midnight with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** followed by **Rabbis Avraham Bartfield**, **Nachum Berlat** and **Moshe Stern**. Shacharit at 5 a.m. Women and men welcome.

**The Minsker Shul** offers cheesecake, rivers of coffee and Torah study. 10 St. Andrew St. 416-595-5723

## Sunday, June 4

### INDOOR GARAGE SALE

Temple Emanu-El hold a huge indoor garage sale of dishes, household items, toys, books, computers, clothes and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 120 Old Colony Rd.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

**Brian Katz**, guitarist and pianist, performs "Jewish Music Meets Jazz: Jazz Meets Jewish Music." 10 a.m. at Beth Habonim. $6.

### ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

The 11th annual Israel Day Festival takes place June 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Earl Bales Park. To volunteer, call 416-633-3988.

### NEW CHABAD CENTRE

Celebrate the ground-breaking of the new Chabad Ramano Centre. 12 p.m. on Bathurst St. just south of Teston Rd. 905-770-6266

### A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Rabbi Tobias Gabriel** and **Judy Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359.

### SHAVUOT RUMBLE

Lodzer Centre Congregation hosts "Shavuot Rumble," a hands-on rhythm drumming program for all ages. 12:30 p.m. $10 family, $5 single. 416-636-666

### ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario for an Israeli folk-dancing night with **Heather Popliger**. No experience required. 7:15 pm. $10. RSVP by June 1. For details, visit www.mosaictoronto.org

### TORONTO JEWISH CHOIR

The Toronto Jewish Choir celebrates its 80th annual spring concert with a new work for choir and klezmer band. 7 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Ticket, 416-636-0936 or tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca.

### TANENZAPF REMEMBERED

Beit Rayim Synagogue holds a memorial service to honour the memory of **Rabbi Sol Tanenzapf**. 7 p.m.

### HACHNASAT SEFER TORAH

Mizrachi Bayit invites the community to a Hachnasat Sefer Torah dedicated by **Harry** and **Sally Weitz**, in memory of **Solomon** and **Jenny Weitz**. Gather at 63 Collinson Ave. at 4 p.m. for a procession to 296 Wilson Ave.

## Monday, June 5

### INVESTING IN ISRAEL

The Israel Economic Mission hosts a breakfast and presentation by **Z'ev Gross**, of the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructure, on "Investing in Israel's Infrastructure." Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Talk 8 a.m. at Miller Thompson. RSVP, 416-595-2992.

**Continued on page 21**

The Canadian Premiere Performance of
Liel
Sunday June 18, 7:30 pm
The York Event Theatre
101 Eglinton Avenue East
This event is in support of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center's tolerance initiatives.
For tickets and information call 416.864.9735 or email swcmain@pathcom.com.
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What's New

**Continued from page 20**

**ISRAEL'S CHALLENGES**
York Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability presents **Z'ev Gross** on "Little Country, Large Agenda: Israel's Challenges in Sustainable Development" at the Schulich School of Business, Room N107. 2 p.m.

**BIBLE STUDY IN HISTORY**
Beth Emeth Continuing Education Committee presents a two-part series on "Jews and Christians and the Study of Bible in History" with **Dr. Martin Lockshin**, of York University. Tonight and June 14 at 8 p.m. 416-633-3838

**CHABAD DINNER**
Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre hold its "Spirit of Community Dinner" tonight with guest speaker **Rabbi Yisroel Meir Lau**. Tickets, 905-709-7770.

## Tuesday, June 6

**LUNCH AND LEARN,**
**Vivian Kaplan** will discuss her novel *Green Bottles* at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Lunch 12:15 p.m., learn 1 p.m. Pre-paid only. $10. 416-221-3433, ext. 352

**LODZER CHARITY DINNER**
Lodzer Centre Congregation annual charity dinner takes place at 6:30 p.m. $80. Tickets, 416-636-6665.

**THE EXODUS TOUR**
Join Kollel for an information session on a trip to Israel with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**. "The Exodus Tour: Egypt to Israel," March 29-April 10. Starting in Cairo, then walk into Israel for a seder in a desert tent. 7:30 p.m. at 151 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-485-7007

**RABBI MENDEL**
Modelled on *The Dr. Phil Show*, Chabad at Flamingo hosts a series with **Rabbi Mendel Kaplan** addressing real-life relationship problems using the ancient wisdom of the Torah. 8:15 p.m. 905-763-4040 or e-mail rabbi@chabadflamingo.com

## Wednesday, June 7

**BOYS TOWN EVENING**
Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem hosts a reception with **Monte Kwinter** speaking on "Improving Emergency Preparedness in Ontario." 7 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. $75. 416-789-7241

## Other news

**SCREAM FOR DARFUR**
Adath Israel Young Business and Professionals Network hosts **Jonathan Laski**, of STAND Canada, discussing what individuals can do to stop the genocide in Darfur. Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. 416-635-5340

**MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS**
**Reuven Kaminer**, a veteran of the Israeli peace movement, speaks on "Recent Developments on the Israeli-Palestinian Front" at the Winchevsky Centre, Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. $5, non-members $8. 416-789-5502

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**
Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada holds its annual gala concert, "Celebration of Life," Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Tickets, 905-695-0611 or 1-800-355-1648.

**SCOTCH TASTING**
Shaar Shalom Congregation host a "Single Malt Scotch Tasting Evening" on Thursday, June 8 at 8 p.m. The evening includes food, raffles and a 50/50 draw. Tickets, 905-889-4975.

**EMUNAH SHABBAT**
Emunah Women hold their 11th annual city-wide seudah shlishit program on Saturday, June 10, at six synagogues throughout the GTA. BAYT, with **Lori Grysman** at 5 p.m. B'Nai Torah Congregation with **Dr. Esther Libman** at 6:15 p.m. Beth Jacob V'anshe Drildz with **Ilana Ginz** at 5:30 p.m. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with **Rivka Sonenberg** at 6 p.m. Shaarei Tefillah with **Chashi Skobac** at 5:30 p.m. and Yeshivat Or Chaim at 5:30 p.m. Couvert $18. Sponsorships $36 or $54. RSVP to 416-636-0036.

**HAMILTON JNF DINNER**
The Hamilton Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner honours **Anne** and **Mark Mandell**, Sunday, June 11, at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Cocktails 5:30 p.m. dinner 6:30 p.m. Tickets, 905-527-5516.

**SALSA FUNDRAISER**
Join Ve'ahavta for its "Sizzilling Salsa Fundraiser" with a one-hour dance lesson, dancing all night and a dessert table. Sunday, June 11, 7 p.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave. Proceeds to support homeless programs. $20. Tickets, 416-964-7698, ext 19.

***J.A.P.***
Women are invited to attend a one-woman show, *J.A.P.* starring **Rachel Factor**, a former Broadway performer who describes in song and dance, her journey from Japanese-American immigrant to Jewish convert. Sponsored by Em Habonim Smecha in support of single-parent families in Israel. Sunday, June 11, 8 p.m. at Bais Yaakov school, 15 Saranac Blvd. $36 at the door. 416-631-9966

**SHARING THE MEMORIES**
Beth David Sisterhood install their new president, **Helen Bienstock**, and honour the outgoing one, **Doreen Bornfreund**, at "Sharing the Memories" event with a gala sweet table. Tuesday, June 13, 7:30 p.m. $20 pre-paid. RSVP to **Jean**, 416-787-9039.

**YACHIN OU BOAZ DINNER**
Or HaEmet Sephardic School holds its annual "Yachin ou Boaz Dinner" paying tribute to **Messod** and **Brenda Boussidan**, Tuesday, June 13. Tickets, 905-669-7654, ext. 225.

**HEALING CONFERENCE**
The Toronto Healing Project holds a one-day conference on "God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" with keynote speaker **Rabbi Dow Marmur**. Wednesday, June 14. For information, call 416-944-3359.

**JF&CS GROUPS**
Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, call **Diane**, 416-638-7800, ext. 246, or www.jfandcs.com.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. How and when to tell the children as well as ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs will be discussed. Tuesday, June 13, 9:30-1:30 a.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

High-Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies to deal with a high-conflict situation and help to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. This workshop requires active participation and is not for individuals in an abusive situation. Tuesday, June 13, 6:30-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

Happiest Baby On the Block: Join a one-night workshop for parents of newborns and infants to learn an extraordinary approach to calm your baby, based on the principles of **Dr. Harvey Karp**. Wednesday, June 14, from 7-9:30 p.m., the Family Resource Centre, the Promenade Mall.

Adolescents and Divorce: A workshop for parents of adolescents going through a separation or divorce. The focus is on understanding your adolescent during this transitional time. Wednesday, June 14, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Call to register for all programs.

## FOR SENIORS

Temple Sinai Senior Club presents "Food for Thought Lecture Series" Mondays 2-4 p.m., June 5-26. Monday, June 5, **Dr. Marcel Danesi** on "The Allure of Italian Romantic Opera: Why **Rossini** and **Verdi** Still Turn Us On." Members $20, guests $30. Individual sessions $7 and $10. 416-221-6375

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, June 4, 25; Casino Rama, Wednesday, June 14, 28; Casino Niagara, July 26. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**
1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Inter-generational Origami Workshop, Wednesday, June 7. Sign-up needed.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Family sing-along concert featuring **Kayla** from YTV and Tree House TV. Sunday, June 6, 2 p.m. $12.50, children $5. Tickets at ext. 235.

The Koffler School of Music presents "Opera Sundays," Sunday afternoons through June 18 in the Koffler Loggia, 1-5 p.m. For info, call ext. 228.

The Koffler concert band, Resa's Pieces, hold its annual concert Tuesday, June 13, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets, ext. 228.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca

Jewish meditation, ongoing Sunday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. $15.

Between Stages Playwright's Reading Series: *Shiksas Sit Shiva* by **Catherine Hayos** and **Melinda Little**, Sunday, June 4, 2 p.m. Pay what you can. For info, ext. 606 or esthera@mnjcc.org

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents a Yiddish program, *A Cantor on Trial* and *The Forward: From Immigrants to Americans*. Sunday, June 4, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Al Green Theatre. Tickets, ext. 606 or esthera@mnjcc.org.

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28*

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**GERSZON DORCHIK** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 4th, 11:30 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Bathurst South of Steeles
Lodzer Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**TERRY KATES** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Beth Emeth Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**MALCA LITOVITZ** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 4th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Beth David Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**FAY SILVERMAN** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Roselawn Cemetery**
Adath Israel Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

**BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Florence Goodman | May 14/06 | 10 Burton Rd |
| Sonia Goldstein | May 14/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Leah Chaplin | May 15/06 | 347 Balliol St |
| Jack Kabot | May 15/06 | 29 Brantley Cr |
| Rosalyn Leese | May 15/06 | 370 Ridelle Av |
| Brenda Freedman | May 15/06 | 10 Tichester Rd |
| Leah Mitelman | May 16/06 | 239 Betty Ann Dr |
| Gerda (Nini) Kosiner | May 16/06 | 645 Castlefield Av |
| Aaron Fromstein | May 16/06 | 454 Coldstream Av |
| Murray Mallen | May 16/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Mollie Rajf | May 17/06 | 2525 Modugno Av |
| Morty Pinchuk | May 17/06 | 141 Thornway Av |
| Jeffrey Barker | May 17/06 | 53 McLeod Dr |
| Sylvia Lusher | May 17/06 | 30 The Queensway |
| Sam Rotish | May 17/06 | 3900 Yonge St |

HEBREW DASIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cecile Itzkowitz | May 14/06 | 711 B Seagirt Av |
| Solomon Price | May 20/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Benjamin Yanover | May 21/06 | 10 William Morgan |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**RUTH STEIN** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Dawes Road Cemetery**
(enter via Herron Ave., 1 block east of entrance)
Beth David Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**HELEN STEINFELD** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 10:30 a.m.**
**Lambton Hills Cemetery**
Royal York Rd between Eglinton & Dundas
Chmielniker Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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The Family of
**MARK (MENDEL WELMAN) WELLMAN** ז"ל
would like to thank all the family and friends both here and abroad for the tremendous outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. By honouring his memory, you have warmed our hearts.
*Forever loved and sadly missed.*
**Debra Wellman and the families of**
**Sid Wellman, Allen Wellman and Annie Tencer.**

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Obituary

# Teaching was a 'passion' for longtime educator

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Brenda Freedman, a longtime and highly respected English teacher at Bnei Akiva Schools, died last month after a long battle with cancer. She was 67.

Born in Toronto, she was educated at Harbord Collegiate, Forest Hill Collegiate, the University of Toronto, and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She began her teaching career at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute, where she taught for four years.

Brenda Freedman

Freedman and her late husband, Murray, spent two years in Israel and then one in Buffalo while he did post-doctoral fellowships at the Weizmann Institute and at Roswell Park Cancer Research Institute.

In 1975, she joined the staff at Bnei Akiva schools, first at Ulpanat Orot and then at Or Chaim as well. For many years, she was head of the schools' English department. Freedman only left in 2005 because of her illness.

Her brother, Martin Lockshin, a professor at York University, said that teaching was "a passion" for her. "She thought creatively, inventing plays and projects for the students, rather than just lecturing."

He said she was very tuned in to new developments in teaching methodology and philosophy, and incorporated them into her own classroom.

One responsibility Freedman enjoyed a great deal was being a host teacher for student teachers, he said.

Joanna Stavsky, now a teacher herself, was a student of Freedman's for several of her years at Ulpanat Orot. She said that she treasured the advice and mentoring that Freedman gave to her freely and enthusiastically.

Freedman made frequent trips to Israel, during which she made it a habit to treat her former students who were studying there to an evening out.

She was very close to her family, Lockshin said, and not only to her immediate family, but to the extended Lockshin clan. "She put together a family reunion that brought people from all over North America," he recalled.

She was an avid reader, he said. "She didn't just read, she consumed books – and remembered what she had read."

Freedman was active in several organizations, especially Hadassah-WIZO and Beth Tzedec Congregation's Little Minyan. She was also on the committee for the Jewish Book Awards.

Freedman was predeceased by her husband Murray. She is survived by her children Benjy and Anita Freedman and Malka and John Regan; her mother Sylvia Lockshin; sister Sherryn and her husband Eric Lang, her brother Martin and his wife Ruth; three grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and her close friend Sol Messinger.

Coast to Coast

# Send troops to Darfur, retired general urges

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — Retired Canadian general Romeo Dallaire witnessed the 1994 genocide in Rwanda first hand, and he doesn't mince words when it comes to whether Canada should send troops to Sudan's Darfur region.

"As we look at Darfur today, we have actually been taking decisions on which human beings deserve to live and which don't," Dallaire told a May 16 event at Ottawa's Agudath Israel Synagogue jointly sponsored by Ottawa Hadassah-WIZO and the Canadian Mental Health Association's Ottawa branch.

"How much of a price are we prepared to pay? If this nation does not have the depth of maturity to handle it, we should stay within our borders and shut up."

Referring to what some have called the genocide currently taking place in Darfur, Dallaire, who is now a senator, reminded the 250 people in attendance that "far-off complex problems are not that far off, because in the background is international terrorism."

He added: "There is no more magnificent time for Canadians to serve in uniform than now because the missions are just."

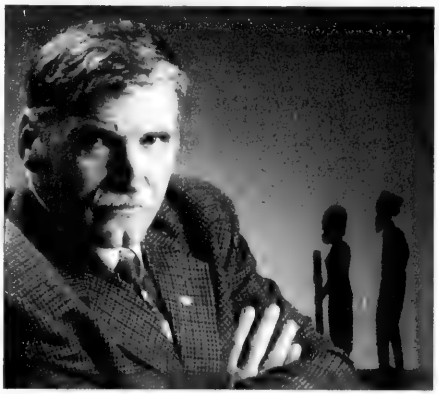
Dallaire's book, *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, is his story of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, when 900,000 Tutsis were murdered by Hutu extremists while he, as commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, urged the world to intervene.

"Expecting a problem was part of our plan, but expecting a genocide was not," said Dallaire, a decorated soldier who is recognized internationally as an advocate of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building. "It took a week for me to come to the conclusion that we were facing a genocide. It was impossible to imagine that a holocaust would happen again, but it did."

He described his vain efforts to convince world powers to send troops to stop the massacre.

"Six weeks into the genocide, the [UN] Security Council finally agreed it was a genocide, and so, on the 17th of May, they agreed to my plan to stop it."

But help was not quick to arrive.



**Senator Romeo Dallaire**

"Two months later – one month after the end of the genocide, one month after the civil war – the first troops arrived, and they were from Ethiopia."

Dallaire described his frustration and despair as he witnessed the mass murders and as he begged and pleaded for someone to step in to save the lives of the innocent.

"We watched… The journalists were there, but the stories never made it to the screen. ABC, CBS and NBC put more time on [figure skater] Tonya Harding knee-capping her opposition and O.J. Simpson's glove than they did on the genocide," he said.

"At the same time as I was asking for help, we were pouring tens of thousands of troops into the former Yugoslavia. Why were we sending people there and not to Rwanda? Was it because they were white and European?"

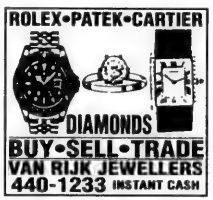
He asked two things of Canadians: "Once [troops] are committed, that we support them in their missions, and when they come back, that they and their families are treated with dignity and respect."

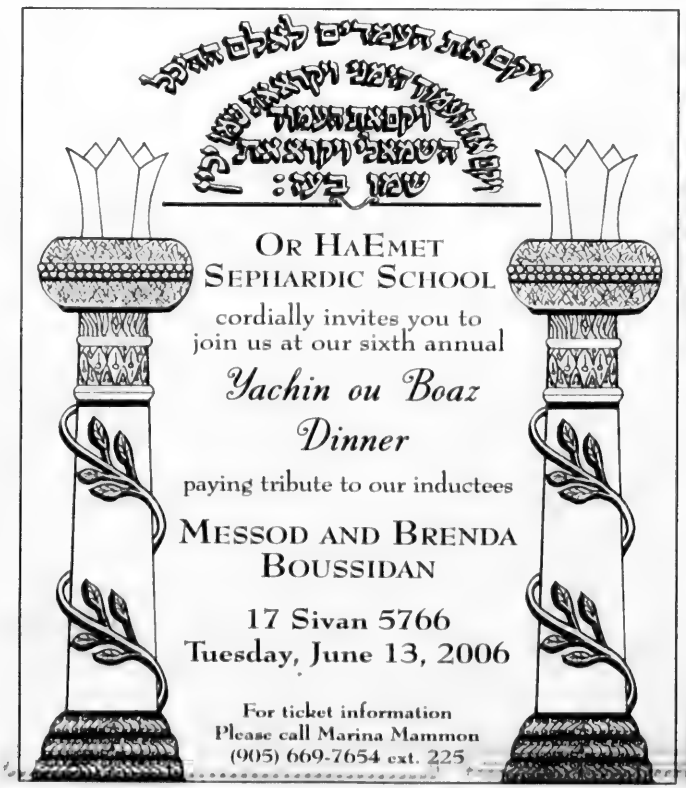
His experiences in Rwanda deeply affected Dallaire, resulting in ongoing mental health issues, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

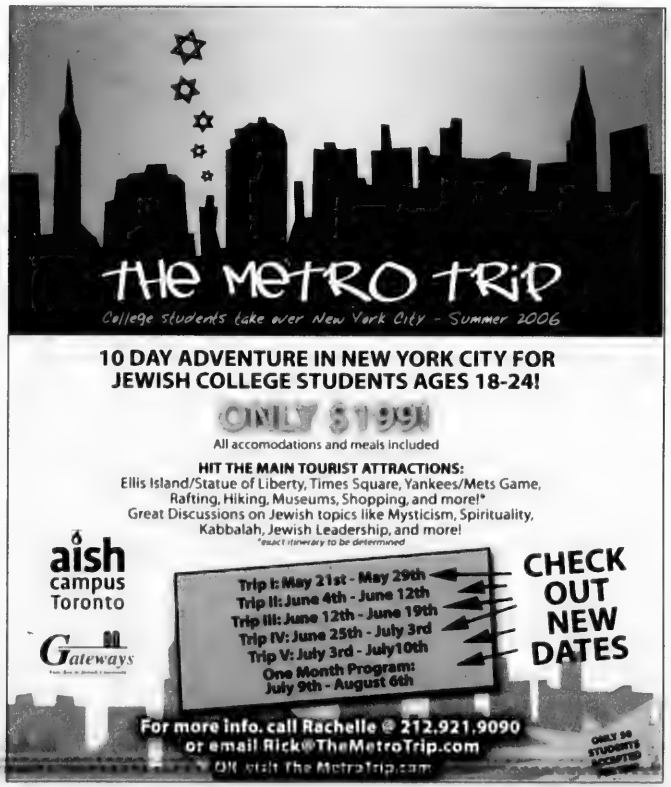
"From living through the horrors of Rwanda, it would be understandable if Romeo Dallaire withdrew from public life or became cynical and hard-hearted," said Toby Yan, national vice-president of Hadassah-WIZO.

"The general has done the opposite. While struggling with his own health issues, Romeo Dallaire continues to write and speak out against human rights abuses, genocide and ethnic cleansing, serving as an ethical compass for moral human behaviour. He challenges us to demonstrate our humanity, to see every human soul, whether in Rwanda, Sudan or Canada, as equal in every way."

Proceeds from the evening will be divided between the two sponsoring organizations. Hadassah-WIZO's share will go to the Hadassah Medical Centre in Jerusalem and the Assaf Harofeh Hospital near Tel Aviv.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# Wiesel says Iran's leader threatens mankind

**Continued from page 1**

Wiesel said Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is the kind of fanatic who threatens mankind.

"How is it possible that a nation accepts this man, who is mad, clinically mad, as a leader?" he said, adding that Ahmadinejad doesn't even attempt to hide his agenda of wiping Israel off the map.

"What about his crazy ambition to become a nuclear [power]?"

But Wiesel said that if we choose to live in a moral society, we must speak up for the persecuted people everywhere, not just for Jews.

He referred to a video address by Tony Comper, president and CEO of BMO Financial Group and the co-founder of FAST, Fighting Anti-Semitism Together. In the address, Comper called on other non-Jews to join Jews in the fight against anti-Semitism.

To this, Wiesel said, "May I respectfully ask my fellow Jews to answer and say, 'We as Jews must fight racism and bigotry and prejudice and misery everywhere, not only among Jews.'

"Wherever communities are in danger, we must come to their aid. Wherever people suffer from persecutions, for any reason, we Jews must say, 'No, persecution is not an option. Humiliation is not an option.'"

Wiesel, a man who lives by the philosophy that the greatest sin is indifference, has spoken out in defence of Soviet Jews, Nicaragua's Miskito Indians, Argentina's "disappeared," Cambodian refugees, Kurds, the victims of the South African apartheid and, most recently, the victims in Darfur.

He said he became involved with the genocide in Darfur after U.S. president Bill Clinton invited him to give the millennium lecture in 2000, titled "Perils of Indifference."

During the question-and-answer period following that talk, a woman from Rwanda asked him about the world's indifference during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Wiesel then turned to Clinton and asked him to answer the question.

"We could have saved 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children in Rwanda. Why didn't we?" Wiesel recalled asking Clinton.

The president admitted his regret and said he had travelled to Rwanda to apologize on his own behalf and that of the United States, and promised that it would not happen again, Wiesel said.

Wiesel said that after his lecture five years ago, he was visited by the a bishop from Sudan who said to him, "You are now the custodian of the presidential pledge," and Wiesel has been involved with the crisis in Darfur ever since.

Although Wiesel believes that indifference is just as damaging as persecution itself, he can understand the helplessness people feel when attempting to fight a phenomenon as widespread as fanaticism, yet he urges people never to give up hope.

"One feels helpless to… comprehend a mother who says publicly on television that she has just given one son, who had become a suicide terrorist, to the cause, but she has four more sons to give. What about her maternal instincts?" he asked.

However, he said that despite the rise in political and religious fanaticism over the years, there have been events in the last century that are promising.

"I went to South Africa in 1975, and if anyone had told me that I would see the end of apartheid, I would not have believed him. In 1989 – the fall of communism, the opening of the gates – if anyone would have told me, when I went to the Soviet Union in 1965, that I would see one million Jews in Israel, Russian Jews, I wouldn't have believed them. I would have said, 'You are crazy, communism is here to stay.'"

But despite these events, hatred is still a worldwide disease that must be conquered, he said.

"Hatred is contagious. I call it an infectious disease. Hatred is like a cancer. It goes from cell to cell, from limb to limb, from person to person, from city to city."

Wiesel said he was embarrassed to admit that after the war in 1945, he was optimistic that if there was one thing he could be sure of, it was that anti-Semitism had perished with the victims in Auschwitz.

"Now we realize that the victims perished, but anti-Semitism is still alive. If Auschwitz hasn't cured the world of anti-Semitism, what can and what will?"

"How do we stop [fanaticism]?" Wiesel asked. "Whatever the answer, education must be its major component. We must put all our energy into education to save ourselves and to save those around us.

"My friends, we must be carriers of hope, for hope is the only option if our humanity wants to justify itself. It depends on us."

# Run/walk to raise funds for dystonia research

Fifty-thousand Canadians wake up each morning unable to speak, swallow, blink, eat or walk. They suffer from dystonia, the third most common neurological movement disorder in North America.

Involuntary muscle contractions force the sufferer's body parts into abnormal, and sometimes painful, movements and postures. Vocal cords, eyelids and limbs are among the possible areas affected.

Dystonia, for which there is no cure, is a chronic disorder that afflicts people of both genders and all ages and races.

Toronto plays host to the first-ever Annual Freedom to Move for Dystonia 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, June 4, to raise funds to help discover a cure.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., participants can sign up at High Park at the corner of Bloor and Keele streets, inside the park's Bloor Street gates. The run kicks off at 10 a.m. and should be an exciting event for the entire family.

Other highlights of the 5K include live entertainment, free healthy snacks, bracelets and T-shirts.

The $30 registration fee paid by each of the run/walk's participants will go to the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada and will aid research as well as provide education and support for dystonia patients and their families.

The foundation was founded in 1976 by Samuel and Frances Belzberg of Vancouver after their daughter was diagnosed with the disorder. This year, the DMRF is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

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# Palestinian infighting draws media scrutiny

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

The intensifying factional strife between Hamas and Fatah security forces in Gaza was the subject of considerable media attention late last month.

Mitch Potter, the *Toronto Star*'s Mideast correspondent, filed several reports from May 18 to 23 about the escalating "power struggle" between supporters of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah and PA Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas.

On May 18, Potter drew a vivid picture of the strife that provided a contradiction to Hamas' avowed aim to establish a calming presence in the area: "In the southern [Gaza] city of Khan Yunis, about 40 members of the new [Hamas security] force broke up a peaceful protest of recent college graduates who want teaching jobs. They bludgeoned protesters with clubs and rifles."

Over the next days, Potter wrote about the escalating violence, including the serious wounding of Tarek Abu Rajab, branch commander of Fatah's Palestinian General Intelligence, who was flown to Tel Aviv for surgery to save his leg.

Fears of civil war mounted, while some Palestinians claimed that it was to be avoided at all costs.

Reporting from Khan Yunis on May 23, Potter described a visit with a cell of the Popular Resistance Committees [PRC] including Muhammed Abu Mujahid, spokesperson for the group's "militant wing," the Nasser Saladin Brigades. According to Potter, Abu Mujahid spoke of the PRC's "attempts to play peacemaker between the warring Palestinian factions."

Said Abu Mujahid: "We cry blood when we see the problems between Hamas and Fatah. We have made every effort to find a solution, and so far we have failed. But we must continue to work toward unity. Our enemy is Israel."

Also on May 23, the *National Post* carried Matthew Fisher's report from Gaza City under the heading, "Gun battle may have Gaza on verge of civil war." Fisher described attempts by a Hamas spokesperson to deny there is any real factional fighting, let alone a threat of civil war. Instead, the spokesperson attributed the fighting to a conspiracy of "collaborators" working for Americans and Israelis who have orchestrated the violence – an extreme view held by very few Palestinians themselves.

CBC's Adrienne Arsenault summed up the state of affairs in her May 20 report about the power struggle: "But this is not Palestinian civil war. Not yet, perhaps."

While Canadian journalists described the violence in Gaza as an intra-Palestinian affair, some of the British media tried to place much of the responsibility on Israel.

For instance, Jeremy Bowen, the BBC's Middle East editor, reported from Gaza on May 23. He said that while there is competition for power between Hamas and Fatah, "financial sanctions that have been imposed by Israel and the Western powers" and "the pressure that never goes away, which comes from the Israeli occupation" were to blame for the turmoil.

Only at the tail end of his report did he acknowledge that Israel and the United States have committed money for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. And he failed to note that Israel had unilaterally withdrawn from Gaza in August 2005, making his insistence on what he described as "40 years of a violent Israeli occupation" all the more a gratuitous slap at Israel.

* * *

In keeping with his predilection for poking holes in conventional wisdom, *National Post* columnist Robert Fulford wrote "Islam's yearning for empire," (May 20), which elicited quite a number of letters to the editor.

Drawing attention to a recent book by University of London professor Efraim Karsh, *Islamic Imperialism: A History*, Fulford agreed that western intellectuals must stop blaming "western imperialism" for the problems of the Middle East, including Islamist violence (which has spread abroad). Instead, they must see Arabs and Muslims not as perpetual victims but as actors responsible for their own deeds and failures.

As Fulford explained, Islamist violence is not a reaction to Western imperialism, but rather is indigenous to Muslim culture, "and the most significant product of the belief that politics and religion are one."

Karsh believes, Fulford wrote, that this imperialist tendency derives from a historic tradition that harks back centuries, and is informed by a longing to return to Islam's glory days when it spread as far west as Andalusian Spain – and, it might be added, northward to the gates of Vienna.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

# Stronach has no regrets over party switch

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — After two years in the House of Commons, Belinda Stronach says she has "learned how to ask a question that is actually an allegation and how to give an answer that is actually a smokescreen."

When asked about crossing the floor from the Tory benches to join the Liberal government a year ago, Stronach told a Women's Federation CJA event last week that she doesn't have regrets and that she's glad she acted on her principles.

"Many assume that I regret it, that I made the wrong choice. But they are wrong. Nothing in my professional life has given me more satisfaction than standing up for what I believe in," said Stronach, the MP for Newmarket-Aurora who left a $12-million-a-year position as CEO and president of Magna International to run in the June 2004 federal election after losing a bid to lead the new Conservative party to Stephen Harper. She is now Opposition transport critic.

Though she's content now, she said she didn't feel so certain about her choice at the time.

"There are times in your life when you are in so deep, you can't make rational decisions... I trusted my gut, my intuition. The quality of your character is put to the test. I look back with my pride in my decision."

**Continued on page 26**


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# MP opposes Tory childcare plan

**Continued from pager 25**

Stronach said that she "does not share Harper's vision of what Canada is or what it should become" and that she never really cared for his ideas and wouldn't have been happy implementing them, if she was in his government today.

If she does regret anything about jumping from the private to public spheres, it's all the personal questions she gets. "I mean does anybody ask [Calgary Conservative MP] Jason Kenney what kind of shoes he wears?"

But she said she has learned to care less about what others think. "People are always going to talk... The only opinion you have to live with 24/7 is your own."

Stronach, 40, said she got used to people insinuating that she rapidly rose to the top of Magna, a major auto parts company founded by her father Frank Stronach, because of her family connections.

"People on the inside knew I earned my stripes. Those on the outside thought Daddy bought it for me like a pony. What could I do? Take out an ad in the newspaper?"

Stronach, who took only written questions, was vague about her future political ambitions. In April, she announced that she would not be seeking the Liberal leadership "at this time."

She differed with interim Liberal leader Bill Graham on extending Canada's military presence in Afghanistan for two more years. She said she did so because the government's two days' notice before last month's debate on the issue wasn't enough time, nor was the six hours allotted for debate in the House.

"Voting 'no' does not not mean I do not support the troops... I felt there was an abuse of process... The Conservatives were wrong to try to box us in for purely political reasons," said Stronach, who still has questions about the nature of the mission and the readiness of Canadian troops to carry it out.

Her speech at the Women's Federation CJA event focused on the need for Canada to stay competitive in a changing global economy, and particularly in the wake of the rising economic power of China and India, which have a combined population of more than two billion people.

Key to that is quality education, from early childhood to retraining older workers, as well as investment in research and development, she said.

"We, with just 32 million people, can't afford to waste the potential of one person... We have to foster a culture of lifelong learning to keep pace with the world," she said.

She criticized Harper's direct childcare subsidy to parents.

"It amounts to about $3 a day, which is OK if your child is in care for 20 minutes a day... The single mom earning minimum wage with a son will get the same amount as Celine Dion, if she moved back to Canada. That's not fair," she said.

Stronach said at least half of all MPs should be women, and the current 20 per cent is much too low. Getting women nominated by their party is the toughest part, but as candidates they have a "fair shot" at getting elected, she said.

Women are reluctant to enter the "rough sport"of politics, but they are engaged in the issues and think they can have an impact other ways, she said. Women bear the major responsibility for raising children, she said, and ways must be found to make it possible for them to contribute to public life.

# שיאר נינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**המסע ל- "Paper Clips" אשת גיא סאסקינד הלך לים**

ב-3 במאי, סמוך לים השואה, יצאנו קבוצה של אופנוענים יהודים לעיירה ויטהול בקנקי לראות את בית הספר הנוצרי שעשה מעשה חסר תקדים להנצחת השואה ולימוד סובלנות בין אנשים. הסרט הדוקומנטארי Paper Clips מספר את סיפורם של מורים ותלמידים שבמטגרת לימודי סובלנות אספו שישה מיליון מחדקי נייר בניסיון להבין ולחוש מה המספר הנורא הזה אומר. הם הקימו מוזיאון שואה קטן בבית ספרם בתוך קרון רכבת מקורי שהסיע יהודים ואחרים לאושוויץ. הקרון נתרם על ידי זוג עיתונאים גרמני. מי שלא ראה את הסרט-שווה מאוד לראותו בהיראו.

את המרחק של 1700 ק"מ בין טורונטו ונקסי עשינו ביומיים של אחידה מתשמלת. ביום שישי בבוקר נערכה קבלת פנים ל 280 אופנוענים יהודים שהגיעו מכל רחבי ארה"ב, קנדה ואוסטרליה. לשיירה הצטרפו עשרות מכוניות ואופנועי משטרה, ולאורך הדרך עמדו ילדים ומבוגרים שמתאו כפיים ונופפו לשלום.

כשהגענו לבית הספר קידמו אותנו התלמידים והמורים במחיאות כפיים ובתרועות. השמיים טפטפו וגם העיניים, הלב הרחיב. באודיטוריום המלא הריעו לנו התלמידים שעה ארוכה. ההתרגשות היתה גדולה וכולם היו עם עיניים דומעות, לא ראית עין יבשה. והתחושה היתה: הרי באנו להודות לאנשים היפים האלה, ולא כדי שהם יריעו לנו. הטקס כלל תפילת אל מלא רחמים וקדיש ואחריו ביקרו בקרון הרכבת ושישה מיליון המהדקים שטמונים בו. המדריכה שלנו, כמו כל המדריכים במקום הזה, היתה ילדה מחטיבת הביניים. בחלקו השני של הקרון שמורים עד שבעה מיליון מהדקים לזכר הקורבנות הלא יהודים.

המשלחת שלנו אספה תרומות וקנתה לבית הספר עשרה לוחות אלקטרוניים ללימוד בשורי של עשרות אלפי דולארים.

את דרכינו הביתה התחלנו בסוכה גדולה על אחת הגבעות, מקום שישמש בעבר למפגש של הקלן-קלאקס-קלאן, ועכשיו ישבים בו אופנוענים יהודים שבאו להודות לעיירה נצרית לבנה בדרום ארה"ב תגיעו.

אנו מקווים שהצלחנו להעביר אליכם מעט מההתרגשות העצומה שחווינו, ושתלך איתנו לתמיד.

**היורדים והחצבעה בבחירות**

מאמר המערכת של " שלום טורונטו" מוקדש לסיכון הדמוגראפי שמציבים ערביי ישראל למדינה היהודית. לפני שבועיים, כותב, פסק בית המשפט העליון בהרכב מיוחד שערבים מוגדה, שמתחתנים עם ערבים ישראלים, לא יהיו זכאים להתעדת זהות ישראלית. בכך התליט בית המשפט ששמירת הרוב היהודי בארץ היא ערך יותר חשוב מזכויות אדם בסיסיות שהוגות בכל העולם, על פיהן מקבלים בעלי אשה את האזרחות של בעלת וגם. הבעייה היא אכן קשה, ואיני מתכוון להתווכח עם בית המשפט העליון של מדינה דמוקרטית.

אלא שבזיון בבעייה זו, מציע "שלום טורונטו" לאזן את הקונפליקט הדמוגרפי על ידי מתן זכות הצבעה ליורדים. הניסוק:

"אחרי הכל, הישראלים החיים בטורונטו גם הם אנשי מילואים; גם הם משרתי ישראל, גם הם אנשי הצינות המדרגית... שימור זכותם להצביע יבטיח את שימור זכותנו על אדמת הקודש".

המשפט הזה, לטעמי, מאוד מטריד ומטעה. הוא מייצג סוג של צבינות שעושה לי קָרָה:

תסלחו לי-הישראלים שחיים בטורונטו **אינם** אנשי מילואים--הם **היו** בחלקם אנשי מילואים. רבים מהם עובו את ישראל כדי **לא** **לחיות** אנשי מילואים. אני שומע ישראלים רבים מתנשים בעברם הצבאי, וזה בסדר ומתאים לגברים בגיל המעבר--אבל דיר באלאק-חבל ללכלך.

"גם הם משרתי ישראל"-איך בדיוק הם משרתים את ישראל? באיטון סנטר או בקוסקו? ישראלים בטורונטו משרתים רק את עצמם. רובם המכריע גם לא עושים שום פעולה התנדבותית. משפטים כמו זה רצוי שלא ייאמרו. קשה להתייחס ברצינות לדברים כאלה.

"גם הם אנשי הצינות המדרגית"- מי נתן לכם לא ידעתי שצינות מדרגית דוגלת בזיהות יהודים ובישיבתם בטורונטו.

אל תטעו-לטעמי יכול ישראלי לחיות בדיוק איפה שהוא רוצה. אבל חשוב לחיות כנים ותקיים בנושא הדגיש חזק. אבל שישאר בציבור.


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Feature

# *Leading engineer would rather be known as a mensch*

**By SHERI SHEFA**
*Staff Reporter*

Manuel Linden, 79, a celebrated engineer and professor who has won awards and worked on the legendary Avro Arrow, and who grew up on the rough streets of Glasgow, would rather be remembered as a humanitarian and a mensch.

"What can I say, I'm just a mensch," Linden said with a grin. "Can I say that about myself? I'd like others to consider that I lived and died a mensch."

Linden, a gentle, soft-spoken, yet opinionated Scot – who often reminds people that he didn't have an accent until he moved to Canada in 1951 – attributes his work ethic, his altruistic spirit, his love for Judaism and his dedication to his family to his upbringing.

"I was brought up in 1926 with a family of, at one time, nine children, in a small, sparse flat in Glasgow with no hot water, no bathroom facility... We used a basin in the kitchen and we all took turns. There was little privacy, but complete respect for each other's property rights. We lived like Diogenes. We had no possessions. Our wants were very limited... We feared nothing, we possessed nothing, we had nothing... But we had a lot."

Perhaps it was because Linden and his family once teetered on the brink of poverty themselves that he has such respect for the less fortunate.

"I have great respect for street people, those who have fallen through the cracks," Linden said, adding that he once served as a judge for Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee's annual creative writing contest for the homeless.

Linden recalled that Jewish people in Glasgow in the 1930s and '40s were exposed to what he called "street anti-Semitism." He said that if he revealed he was Jewish to Protestant bullies on the streets of Glasgow, he'd be beaten up.

"I was brought up in a rough and tough neighbourhood. If you didn't hit them first, you were in trouble."

At the time, Linden said, people were disenchanted with the quality of life.

"Jewish people in that era struggled. They were battered and burned from life in Europe."

But, he added, they always maintained a sense of self-worth and dignity.

Linden immigrated to Toronto in 1951 when he was 23 years old, after he had been educated in Glasgow.

He said what brought him here were the job opportunities for educated men in the field of engineering.

"I was working the next day," he said.

He did engineering design work for Massey Ferguson, a producer of farming tractors, and was successful in improving a device used to spread manure.

"We had to originate a device that, if the blades went over a stone, it would disconnect the machine from the drive shafts. That was my first job, and my design worked out," he said.

Linden also discussed his work on the Avro Arrow, a white jet interceptor developed in Ontario in the 1950s that some say would have led Canada to the top of the aviation industry. Instead, then-prime minister John Diefenbaker abandoned the $400-million dollar project.

**Manuel Linden**

Still, Linden spoke with great pride about his part in designing an airplane that he said was 25 years ahead of its time.

"I designed a very evolutionary method of locking the undercarriage, the lock and release mechanism that was flexible, so that in flight, it moved with the wind," he said.

"I had to devise a method whereby in flight, the undercarriage would float like a cushion, but when it came in to land, it had to be solid," Linden said.

He said when the project was abandoned, it was the first time in his life he had seen so many grown men cry openly.

"They took the planes out of the air and destroyed them so that there would be no trace at all of Canada's contribution," Linden said, shaking his head disapprovingly.

Despite his accomplishments in the field of engineering, for which he has won numerous awards from organizations including the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists and the Institute of Chartered Engineers of Canada, Linden has also been recognized as a writer, a poet, a professor, a musician and a humanitarian.

"I was very involved in music with a Scottish Jewish pipe band, the only Jewish pipe band in the world. I played drums as a solo drummer," he said, adding that he would go to hospitals and play for sick children.

Even during a period when he was hospitalized, Linden found a way to contribute by writing a poem that he hoped would touch people's hearts.

He said when he was recovering in the hospital three years ago, he wrote a poem called *A New Day is Born* and was stunned by the reaction it received.

"I read it to [the nurse]. I hardly believed this, but she took her nursing cap off, she threw it aside of the bed, she put her arms around me and hugged me and she was welling with tears. She said it was the most beautiful thing she had ever read."

The last stanza of Linden's poem reflects his positive attitude and the kind of wisdom that comes with life experience: "And today is the tomorrow, we worried about yesterday, /That somehow never came, and like the dawn, it was gone, /And I knew, that a new day was born!"

Despite his many interests, whether scholarly, musical or artistic, the one aspect of his life Linden seems to be most proud of is the family that shaped him into a respectful Jewish man and the family that he himself shaped.

"I think I was most fortunate to be brought up in a family with differentials. My late father was from the old European school, steeped in tradition, [but] still modernistic in his attitudes. I was fortunate that I had a grandfather, bless his memory, who was steeped in Jewish tradition and Jewish learning, the Torah."

He said the first thing his grandfather did when he came to Scotland was study and learn to speak English, which Linden said, was very unusual because most people went straight into work.

"He was shrouded in the philosophy of the greats of our heritage, the *Ethics of Our Fathers* and the great legacy, most of which has left us, and Jewish traditions and values," Linden said.

"I'm proud of my family and certain values that I've been able to inculcate."

He said he also takes pride in the fact that he's managed to raise a family, plant a tree and write a book, the three accomplishments outlined in the Talmud, what he sees as "the ethics of our fathers."

Although Linden was cautious about not wanting to sound boring or, worst of all, narcissistic, he didn't shy away from answering personal questions about himself, his life, his philosophy and his accomplishments.

"Above all, my religion is to do good. I would like to say that my country is the world. I'm conscious of the greatest good. I'm also conscious of the inadequacies and deliberations which cause suffering. I'm a humanitarian. I've received seven awards in this field. I'm not just looking for a piece of paper, but I'm altruistic, which is a higher degree of philanthropy. My philosophy is not only about giving, but about giving of yourself."

In much the same way a grandfather would offer advice to his grandchild, Linden had this to say about living a fulfilling life: "Walk humbly, do justly, love with mercy, do the right thing because it's the right thing to do, but don't be so self-opinionated or self-absorbed that you can't follow the dictates of your heart."


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# Hard to choose from the dairy possibilities for Shavuot

By SUE EPSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

Heavy cheesecakes topped with fresh, ripe fruits; butter cookies that dissolve at the slightest touch of the tongue; blintzes filled with sweetened cottage cheese and served with blueberry sauce or dollops of thick sour cream – these are the foods of Shavuot.

Shavuot is the holiday for which I have the most difficult time coming up with a menu. Why? All year long when I come across an interesting and special dairy recipe, I put it away with the thought of Shavuot in mind. Then, the week before, I pull out all these recipes and agonize about which ones to make. I save so many wonderful dairy recipes for this holiday that it's hard to decide which ones to make.

Probably the most popular foods for Shavuot are blintzes and cheesecakes, but almost any dish that contains dairy is customary. Many people like to serve all white foods to symbolize the purity of the Torah that was given to us on this day.

### COLD STRAWBERRY SOUP

Cool and refreshing, this is one of my favourites. I serve it often for summer Shabbat lunches.

1 cup sugar
½ cup cornstarch
1½ cups grape juice or wine
1 cup water
1 tbsp. vanilla
2 1-pt. containers of strawberries
¼ cup lemon juice
½ cup orange juice concentrate
1½ cups additional juice (grape, orange or apple)
2 cups sour cream, optional

Mix sugar and cornstarch, then add grape juice and water. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly, until thickened. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Save about ½ container of the prettiest strawberries for garnish and mash the remainder. Add lemon juice and orange juice concentrate. Add to soup mixture. Add remaining juice until mixture is of desired consistency. Add the sour cream to the soup at this point if using. Chill and serve topped with strawberry slices.

### BAKED BLINTZES IN CUSTARD

4 eggs
1½ cups sour cream
1 tbsp. orange juice
1 tsp. vanilla
¼ cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. grated orange rind
12 frozen blintzes, any kind
2 tbsp. butter

Blend all ingredients except blintzes and butter together to make a sauce. Melt 2 tbsp. butter in a flat casserole that will hold the blintzes in a single layer. Place the frozen blintzes in the casserole (any flavours or combinations of flavours – fruit and/or cheese). Pour sauce over blintzes and bake uncovered at 350 for 45 minutes.

### BANANA NUT CHEESECAKE

1 cup chocolate wafer crumbs
¼ cup margarine or butter, melted
16 oz. cream cheese softened
½ cup sugar
½ cup mashed ripe bananas
2 large eggs
¼ cup chopped walnuts or pecans
⅓ cup milk chocolate chips
1 tbsp. margarine or butter
2 tbsp. water

Combine crumbs and margarine; press onto the bottom of a 9-in. springform pan and bake at 350 for 10 minutes.

Combine cream cheese, sugar and bananas, mixing at medium speed on electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in nuts. Pour over crust. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes. Loosen cake from rim and cool before removing rim of pan.

Melt chocolate pieces and margarine or butter with water over low heat, stirring until smooth. Drizzle over cheesecake. Chill.

### PRALINE CHEESECAKE

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
3 tbsp. sugar
3 tbsp. margarine, melted
24 oz. cream cheese, softened
¼ cup dark brown sugar, packed
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
3 large eggs
2 tsp. vanilla
½ cup pecans, finely chopped
maple syrup and pecan halves for garnish

Combine graham cracker crumbs, granulated sugar and margarine; press onto bottom of 9-in. springform pan. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes.

Combine cream cheese, brown sugar and flour, mixing at medium speed of electric mixer until well blended. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Blend in vanilla; stir in chopped pecans. Pour over crust. Bake at 450 for 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 250 and continue baking an additional 30 minutes. Loosen cake from rim of pan and cool before removing rim. Chill. Brush with maple syrup and top with pecan halves.

*Central*
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✓ Our proposed vision, values, strategic directions

We want your ideas on:
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✓ Improving access and coordination of services

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**Tuesday, June 6, 2006**
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Vedic Cultural Centre
4345 14th Avenue, Markham
West of Kennedy, south of Hwy. 407

**Thursday, June 8, 2006**
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p. m. – 9:00 p.m.*
Northwood Community Centre
15 Clubhouse Court, North York
North off Sheppard onto Arleta Avenue, west of Keele Street

**Monday, June 12, 2006**
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Vellore Village Community Centre
1 Villa Royale Avenue, Woodbridge
At Weston Road, south of Major Mackenzie

**Wednesday, June 14, 2006**
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
Ray Twinney Community Centre
100 Eagle Street West, Newmarket
West of Yonge Street, north of Mulock Drive

**Monday, June 19, 2006**
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Nottawasaga Inn
6015 Highway 89, Alliston

**Tuesday, June 20, 2006**
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Georgina Ice Palace
90 Wexford Drive, Keswick
Corner of Woodbine and Wexford

**Wednesday, June 21, 2006**
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
St. John's Rehab Hospital
285 Cummer Avenue North York
Between Willowdale and Bayview Avenues

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# CUPE votes to boycott Israel

*CJN Staff and Jerusalem Post*

The Ontario division of Canada's largest union voted Saturday to support an international campaign that is boycotting Israel over its treatment of Palestinians.

Delegates to the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario convention in Ottawa voted overwhelmingly to support the campaign until Israel recognizes "the Palestinians' right to self-determination." The Ontario union represents more than 200,000 workers.

Sid Ryan, president of CUPE Ontario, said, "This is not an attack on Jewish people. It's [an objection to] the State of Israel's policies on Palestinians. They say they are creating an independent state, but they're not giving them the tools to do that," the *National Post* reported.

The CUPE resolution was adopted unanimously by 896 delegates. According to a CUPE news release, the labour organization also condemned Israel's separation barrier as an "apartheid wall."

Canadian Jewish Congress questioned whether the resolution represented the views of the majority of CUPE members.

"This is the kind of one-sided statement that comes out from a very small group of activists, that is foisted on an otherwise respected labour union," said Steven Shulman, Ontario regional director and legal counsel for Congress. "Some sort of vote took place on a statement that we don't believe represents the majority of the rank and file. It should be seen as an embarrassment for CUPE."

Shulman said Congress had received many e-mails from CUPE members who said "they didn't know anything about it and are embarrassed by it."

He said the resolution, as described in a CUPE press release, "is based on falsehoods and is one-sided and is emphatically a propaganda statement."

Under the resolution approved by delegates, CUPE Ontario will develop an education campaign about the issue, including Canada's political and economic support for Israeli policies, similar to the campaign developed by CUPE British Columbia.

"Boycott, divestment and sanction worked to end apartheid in South Africa," said Katherine Nastovski, chair of the CUPE Ontario international solidarity committee. "We believe the same strategy will work to enforce the rights of Palestinian people, including the right of refugees to return to their homes and properties."

CUPE noted that Canada has a free trade agreement with Israel and that Ontario's liquor control board carries more than 30 Israeli wines.

CUPE's move is part of an international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. The global campaign started last July and has been supported by many North American churches, 20 Quebec organizations and others.

In Britain, meanwhile, members of the country's largest union of college teachers agreed Monday to boycott Israel over what members called "apartheid" policies for Palestinians, saying union members will refuse to co-operate with Israeli academics who do not "disassociate themselves from such policies."

The 69,000-member National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) debated the proposal for the boycott at its annual conference in the northern English city of Blackpool. Two parts of the motion passed with a show of hands while a third went to a vote. Under the boycott, union members also will not submit articles to Israeli research papers.

Opposition to the vote culminated on Saturday with a letter to *The Guardian* newspaper in which hundreds of academics called on NATFHE to reject the motion.

Last week, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) also announced that it condemned the proposed boycott, and urged NATFHE to withdraw the motion.

The statement released by the AAAS board of directors said it joined with other organizations "in condemning this proposed boycott as antithetical to the positive role of free scientific inquiry in improving the lives of all citizens of the world, and in promoting co-operation among nations, despite political differences."

It added: "Free scientific inquiry and associated international collaborations should not be compromised in order to advance a political agenda unrelated to scientific and scholarly matters."

Bar-Ilan University's International Advisory Board on Academic Freedom also called for an immediate withdrawal of the boycott motion. It published an online petition calling on NATFHE members, the academic community and the general public to oppose the boycott, explaining why an academic boycott was wrong. The petition was signed by thousands of international academics.

In another letter that was also published Saturday in *The Guardian*, however, a group of Palestinian academics applauded the boycott motion.

Last year, another British faculty group, the British Association of University Teachers (AUT), voted to boycott Haifa and Bar-Ilan universities, charging them with complicity in Israel's "suppression of the Palestinians." The council of the association reversed the decision after hearing objections from leading scholars and academic organizations.

NATFHE and the AUT are due to merge next month and any decisions made by the unions prior to the merger – including a possible NATFHE vote in favour of boycotting Israeli academics – will be automatically nullified by the merger.

*With files from Paul Lungen and Talya Halkin.*

**A SOCCER STAR SHOWS THEM HOW: Barcelona soccer star Samuel Eto was in Israel last week as a guest of the Peres Center for Peace. Eto, three times named the African Footballer of the Year and this season's top scorer in the Spanish Premier Soccer League, came to Israel to encourage Israeli and Palestinian youngsters to come together on the soccer field in search of peace. Here he is seen at the centre of a cluster of his young Israeli and Palestinian fans. [Israel photo]**

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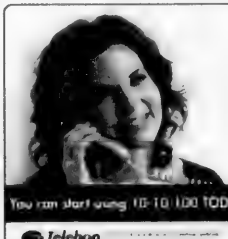

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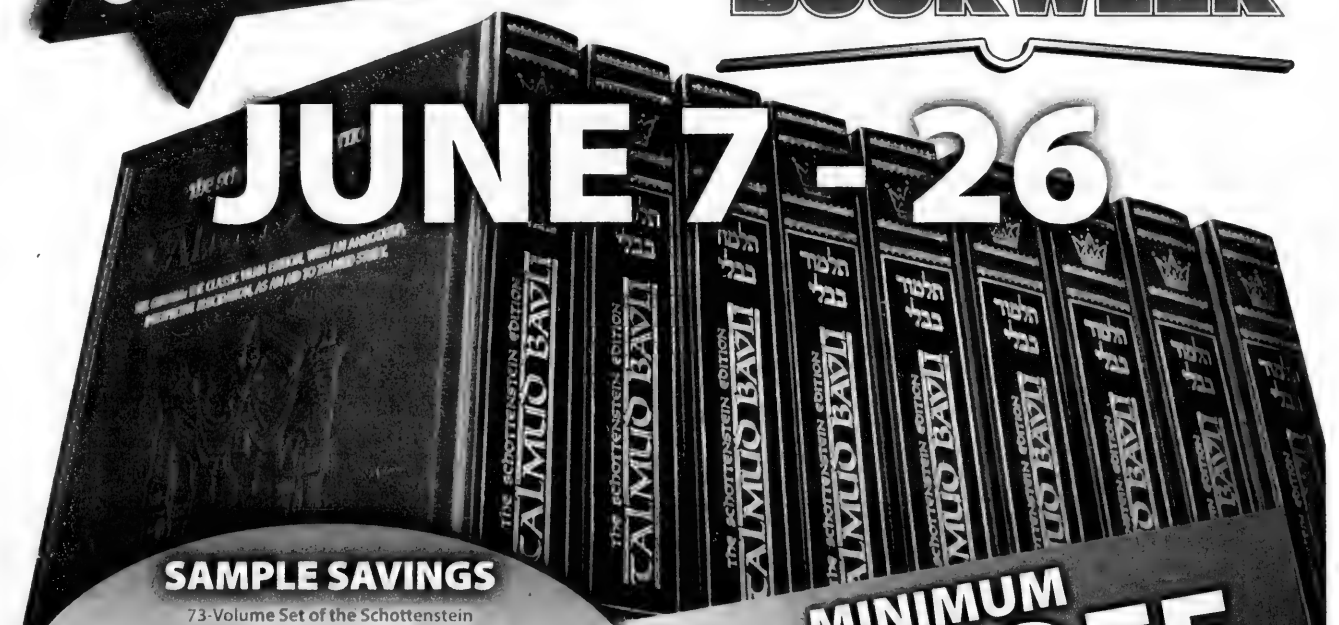


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# Iran claims nuclear fusion research

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Iran has conducted research into nuclear fusion, an Iranian nuclear official was reported as saying Monday by state television.

It was the first time the country declared such a development.

"Iranian nuclear scientists are competing with the advanced world in the field of producing nuclear energy through fusion," the official, Sadat Hosseini, was reported as saying by the television network.

It was not immediately clear why Iran had decided to announce the research only now, but the move seemed to be part of the country's defiance of world calls for it to limit its nuclear program to activities that could not be used for making weapons. Nuclear fusion is employed by certain kinds of atomic bombs.

The five major powers on the UN Security Council – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France – and Germany were scheduled to meet in London on Wednesday to discuss a plan intended to persuade Iran to stop enriching uranium – a process that produces fuel for nuclear generators of electricity or material for bombs.

Foreign ministers of the six countries appeared to have narrowed their differences on a package of rewards or sanctions that are to be put before Iran.

The United States and some of its allies accuse Iran of using a civilian nuclear program as a cover to produce nuclear weapons. Iran denies this, saying its nuclear program is merely to generate electricity.

The Security Council gave Iran until the end of April to suspend all activities linked to enrichment. But Iran ignored the demand and announced last month that it had for the first time successfully enriched uranium and was performing research on advanced centrifuges to enable it to accelerate its enrichment.

In related news, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Sunday that the "international Zionist web" was trying to keep him from visiting Germany for the World Cup soccer match.

The Iranian president, who previously stated his intention to travel to Germany for the World Cup games that will take place there this summer, said that he had not yet decided on the matter. Iran is one of the 32 nations participating in the World Cup. "My decision depends on a lot of different things," Ahmadinejad said.

Some German officials have been pressing to prevent Ahmadinejad's visit following numerous statements that he made casting doubt about the occurrence of the Holocaust, which he reiterated in an interview to *Der Spiegel*, saying that he doubted whether the Germans had been allowed to write "the truth" about the Holocaust.

"I only accept something as the truth if I am truly convinced of it," Ahamdinejad asserted.

# U.S. Congress considers vote on Jewish refugees

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

The U.S. Congress will consider a resolution that calls on the president to instruct government officials to match any reference to Palestinian refugees in international fora with a reference to Jewish and Christian refugees from Arab lands.

The resolution also urges the president to "make clear that the government of the United States supports the position that, as an integral part of any comprehensive peace, the issue of refugees and mass violations of human rights of minorities in Arab and Muslim countries… must be resolved in a manner that includes recognition of the legitimate rights of all refugees displaced from Arab countries."

The bipartisan resolution has been introduced in the Senate and is expected to come before the House of Representatives this week. It is being advanced by prominent U.S. lawmakers and stands a good chance of passing before the November congressional elections, said Stanley Urman, executive director of Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), a coalition of American Jewish organizations.

The resolution, which JJAC is supporting, is "the strongest declaration on Jewish refugees" by the United States, he said.

While it is only a "sense of the Congress" statement and cannot compel the executive branch to comply, it has tremendous educational and symbolic value, Urman said.

Both houses of Congress will hold hearings to discuss the resolution, providing the venue for advocates on behalf of Jewish refugees to present the human rights case for Jews who were expelled from Arab countries beginning in the 1940s.

An estimated 850,000 to 900,000 Jews were forced to leave their homes in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Iran, Iraq and Yemen.

According to the American Sephardi Association, a partner of JJAC, discrimination against Jews increased after the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, and Jews "endured humiliation, discrimination, human rights abuses, organized persecution and expulsion."

Urman said discussion of the Mideast refugee issue has focused exclusively on Palestinians, ignoring the Jewish dimension to the problem. JJAC has been trying to put the Jewish refugee issue on the agenda of the "Quartet" of parties that sponsored the "Road Map" Mideast peace plan – the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations.

The congressional resolution is being spearheaded by Senator Rick Santorum, the third-ranking Republican in the Senate, Senator Norm Coleman, Senator Dick Durbin and Senator Frank Lautenberg. Supporters in the House include Tom Lantos and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, co-chairs of Congress' Mideast subcommittee of the international affairs committee, and congressmen Jerrold Nadler and Michael Ferguson.

"Compensation for refugees displaced by wars in the Middle East and their aftermath has long been a cornerstone of Middle East peace making," said Lantos. "This principle must apply to all refugees, Jewish as well as Palestinian."


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## Israel Briefs

### *Sharon to be moved*

Hadassah-University Medical Center in Jerusalem said former prime minister Ariel Sharon will soon be transferred to Sheba Medical Center at the Tel Hashomer hospital in Tel Aviv. He will receive treatment in an 18-bed respiratory care and rehabilitation department described by officials as "a hospital within a hospital."

### *Weapons transfer to Abbas*

Israel last week agreed to transfer a small amount of weapons to help guard Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The decision by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz came amid growing threats on Abbas' life. The weapons are expected to be sent to Abbas' presidential guard via a third party, likely Egypt or Jordan.

### *Red Cross to vote on MDA*

The Red Cross is expected to vote to admit Israel's emergency services agency next month. Magen David Adom has been excluded from full member status in the international humanitarian organization. In December, a conflict over Magen David's Jewish star emblem was put to rest, but the Israeli agency still faces opposition from Arab and Islamic states and must complete certain regulatory steps prior to entry. The June resolution will also grant full member status to the Palestinian emergency services outfit.

### *U.K. seeks compensation*

Britain asked Israel to compensate the families of two British activists killed in Gaza. British Attorney General Peter Goldsmith, in Israel last week for a Bar Association event, also held meetings with the Foreign Ministry and Justice Ministry about the 2003 deaths of Tom Hurndall and James Miller. Both were shot by Israeli forces in the southern town of Rafah. Israel has jailed the soldier who killed Hurndall but dropped charges against an officer blamed in the Miller case. Israel's Foreign Ministry said both cases have been handled by the legal establishment. There was no immediate comment from the Justice Ministry.

### *Israelis to sue Iranian prez*

Israeli officials are preparing to sue Iran's president at the International Court of Justice. The lawsuit would accuse Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of conspiring to commit crimes against humanity because of his repeated threats to destroy Israel. Among those developing the lawsuit are Meir Rosenne, Israel's former ambassador to the United States and France, and former cabinet minister Dan Naveh.

### *Yad Vashem a key symbol*

Yad Vashem is the most prominent symbol of modern-day Jerusalem for Israeli Jews, a new poll says. The poll found 37 per cent of Israeli Jews view Yad Vashem as the site that symbolizes today's Jerusalem, compared to 20 per cent who said the outdoor Mahane Yehuda market, 12 per cent who cited the Israel Museum and 9 per cent who named Mount Herzl and the gravesite of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, according to a Gesher poll carried out ahead of Jerusalem Day.

### *First female IAF pilot dies*

Yael Rom, the Israeli Air Force's first female pilot, died May 24 in Haifa at 74. Rom earned her wings in 1951 and went on to fly DC-3 transport planes. She was one of two women commissioned as officers and the first of five to fly in the early IAF. As a 29-year-old reservist, she piloted the lead plane in a 16-aircraft formation that dropped a crack paratrooper unit on the Mitla Pass at the start of the 1956 Sinai Campaign.

### *Church wants goods labeled*

Israeli media reported that the Church of Scotland has called on European authorities to identify products made in Israel's West Bank settlements. The call came from the church's General Assembly, which met in Edinburgh last week. A committee reported the church doesn't hold any investments directly relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

*- JTA and Jerusalem Post*

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# Toronto artist reborn after stroke

Harold Bonaparte is a gifted artist who had two strokes within days of each other.

It was the summer of 2002 and he was in his early 70s.

A graphic designer before retirement, his hobbies included calligraphy and photography. He loved fine handwriting and photographing panoramic landscapes and historic buildings.

After the strokes, the right side of his body was paralyzed. His right hand – his drawing hand – no longer functioned. His left eye was half closed and he had reduced vision in his right eye. His memory and his speech were mildly impaired.

Physiotherapists and occupational therapists at Markham-Stouffville Hospital and later at Baycrest's Day Treatment Centre helped Bonaparte rebuild some of his muscle strength and limb movement. Speech and cognitive therapists helped him, too.

But the artist inside him could not find outward expression and he became depressed. His spirit was broken and he was "giving up," says his wife, Rose.

"He felt he couldn't express himself like he used to. He couldn't do art anymore and that was it."

Enter Debbie Van der Laan. For the past 16 years, she has worked with stroke survivors as a dance therapist at Baycrest's Wagman Centre.

"I'm in the field of helping people reconnect to themselves," she says. "I use an expressive arts therapy approach with my group. It's not so much about learning a particular dance, but more about the elements of how you use rhythm, time and space."

Van der Laan met Bonaparte during his rehab at Baycrest's Day Treatment Centre. She had a hunch that her dance therapy program was just what Bonaparte needed to reawaken his inner artist. But he was reluctant to join Van der Laan's Stroke Recovery Group at the Wagman Centre. After all, he had not been much of a dancer throughout his life.

"It's always a stubborn 'no' at first with Harold," says Rose. But after a bit of prodding, he agreed to give dance therapy a try with his wife as his partner.

**Harold Bonaparte shows one of the landscape paintings he completed after his stroke. With him is his wife Rose, left, and Wagman dance therapist Debbie Van der Laan.**

"The Wagman program was the best thing that ever happened to us," says Rose.

Bonaparte began to enjoy the classes and have fun with movement. It did wonders for his confidence and mood, and also improved his gait and posture. Most importantly, he began to feel alive again.

"There is definitely more joy in his voice and a lightness to him," says Van der Laan.

But dance was just the beginning. Bonaparte was ready to reacquaint himself with art again. He signed up for a ceramics class at Wagman. He would try working with his left hand, which had not been injured by the strokes.

The art instructor gave him sponges to soak in coloured paint and daub on the ceramics. Bonaparte became frustrated quickly because it reminded him of how far he'd fallen artistically. "I was at the pinnacle of my talent in calligraphy and now I'm doing sponge work," he recalls.

Sensing his dejection, the instructor suggested that he try a painting-on-canvas class. Little did the instructor know that such encouragement would unleash the artist genie out of the bottle.

It had been more than 50 years since Bonaparte had painted on canvas. In the early 1950s as a young newlywed, he had dabbled in painting, recreating copies of famous works. They were impressive pieces, but he soon lost interest and moved into graphic design. Now life was about to come full circle.

Since he joined the art classes at the Wagman, Bonaparte has painted portraits, still-lifes and landscapes – works that he has produced with one relatively good eye and the "wrong" hand.

"It's astronomical," says Rose. "I never believed he could come this far in just a few years."

Bonaparte's transformation is remarkable, Van der Laan says. "It is the result of different circles of support. His wife and family are his inner circle. Baycrest and Wagman staff and other stroke survivors he has met in his classes are his outer circle.

"Harold has learned that he is not defined by his stroke or his wheelchair," she says.

He is a husband, a father, and a mentor to newcomers in the stroke rehabilitation program – and an artist reborn.

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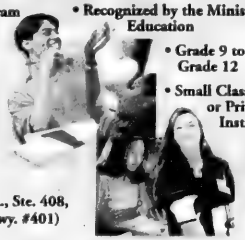
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## Hidden Treasure

"Oh, hello Molly. Come right in. Here, let me have your raincoat. Wow, the rain's really coming down. You must be soaked. Hold on, I'll get Shira."

Mrs. Levine turned around. "Shira!" she called. "Your friend Molly's here!"

Shira came running down the stairs. "Hey Molly, what's going on?"

"I came to look for buried treasure with you. You said we could dig together in the backyard, remember?"

"Uh yes, but today? It's pouring outside, and it's going to be so muddy out there."

"Oh. Right." Molly thought for a moment. "Well, let's look for treasure inside the house instead."

"OK. Fine. Where do you want to look?"

"I don't know. Somewhere dark and secret."

"I don't think we have anything like that here. Well, maybe we can try the basement."

"Oh, that's perfect!" exclaimed Molly.

But the minute Shira opened the basement door, Molly knew there was no hidden treasure to be found *here*. The basement was completely finished, carpeted and painted. But she didn't want to make Shira feel bad, so she pretended to look anyway.

"Hmmm... I'll bet there's something hidden under this potted plant," she declared, as Shira checked behind her mother's computer. "No, not here. Uh, maybe in this office chair. Nope, nothing in here."

Ten minutes later, Shira finally said, "I don't think we'll find anything down here."

"Yeah, I guess you're right," agreed Molly, as they ascended the stairs. "I told you, we need someplace dark and secret."

"How about a closet?"

"Maybe," said Molly, growing more and more doubtful that there was anything secret to be found in *this* house. Shira opened the closet door.

"Oooo, it's dark in here. Molly, turn on the light."

"Shira, if the light was on, it wouldn't be dark and secret, would it?" explained Molly, closing the door.

"Now it's pitch dark!"

"Don't worry, I have a flashlight. Uh oh, I left it in my raincoat. Do you know where it is?"

"It's probably hanging in this closet somewhere."

"Oh. No, don't open the door, I can find it in the dark. Here! I found my coat, let me get out the flashlight. Ah, much better."

Together, they scrounged the floorboards for traces of treasure.

"Hmmm...I don't see anything down here. Maybe there's something hidden in the walls." Molly flashed the beam of light around the walls, steadily checking higher and higher. "Hey look, there's something attached to the ceiling. It looks like a handle. Here, pick me up."

Shira gave Molly a boost, and Molly grabbed hold of a shelf to stay balanced.

"Careful," cautioned Shira.

Molly pulled the handle. Nothing happened. She tried turning it. First this way, then that way. It squeaked rustily, and turned. Molly gave it a yank, and a ceiling tile folded down, revealing a slide-down ladder. She pulled it down, and beamed at Shira, who was watching, awed.

"Now what?" inquired Shira timidly.

"We go up."

Molly excitedly climbed the ladder, and stepped into the attic. "OK Shira, your turn!"

Shira gripped the siderails and gingerly started to climb, one careful step after another. Finally she stuck her head into the attic, immediately sneezing. "There's so much dust up here."

"That's the whole point," explained Molly." That means we might actually find treasure here."

"Oh." Shira looked like she wanted to climb down.

"C'mon up!" demanded Molly, taking Shira's hands and lifting her in.

The attic was eerily quiet, except for the pitter-patter of the rain. Dim light penetrated a single, small window. Faded, dusty boxes leaned on each other. Molly rushed over to them. "Let's see what we can find here!"

"Molly, I'm scared. Let's go down."

"Are you crazy? This is what we've been looking for the whole day!"

"Oh."

"If only we had more light up here, so I could see things better. My flashlight is burning out. Oh forget it." Molly switched off the fading flashlight.

"Now it's *really* dark! Molly, let's..."

A blazing flash of lightning split the sky.

"Aaa! Molly! Where's the ladder?"

"Careful, you might fall through the floor opening. But why do you want the ladder? We've just started!"

A deafening crash of thunder burst through the attic.

"Molly! Let's - get - out - of - here — Aak! I just felt something on my head!"

"It's probably the rain. The roof is leaking a little...."

"SPIDERS! THERE ARE SPIDERS UP HERE! AAAAAAH!"

"Calm down. Hey, what's that?"

"WHAT'S WHAT?" demanded Shira, almost in hysterics.

"That thing over there," said Molly. "It looks like a little chest... It is! Uhh, I can't get it open. Wow! Let's bring it downstairs so we can see it in the light. There, the ladder's right there."

Shira dashed down the ladder, followed by Molly.

"Okay, *now* you can turn on the light." Shira did, shaking.

"Wow, it's sure bright in here," continued Molly, "All right, let's open this up."

"There you are," exclaimed Mrs. Levine, opening the closet door. "Shira! Molly! How did you get so dirty?" Her gaze fell on the ladder, still extended. "Were you up in the attic?"

"Yes, and we found a treasure chest!" proclaimed Molly, proudly displaying her find.

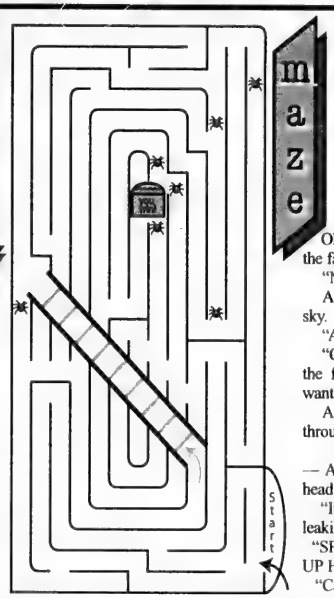
"Hmmm..." said Mrs. Levine. "This house was built by my great-grandfather, but I never heard of any treasure hidden away in the attic. Well, let's see what's inside."

"It isn't locked," declared Molly. "It's just jammed." She twisted the strap harder, harder, until it popped open. Slowly, reverently, Molly opened the treasure chest.

"Aw, it's not treasure." she realized.

"It's just pictures!" exclaimed Shira.

"Just pictures?" breathed Mrs. Levine, examining the pictures." Shira, this — this is your great-great-grandfather with his brothers, in Poland. And this baby is your great-grandfather. And here he is with your great-grandmother on their wedding day... Molly! Shira! What a treasure!"




Can you find the treasure? You'll have to climb that ladder, but don't pass through any spiders...

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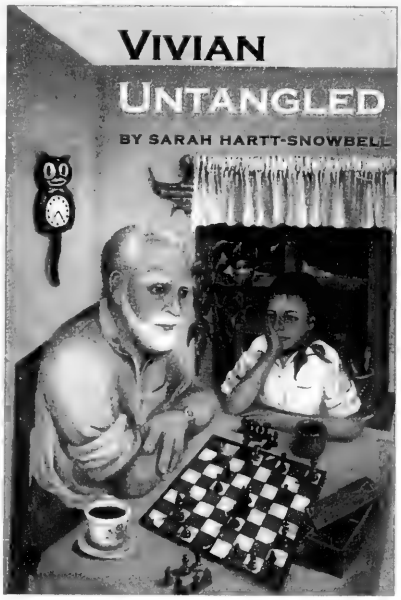
CJkids

# One thing leads to another

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*




We have all known what it is like when we think a situation is small and unimportant, but it turns out to be something really major.

That's what happens to Vivian in Sarah Hartt-Snowbell's new book, *Vivian Untangled* (Napoleon Publishing, 2006).

Vivian is an 11-year-old girl who has what she considers a hard time of it. She doesn't do particularly well at school, she never seems to have enough money to get the stuff she wants, she doesn't have best friends, and her parents keep having terrible fights.

But her troubles really start when she sees a wonderful diary in a gift shop. She desperately wants it, but she has no money to buy it.

When she visits her grandfather, she finds a gold pen in the middle of a whole pile of things he keeps around the apartment. Thinking he won't notice, she takes the pen and sells it to a friend, who wants it as a present for her own grandfather.

It turns out, however, that the pen was the last gift Vivian's grandmother had given her husband before she died, and it is therefore very very precious to him. When Vivian tries to get it back, her friend is furious and refuses.

As if that isn't bad enough, Vivian overhears her father threaten to leave and sees that he has written the words, "Very attractive" and "Very tempting" beside a woman's phone number. Deciding that the woman is the one who has lured her father away, she calls her up and warns her to leave her father alone.

As you might expect, everything blows up in Vivian's face, and she has to deal with an embarrassed father (who had written those words beside a job counsellor's name and phone number), a furious and hurt grandfather, a bewildered mother, angry teachers and a best friend who turns out to be not-such-a-best-friend after all.

It is clear that telling a string of lies can easily turn out to be the worst way to handle a crisis, not the best.

Hartt-Snowbell is a Toronto author of children's books. You may remember that *The CJN* wrote about her wonderful book for young children *A Little Something*.

**TZEDAKAH PROJECT:** Jared Quaglieri, right, sorts pop can tabs at Medagh Industrial Recycling as Reena Feldman looks on. The Grade 3 students were part of a contingent from Associated Hebrew School's Posluns branch who collected the tabs for Jewish Women International to fund the purchase of a wheelchair. Students have collected 70 pounds of tabs for the school-wide student council project and are hoping to reach a goal of 500 pounds.

**LAG B'OMER FUN:** Rain couldn't dampen the spirits of brothers Jared, left, and Shayne Friedman as they enjoyed the Lag b'Omer family picnic at Chabad@Flamingo. Festivities included a bonfire and marshmallow roast, as well as cotton candy, music and entertainment.

**CHALLAH TIME:** Junior kindergarten students at Bialik Hebrew Day School recently kneaded and rolled the dough for their own Shabbat challahs, which they took home to bake in time for Shabbat dinner. Pictured are proud bakers Kacie Smith and Seth Unger.

Family Moments
Mazel Tov
see page 19

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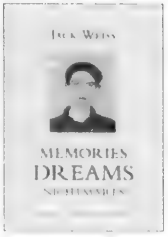
# Awards highlight regional character of Canadian-Jewish literature

By BILL GLADSTONE
*Special to The CJN*



Having written and published three novels in as many years, former Montrealer Edeet Ravel, now of Guelph, walked away with the fiction prize for her novel *A Wall of Light* (Random House Canada) at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards on May 23.

The prize-winning book completes the author's Tel Aviv trilogy, which also includes the previous titles *Ten Thousand Lovers* and *Look for Me*.

"It amazes me, too, that I managed to write three books in three years," Ravel said. "But it was a topic that was so close to me, that I have such a strong need to write about, that the books almost wrote themselves."

The trilogy paints a vivid picture of contemporary Israeli life from the 1970s to the present. It has attracted much praise but also some scorn for the manner in which it highlights dark and deeply troubling aspects of Israeli society.

An audience of about 200 people applauded as Ravel received a cheque for $1,000. "This prize has given me some much-needed reassurance," she told the gathering.

The 18th annual awards ceremony also included nine other prize winners and a tribute to recently deceased poet Irving Layton given by his son Max. A Toronto-area teacher and bookstore owner, Layton Jr. read and discussed *The Swimmer*, a key poem that made his father realize that he was and would always be a poet.

Another Canadian Jewish literary giant was recalled as Michael Posner received a book award for biography-memoir for *The Last Honest Man: Mordecai Richler, an Oral Biography* (McClelland & Stewart). Noting that Richler had often been overlooked for literary prizes, Posner said he hoped the award would serve to lead more readers to Richler's books.

This year's awards highlighted the strongly regional character of Canadian-Jewish literary output, displacing Toronto's usual dominance. By coincidence, several winners had strong connections with the city of Calgary; Montreal and Vancouver also featured prominently.

Eliezer Segal, who won the prize in biblical-rabbinic scholarship for *From Sermon to Commentary: Expounding the Bible in Talmudic Babylonia* (Wilfrid Laurier Press), is a professor of religious studies at the University of Calgary.

"This is an award that is very meaningful to me," he said. "The book is not easy reading, I admit. It deals with texts that were composed hundreds of years ago and not quite according to the norms of literature that we're used to."

Renee Norman, a Calgary native now living in Vancouver, won the poetry prize for her collection *True Confessions* (Inanna Publications). Her acceptance speech included a short poem describing her feelings. When an awards committee member phoned her with the news of her win, her tears flowed "like melted wax down a menorah."

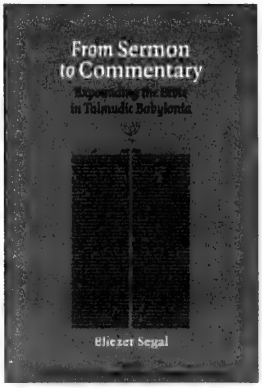
Her publisher, Luciano Ricciutelli of Toronto-based Inanna, seemed equally thrilled and described the prize as "an affirmation of what we're doing and the work we want to highlight and the authors we want to publish."

The award for scholarship on a Jewish subject went to Richard Menkis of Vancouver and Norman Ravvin, a native Calgarian living in Montreal, who co-edited *The Canadian Jewish Studies Reader*, which was published by the Calgary-based Red Deer Press.

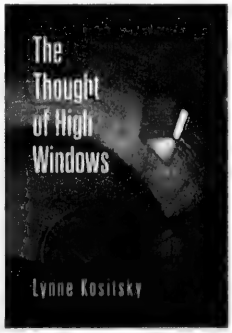
Another Calgary publisher, the University of Calgary Press, produced *Memories, Dreams and Nightmares* by Jack Weiss of Winnipeg, which took the Holocaust memoir prize.

The prize in Holocaust history went to Sara Ginaite-Rubinson, a professor at Toronto's York University, for *Resistance and Survival* (Mosaic Press). The book offers a thorough history of the Holocaust in Lithuania combined with the author's experiences as a partisan in the Kovno underground.

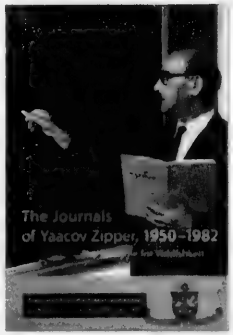
The prize in history went to Isabel Vincent, a Toronto author currently living in Rio de Janeiro, for *Bodies and Souls* (Random House Canada). The book describes the plight of Jewish women forced into prostitution in the Americas between 1860 and World War II.



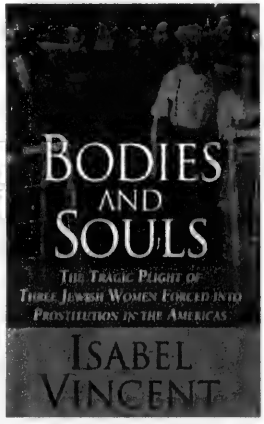

The prize in children's-youth literature went to Lynne Kositsky of Toronto for *The Thought of High Windows* (Kids Can Press). The book is based on a true story about some Belgian children who hid in a French chateau during World War II until the Vichy regime arrested them on Hitler's behalf.




The prize in Yiddish literature and translation went to Mervin Butovsky and Ode Garfinkle of Montreal, editors and translators of *The Journals of Yaacov Zipper, 1950-1982* (McGill-Queen's University Press).




Zipper, former principal of Montreal's Peretz school, left behind a series of journals that were regarded as too important historically not to translate. "It took seven years of hard labour to see the fruition" of this project, said Garfinkle, his daughter.




The winning books were chosen from a pool of about 70 titles submitted to the awards committee, said Bernard Katz, chair of the committee and host of the awards ceremony. The state of Canadian Jewish publishing is therefore "very healthy," he said.

"We had far fewer books this year that were self-published – we do accept self-published books," he said. "I don't know if that's a blip or a trend, but it indicates to me, given the large number of submissions, that more publishers are publishing Jewish books here than ever before."

Six authors participated in an evening of readings at the Nadal JCC the day after receiving their awards.

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Arts & Travel

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir celebrates its 80th anniversary this year.

# 'When I sing, I think of my Bobba and Zaida'

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Rich Jewish melodies of the past and present will blend on stage June 4 as the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir celebrates its 80th anniversary with a special edition of its annual spring concert.

Canada's oldest Jewish choral group will sing a medley of classics from its eight decades, created by conductor Alexander Veprinsky, and it will also premiere a new, commissioned work by Winnipeg composer Sid Robinovitch.

"The medley for this special event consists of about 20 songs," Veprinsky said. "These songs reflect the history and variety of music the choir has been doing for the last 80 years."

Veprinsky said the medley showcases songs in such diverse languages as Yiddish, Hebrew, English, French, Russian and Ladino.

Robinovitch's piece, *In Amerike*, is a five-movement performance based on a Yiddish novel in verse by Montreal poet Sholem Shtern.

It details the immigrant story of Jews in the New World and honours past and present members of the choir, all of whom have been immigrants or children and grandchildren of Jewish immigrants who have maintained their strong connections to Yiddish culture.

"Our mandate is to preserve Yiddish culture and to enhance it," said choir member Enid Moscovitch. "[The choir embodies] the dedication and sense of community that we all have."

That community connection is one of the most profound feelings choir members experience themselves.

"When I sing, I think of my Bobba and Zaida," says choir member Linda Litwack.

"We sing with heart · I think you can really hear that."

Joining the singers on stage will be Lina Zemelman, who is marking her 30th anniversary as the choir's pianist, and Klezmer quintet Beyond the Pale.

Medley selections and the *In Amerike* story will also be narrated.

Founded in 1925, the choir hasn't missed an annual spring concert since the beginning.

In addition to the symbolism of the choir's 80th year on stage, the concert is also a tribute to Jean Shek, a 60-year member, and Brina Harris, who sang from the 1930s to the late 1990s. They both passed away recently.

"My mother was in the choir for 60 years," enthuses Ben Shek, himself a member since 1968. "This choir has lasted for so long because of the willpower and dedication of its members."

Veprinsky says the concert's immigrant experience theme will strike a chord with the audience.

"The audience will take away something that is very dear: the memories of immigration," he said. "And they will listen to beautiful music that offers a wide variety of Jewish songs and is pretty melodic."

CDs of last year's concert will be for sale at the show, which takes place at Leah Posluns Theatre, at 4588 Bathurst St.

For information and tickets, e-mail tjfolkchoir@sympatico.ca, or call 416-636-0936 or 416-665-7766.

The original Toronto Jewish Folk Choir from 1926.


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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## LACHAN JEWISH CHAMBER CHOIR PREPARES FOR TORONTO CONCERT BEFORE CHINA TRIP

**The Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir** presents Jewish Identity Through The Musical Lens, a gala concert of Jewish choral music that moves chronologically from ancient chants to modern Israeli compositions.

The goal "is not only to entertain our audiences, but to educate them," said artistic director **Benjamin Z. Maissner,** who co-founded the choir in 1993. Maissner is cantor and musical director at Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple.

Not long after their Toronto performance, Lachan members depart for the 4th annual World Choir Games in Xiamen, China, where they intend to compete in two categories. More than 400 choirs and 20,000 singers from around the world are expected at the event, many with the shared purpose of bridging cultural differences through music, much as Olympic athletes attempt to do through sport.

The choir's repertoire is diverse and eclectic, and is meant to highlight the rich history of Jewish music, both secular and sacred. The music ranges in style from classical to popular and ranges in period from pre-Renaissance to 21st century. One of the choir's goals "is to broaden awareness of Jewish music and the many Jewish composers," Maissner said. ("Lachan" means "melody" in Hebrew.)

The Lachan Choir performs at Leah Posluns Theatre on June 12, at 8 p.m. 416-782-3214, www.lachan.org

* * *

**Bronfman Foundation Endows Awards:** The Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation has endowed two new annual awards by which the Canada Council for the Arts will pay tribute to its former director, **John Hobday**. The Foundation donated $1 million to ensure that, beginning in 2007, two $10,000 awards will be presented each year to assist arts managers with their professional development.

"We are very pleased to honour John Hobday's long-term service with our foundation and his tireless commitment to the quality and professionalism of Canadian arts managers," said foundation president **Stephen Bronfman**. A reception celebrating the creation of the awards takes place at the Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal, on June 20.

* * *

**Jazz-Yiddish Diva Performs:** Presented by Jazz at the J, jazz and Yiddish singer **Theresa Tova** performs with pianist **Matt Herskowitz** and a Toronto band consisting of **Daniel Barnes** on drums, **Arnie Roth** on bass and **Brian Katz** on guitar. A high-octane performer, Tova blends the jazz idiom with Yiddish song while alternating between English, French and Yiddish in a repertoire that includes **Berlin, Brel, Ellington, Sondheim** and Yiddish folk, theatre and jazz tunes.

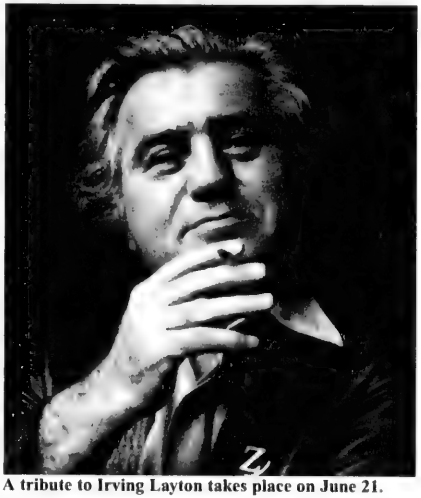
Al Green Theatre, Nadal JCC. $22 in advance, $28 on day of performance. Wednesday, June 12, 8 p.m. Tickets 416-872-1212 or in person at Nadal JCC (reception).

* * *

**Irving Layton Tribute:** The public is invited to join family members, friends and colleagues of **Irving Layton** as they gather to pay tribute to the late poet. The Life of Irving Layton: A Celebration is hosted by the poet's son Max Layton. It takes place in Harbourfront's Brigantine Room on Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

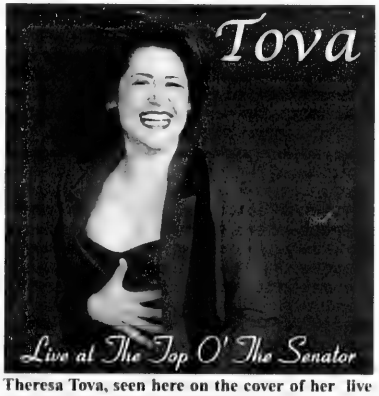
**At the Galleries**



**A tribute to Irving Layton takes place on June 21.**

• An exhibition of recent paintings by **Stella Walker** opens June 2 at the Gladstone Hotel art bar, 1214 Queen St. W. A veteran actor and singer, Walker also performs a cocktail hour cabaret *Stella and the Fallen Stars* in the hotel's melody bar on June 10, 5 to 8 p.m. 416-531-4635.

• Bronze sculpture and drawings by Montreal-born sculptor **Mitchell Kotansky** are on view at the Lennox Contemporary Gallery, 12 Ossington Ave., June 15 to 18. 416-508-1499.




**Theresa Tova, seen here on the cover of her live album. She performs on June 12.**

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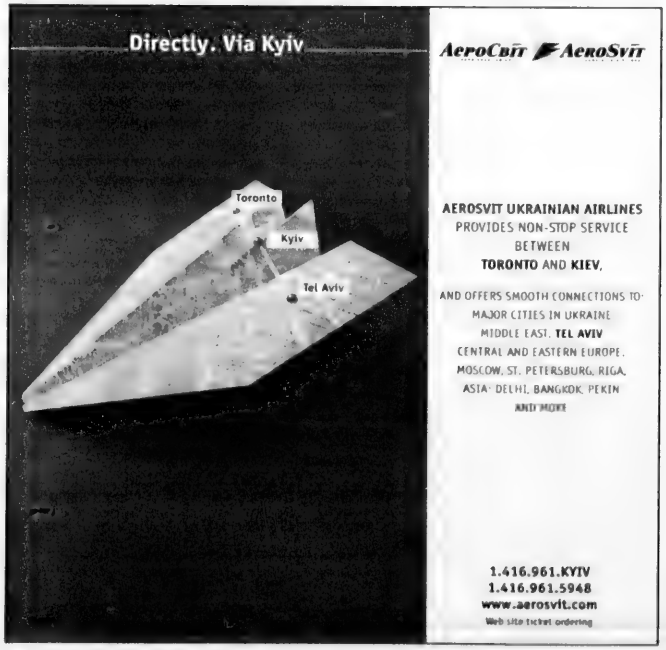


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Shimon Samuels
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The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

Arts & Travel

# CD teaches kids to express feelings

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Vancouver musician Marla Rosèn wants kids to talk about their emotions.

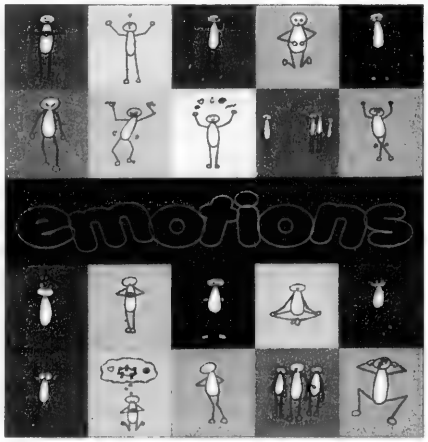
She produced her new CD, aptly called *Emotions*, in order to teach kids, ages two to seven, to express how they feel.

A Thornhill, Ont., native who graduated from York University with a major in theatre, Rosen is a teacher at a Montessori preschool.

She has toured Ontario with an interactive puppet show and concert, and led Imagination Workshop, a musical theatre and drama company for children.

"My CD grew from all of this. I wanted to give kids a fun way to talk about how they feel," says Rosen, who moved to Vancouver "for the weather and for a change of pace."

Montessori schools, are "reality based," she says. "There is a lack of music, which is important for self-expression. Kids need a comfortable place to talk about themselves."




In many learning environments, she says, the importance of self-expression through the arts is not valued as much as math or science.

"The denial of these aspects of the personality or the lack of recognition for their importance within an educational setting can often lead to reduced senses of confidence and the inability to communicate effectively."

For this reason, she says, she wrote 20 songs, many on an island in Thailand, about emotions – happy, fear, angry, tired, shy, silly, surprised, crazy, confused, hopeful, all alone, and love.

"Each song has an introduction, and there is kids' dialogue in between.

"Hopefully, this will give the child and teacher or parent an enjoyable approach into defining, clarifying and recognizing the nature of how we as humans feel."

Through music, she says, each individual can connect and utilize the CD as a learning tool to discover more about their emotions.

For information or to order *Emotions*, visit www.emotionsbook.com.

# *Jewish Travel Guide 2006* worth consulting

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Travel guides are a dime a dozen.

Publishers, capitalizing on the thirst for international travel, have been churning out innumerable guides in the past few years.

No wonder the shelves of book shops groan with their weight.

In a field where such guides seem uniformly identical, the *Jewish Travel Guide 2006* (Vallentine Mitchell) is definitely different.

It contains basic information about kosher restaurants, delis, groceries, bakeries, synagogues, communal institutions and the like, plus a capsule, though wholly inadequate, history of every Jewish community in the world.

In entries running the gamut from Albania to Zimbabwe, readers will learn, for example, that the shul in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, is located on Nar-Dosa St. 23; that the Jewish community centre in Borisov, Belarus, is found on 1-37 Stekolnaya; that the Jewish Museum in Sarajevo is housed in the city's oldest synagogue; that the telephone number of the kosher butcher in Copenhagen is 3918-5777; that the address of the shul in Tahiti is Rue Morenhouy, Papeete; and that the Israeli Embassy in Madrid is on Calle Velazquez 150, seventh floor.

The United States commands the biggest entry, with 122 pages, and Britain comes next with 36 pages.

Canada, though its Jewish population is considerably larger than England's, rates only 11 pages. Cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton are given pride of place.

If you look up Calgary, you'll find Izzy's Kosher Meats and Deli and Karen's Café. In Vancouver, you'll be guided to Pinis Pizza and Sabra Bakery, and in Halifax, your attention will be drawn to two synagogues, Shaar Shalom and Beth Israel, among other places.

With the summer travel season almost upon us, you will find the *Jewish Travel Guide 2006*, published in association with the *Jewish Chronicle* of London, England, a useful source.

It's a handy reference book you can use in conjunction with whatever general travel guide you've packed in your suitcase.

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Books & Authors

# Leonard Cohen new and old

***Book of Longing* by Leonard Cohen, McClelland & Stewart**

**By NORMAN RAVVIN**
*Special to The CJN*

Up to and including 1984's *Book of Mercy*, every poetry collection published by Leonard Cohen had a quality that might be described as uncanniness – each was like nothing else one knew. The books were surprising, strange and wholly readable.

Norman Ravvin

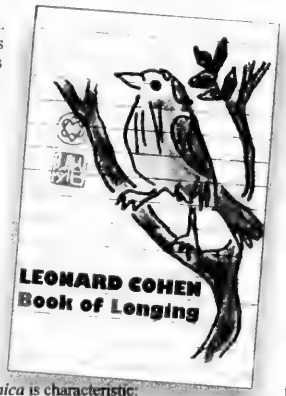
In his earliest work, there are lovely, lean lyrics. In his mid-60s output, there appears an unsettling and provocative irony aimed at love, politics and war. The hard-edged anti-poems of *The Energy of Slaves* (1972) presage a punk esthetic, a rejection of form and the luxuries of fame. And in *Book of Mercy*, his immersion in mysticism and religious fable is expressed in concise, subtle prose poems.

Everything – everything – in Cohen's poetic oeuvre up to the mid-1980s is indispensable for Canadian literature, though he was often misread, under-reviewed, and gradually, as his career progressed, thought of as a singer-songwriter first and a poet second.

*Book of Longing* bears only a slight resemblance to what has gone before. As its acknowledgment page notes, many of the poems and drawings collected in it "first appeared in the Leonard Cohen Files (www.leonardcohenfiles.com), a remarkable website out of Finland."

A look at the website suggests that the poems that first appeared online have been lightly edited for their appearance on paper, and much of the illustrative material on the website has simply been reprinted in *Book of Longing*. Notably, some of the illustrated poems, such as *Dear Roshi*, appear in colour on the web, and in black and white in the book. For web devotees, the Leonard Cohen Files includes such features as photos of Cohen's house on the Greek island of Hydra, old photos taken from his early songbooks, and a short bibliographic and discographic description of Cohen's prolific career.

The website, too, gives dates for some of the newer poems, which were written between 1997 and this year. *Book of Longing* shares some similarities with *Death of a Lady's Man* (1978). Both mix poetry and short prose pieces, so that the shape of things on the page is varied and unpredictable. *Death of a Lady's Man* received a rough ride from critics when it appeared, but it has aged well. It documents a crisis in the poet's life and work, in a lean, bitter tone, its language pared free of excess. *The Absence of Monica* is characteristic:




She's gone away
on the morning boat
My heart
was too young for her
Wind comes over
the baker's house
sweet with branch
of burning fir

Some of the poems in *Death of a Lady's Man* appeared as lyrics on Cohen's similarly named 1977 album, *Death of a Ladies' Man*, including the book's title poem, which showed up as a grandly epic song of failed love ("So the great affair is over…"). Throughout *Death of a Lady's Man*, Cohen laments the failure of his art, but with hindsight, both the poetry collection and its musical mate are successes – ironic portraits of the mysterious relationship between life, love and art, which are seldom matched in *Book of Longing*. The new collection's title poem begins this way:

I can't make the hills
The system is shot
I'm living on pills
For which I thank God
I followed the course
From chaos to art
Desire the horse
Depression the cart
I sailed like a swan
I sank like a rock
But time is long gone
Past my laughing stock

It is not only Cohen's language that has changed – somehow the cadences and wit have become more predictable, unlike the poems and song lyrics that came before – but the presentation of the writer's persona in these new works has become more overt, more obvious.

Many pieces in *Book of Longing* read like a poet's diary entries, and this may satisfy some of Cohen's readers. His periodic depressions are remarked upon, and a scattering of poems reveal his reasons for abandoning Mount Baldy and his spiritual teacher there (possibly the most famous contemporary Buddhist after the Dalai Lama), Roshi.

These are among the Cohen-related topics the media and many fans have been most curious about in recent years. What was Cohen doing up on that mountain; what did Zen practice entail for the son of a Montreal Jewish clothing manufacturer; and what did it all mean with regard to his poetry and songs? *Book of Longing* contains descriptions of his monk's existence, alongside drawings of Roshi, and a number of poems that deal with Cohen's abandonment of the ascetic's life:

I came down from the mountain
after many years of study
and rigorous practice…
I finally understood
I had no gift
for Spiritual Matters.

Cohen celebrates his return to Santa Monica, Calif., to women, to good wine and food, to cigarettes, and even, in the odd amusing poem, to his youth:

When I was about fifteen
I followed a beautiful girl
into the Communist Party of Canada …
They wanted to overthrow
The country that I loved

Old poems appear amidst the recent material – among them a 1975 lament for a "lost" day's wanderings "on rue St-Denis," – and there are strange, haunting evocations of what we might view as Cohen's heyday, his sojourn at New York's legendary Chelsea Hotel, where Dylan Thomas held court from an "overstuffed easy chair" in the lobby. Recalling Nico, the front woman for Lou Reed's Velvet Underground, Cohen laments, "She knew what I was doing. She knew who I was. And I long for her still. I will pick my way back through the boredom and irrelevance of the last few decades and tell you of a time when I was truly alive…"

But Cohen distances himself from the cultural high jinks of what he calls that "curtain time," with its avant-garde art, which he dubs "fashionable excrement," and the frauds who promoted it with their "poisonous medicine chest of Gotham cunning."

This bitter piece, near the midpoint of *Book of Longing*, might be seen as its keystone, the piece of granite atop a curving arch, without which the rest of the creation collapses. In it, Cohen acknowledges a time when he recreated himself as a great songwriter, and he acknowledges, too, the American influence behind his work.

This piece returns us to a time before Cohen went up Mount Baldy, to a time when he wrote great, great things.

*Norman Ravvin's books include the novel,* Lola by Night, *and the story collection,* Sex, Skyscrapers and Standard Yiddish. *He is chair of the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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CJN Profile

# Canadian rock star and wife forge a connection with Israel

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Alan Frew, the Scottish-born Canadian who fronted one of Canada's most successful rock bands, Glass Tiger, doesn't shy away from talking about his spiritual connection to Israel and the salad dressing and kosher crouton company he and his wife started a few years ago.

But neither Frew, a five-time Juno Award winner and Grammy nominee, nor his wife Marcy Mihalcheon of Marcy's Salad Dressings & Croutons, is Jewish.

Frew's spiritual love affair with Israel began three years ago when he was approached by a corporate company that provided entertainment for international troops stationed in Egypt and the Golan Heights in Israel.

"It was a real eye-opener to see how our troops live and function over there," said Frew, who has also performed for troops in Bosnia and the North Pole.

He said when he was approached to perform in Israel and Egypt, he couldn't turn down the opportunity.

"[Israel's] history is just compelling. I was thrilled that we got to go to the Sea of Galilee. I'm not a religious man, but I am a spiritual human being and you can't be among that type of history and not somehow feel spiritually moved. There were a couple of evenings where I walked up and down the Galilee and just took it all in. It was awesome," Frew said.

"It was something I really wanted to do. Unfortunately, when I was in Israel, there were many danger zones and they wouldn't let us travel. We couldn't get into Jerusalem. In Tel Aviv, we were allowed to move around, but of course just being allowed to move around doesn't mean you feel safe to do it. I was disappointed with that, but I was so moved by the fact that... the balcony of my hotel room as I opened my doors, was the Sea of Galilee and it was absolutely awesome."

Frew, who was famous in the 1980s for songs such as *Don't Forget Me (When I'm Gone)*, *Someday* and *So Blind*, added that sitting under the stars and looking out into the Sea of Galilee brought him closer to the idea of a higher power.

"Sitting quietly, looking over the Sea of Galilee, you would have to be brain dead not to somehow feel that energy. I certainly felt it. As I said, I'm not a religious man, but it certainly touched my soul as a human being and it humbles you and makes you think deeply about the time we have here," Frew said.

Surrounded by the beauty of Israel, he said he felt it was a "travesty" and "appalling" that Israelis are forced to live in war-like conditions, yet he admired their strength in living life to the full in spite of the threat of violence.

"In my limited knowledge, in my heart of hearts, I know that the people of Israel would chose a life of peace. That I do know.

"I didn't go deep enough to understand the Palestinian mindset because I'm not knowledgeable enough about it, but I do know that a lot of what seems to go on in Israel seems to be a reactionary thing," Frew said.

"I very much support the fact that I found a peaceful nation, and I only wish that we could go over there and be safe and travel. But I've just about had it with the one-too-many Islamic extremists who are screaming at me that they want me to die along with everyone else."

What impressed Frew the most, however, was that even in the face of the threat of terrorism, Israelis refused to let it run their lives.

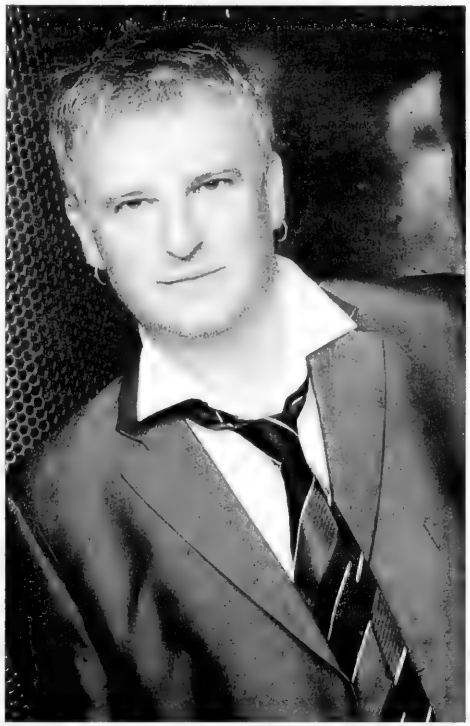
"One of the things I noticed when I was in Tel Aviv is the fortitude these people have, that they just will not let this stop their way of life. People were out and about having a great time – the weather was beautiful," Frew said.

"I believe in the power of the human spirit and I was thrilled to see... in the short time that I was there, that most people live like that. You have to move forward, you can't live under the cloud of fear."

* * *

While Frew was off in the Middle East making a connection with Israel, Mihalcheon was in the process of forging her own connection with the same country. She was busy developing and running the salad dressing and kosher crouton company she founded in 1999.

Not only have the croutons been certified by the Kashruth Council of Canada (COR), but the filling machines for both the salad dressing and crouton lines are Israeli units from an Israel-based company called Packline.



Alan Frew

She said the president of the company himself flew to Toronto to help install the machines.

"They were great people to work with," Mihalcheon said.

Since Frew encouraged her to bottle her homemade caesar salad dressing, which he said is unlike anything else he's tasted, Mihalcheon has developed four more dressings.

And her Calabrese crouton was voted the best new baked good at the Kosherfest in New York City.

Mihalcheon said she grew up in a Jewish community in Edmonton, and "felt that being kosher added a level of perception of quality to the product.

"Before we were kosher, we realized how many people had to walk away while we were doing demos."

She said that while the croutons are kosher, the salad dressings are not. However, her goal is to find the right ingredients to make her dressings kosher without having to compromise on the taste that her customers have become accustomed to.

"We are continuing to investigate the possibility and we're researching different companies that would be able to help," but she added that trying to make her salad dressings kosher has become a stumbling block.

She also said that the Kashruth Council of Canada and Rabbi Moshe Leibovits, the rabbinic coordinator, have been very helpful in trying to source kosher ingredients.

She said they are also getting ready to launch five new flavours of kosher croutons.

Frew, who does the music and voice-overs for the television and radio ads, said he is thrilled that she is getting the recognition for all the work she has put into her passion.

"It's really kind of cute how people are starting to identify me as Marcy's husband: 'Oh, you're that guy who's married to Marcy,'" he said.

He added that even when people do recognize him for his career with Glass Tiger, they say, "Oh, Glass Tiger – I love your wife's croutons."

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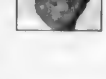

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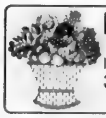
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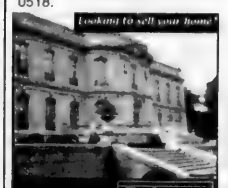

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Israel & the Jewish World

# Yo-Yo Ma teaches master class in Tel Aviv

By DINA KRAFT
*JTA*

TEL AVIV — Kettle drums roll like thunder, a melodious clarinet solo gives way to an oboe's clear call and Yo-Yo Ma looks at the Israeli student symphony seated around him and can't stop beaming.

"I am just overwhelmed by this orchestra," said Ma on May 24 as the Tel Aviv University (TAU) music students finish playing an intricate Ernst Bloch piece. But in this master class, he pushed them to play even better.

"Make the rhythm count as a huge pulsation from the ground up," he urged, enthusiastically bobbing on tiptoe.

One of the world's top cellists, Ma was in Israel to collect a $1-million (US) Dan David Prize for his work preserving cultural heritage in the Silk Road Project. Through concerts, festivals and teaching the project explores the commonality in music found in societies stretching from Asia through the Mediterranean, the overland trade route that helped spread not just products but ideas and cultures across the globe for centuries.

The prize, which Ma will be contributing to the project, is one of three awarded annually by Dan David, a Jewish philanthropist. The prize honours innovative and interdisciplinary research that in some way improves society.

"It is particularly fitting to have this conversation in Israel, a country infused with ideas and cultures brought by emigrants from Europe, Asia, Africa, and even the Americas. It is a society of ancient traditions and modern ideas whose culture is based in both," Ma said at the awards ceremony.

"Israel is a manifestation of the Silk Road and clearly illustrates that the more richly we understand the past, whether our own or our neighbours', the more brilliantly we can imagine the future. Here, as around the world, we are all neighbours culturally, and it is our shared past that will inspire what is to come."

Ma with his cello [Israel photo]

To punctuate his point, Ma played two Bach pieces for the audience, including the *Sarabande* from Bach's fifth suite, whose melodies originated in North Africa and then travelled to Spain and France before the German composer, inspired by the sound, composed his own piece based on it.

At the May 24 master class, Ma played the solo in Bloch's *Schelomo: Hebraic Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra*, accompanying the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Orchestra.

He challenged the students to decipher what Bloch intended as he wrote the piece, which is based on scenes from *Ecclesiastes*.

"How does it feel?" Ma asked.

A percussionist suggested that some of the most dramatic movements of the piece reflected King Solomon looking back on some of the most difficult moments in his life.

"His life is running through his head," he said. Others offered their interpretation.

Ma seemed encouraged. "That's deep thinking," he comments, laughing.

He urged the students to tap into that internal pressure in the music to create a more emotional sound. He explained that to capture a feeling of anguish, it's important that the short notes that follow longer notes need to be as sharp and articulate as possible.

The orchestra once again played through sections, their sound improving each time.

Alon Azizi, 27, a contrabass player, was thrilled to have Ma as a teacher, even for just a few hours.

"I learned a lot about the musicality and the importance of focusing on details. He did a real deconstruction of the piece," said Azizi.

He was also very taken by Ma's warmth and accessibility. "His playing is so alive. He has the enthusiasm of a boy almost, he so loves the music."

After the class, clarinetist Danny Erdman, 22, cleaned the pads under the keys of his instrument and took in the moment. "He makes you think not just about what is written in the notes but the overall feeling of the music. That is the fun part of music that we sometimes forget about, that sometimes gets lost."

Ma's master class was one of several events he took part in at TAU, where the award is headquartered.

David, who has been awarding prizes since 2001, made his fortune from his invention of the automatic photo booth.

Other winners included two U.S. cancer researchers, John Mendelsohn and Joseph Schlessinger, who were honoured for their breakthroughs, as well as four journalists who have spoken out for press freedom, often at great personal risk: Magdi Allam of Italy, Monica Gonzalez of Chile, Adam Michnik of Poland and Goenawan Mohammed of Indonesia.

The Egyptian-born Allam, known for his outspoken criticism of Islamic extremism, received a standing ovation when he voiced support for Israel, proclaiming in Hebrew, "Am Yisrael chai."

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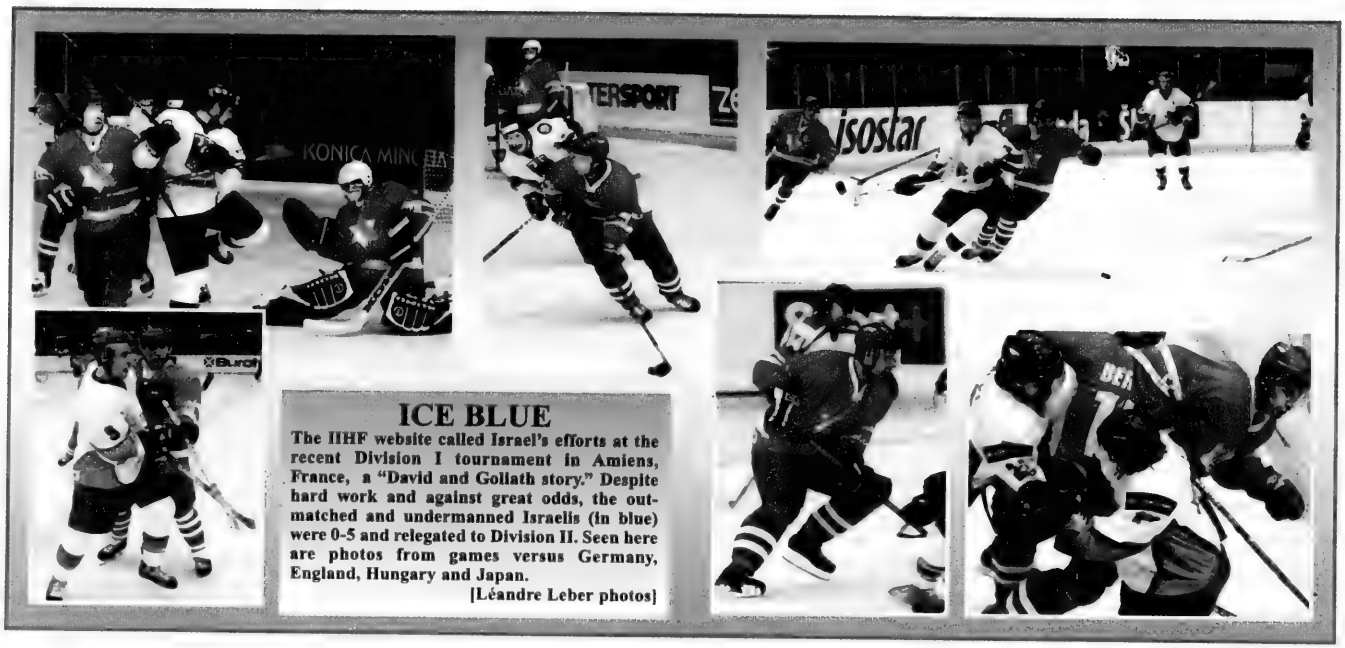

**ICE BLUE**

**The IIHF website called Israel's efforts at the recent Division I tournament in Amiens, France, a "David and Goliath story." Despite hard work and against great odds, the outmatched and undermanned Israelis (in blue) were 0-5 and relegated to Division II. Seen here are photos from games versus Germany, England, Hungary and Japan.**

**[Léandre Leber photos]**

# Sports Book chronicles great Jewish athletes

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

There's a gag that's been circulating for years that pokes fun at stereotypically bookish Jews and their supposed aversion to sports.

You know the one, the joke about the world's smallest book – great Jewish athletes.

It turns out there is a book about great Jews in sports, but at 295 pages, it's not so small.

*The Big Book of Jewish Sports Heroes* (Specialist Press International) profiles the 150 greatest Jewish sports heroes and lists dozens more who have made marks for themselves in a variety of sports, from fencing to track to boxing to basketball – and there's even a handful of hockey stars.

Author Peter S. Horvitz, who also penned *The Big Book of Jewish Baseball*, spans the globe to bring the reader the best Jewish athletes of the past 250 years. Many sports and countries are represented – including Canada – but the selections tilt noticeably to the United States, with American professional sports such as baseball, football and basketball, along with boxing, accounting for the lion's share of athletes.

Still, the results are fascinating. Baseball and boxing pioneers are highlighted, along with prominent Jews from the early days of pro football and basketball.

Many of the names are familiar, such as Mark Spitz, Sandy Koufax (the top two athletes), Sid Luckman, Marv Levy, Dolph Schayes, Shawn Green and Ron Mix.

But you'll also find Irena Kirszenstein-Szewinka, a Polish runner who won medals in four consecutive Olympic Games, (three gold, two silver and two bronze) from 1964 to 1976; Dara Torres, a U.S. swimmer who won nine Olympic medals in four different Games, the last at Sydney at age 33; Walter Miller, one of horse racing's greatest jockeys; and Joe Choynski, a great early boxer who defeated a young Jack Johnson and then trained the future champ.

It's tidbits like that which make the book a fascinating read.

Sports enthusiasts will no doubt take issue with the order of Horvitz's selections – how is it that Olympians Kirszenstein-Szewinka (21st) and Torres (23rd) rank behind all-pro NFL lineman Ron Mix (15) or slugger Shawn Green (19)?

In addition to the top athletes, Horvitz lists the 100 greatest Jewish players in chess (there were eight world champions, including Mikhail Tal, Boris Spassky and Mikhail Botvinnik), top poker and billiards players and 30 great bridge players.

There are also lists of all Jewish Major League Baseball players, Jewish medal winners in all the Olympics (there were plenty), Jewish world boxing champs (lots in the first half of the 20th century) and Jewish NFLers and NHLers.

Some of the more fascinating aspects of the book are its profiles and historical essays. One features Elvis Presley as a Jewish athlete. The book says the King was Jewish through his maternal bloodline, and he was a capable – though not great football player.

Another item, titled "Anti-Semitism on the Rink," examines the events of March 7, 1968, when Philadelphia Flyer Larry Zeidel got into a stick swinging match with Boston Bruin Eddie Shack after several other Bruins taunted Zeidel with anti-Semitic slurs.

Finally, the book concludes with a 227-question quiz to test readers' knowledge of Jews and sport.

All in all, it's a fascinating read and well worthwhile for anyone interested in the athletic excellence of the People of the Book.

To test your knowledge of Jewish athletes, here is a sample of the quiz questions posed in *The Big Book*:

1. What baseball player was the first ever to be unanimously elected MVP?
2. What Jewish hockey player was a member of three Stanley Cup winning teams?
3. What baseball player was known as "SuperJew"?
4. Who was the first Jewish manager of a Major League baseball team?
5. What Jewish athlete won the most Olympic medals?
6. What Jewish player was part of the 1966 team that was the only English squad to win soccer's World Cup?

Answers:
1. Al Rosen, American League, 1953.
2. Alex Levinsky played on the 1931-32 and 1932-33 Toronto Maple Leafs and the 1937-38 Chicago Black Hawks.
3. Mike Epstein, who was a World Series winner with 1972 Oakland Athletics.
4. Lipman Pike in 1871.
5. Swimmer Mark Spitz, with nine gold, one silver and one bronze.
6. George Cohen.

Inside Back

# Danger lurks – at the supermarket

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

The May 17–30 edition of the *Community Link*, a Jewish equivalent to the clump of advertisements and coupons that arrive with your weekly community newspaper, was pretty much true to form. There were ads for such things as kosher pizza parlours, maternity wear, quality linens and real estate agents – just what you would expect from such an advertisement-geared publication.

But on page 69, there was something different: a message from an organization called F.A.I.M.A.

F.A.I.M.A stands for Families Against Immodest Advertising, a recently founded Ortho-watch group. It took out a full-page ad in *Community Link* to advise the Jewish community about the latest step in an ongoing plan to ghettoize the Orthodox – or, as F.A.I.M.A would say, shelter the community from the dangers and filth of the non-Jewish world.

"Much effort is being invested on behalf of our community in order to maintain our sensitivities and protect our children from offensive advertising displays," the confusingly vague message began. "Thus, when visiting certain stores… members of our community are being urged to shop at designated aisles only. By doing so, they will be displaying their commitment to the values we hold so dear."

The message went on to specify that certain checkout lanes at your local Dominion and Fortinos supermarkets have been deemed "family friendly" (for those keeping score, aisles 1-6 at the former and 7-14 at the latter). The notice then ended with this: "Our Rabbanim have advised that one is required to use one of the above aisles."

This latest attempt at religious manipulation raises a few questions that other, more blatant attempts by rabbinic authorities and kashrut boards have at least been up front about. Who is this F.A.I.M.A? Who are these "rabbanim"? What do they consider "our community"?

The vagueness of F.A.I.M.A's message makes it difficult to decode, but here's the basic idea: the covers of magazines that we all eye while waiting on line at the grocery store – *Cosmo*, *TV Guide*, *People* and *Seventeen* – are polluting our religious minds and exposing Orthodox youth to things they shouldn't be seeing. Sex, women and television – that unholy trinity – are plastered all over these publications, and there's no way to avoid seeing them when waiting in line. This is, according to F.A.I.M.A, what we need to avoid – for our sake and the sake of our children.

Of course, on the surface, this looks like a straightforward, run-of-the-mill attempt to shelter religious people from the rest of the world. There have been a lot of these lately, ranging from decrees on how late popular restaurants can remain open on weekends to bans on an ever-growing list of fruits and vegetables amid advances in microscopic testing. It seems that just about every other week, something new is disallowed or deemed unkosher.

But while previous plots to self-ostracize the Orthodox community have always come from official organizations, this is a faceless attempt at religious exploitation by a mysterious group trying to solve a problem we never knew we had, with the support of rabbis they are unwilling to name. It makes perfect sense, then, that the F.A.I.M.A notice contains no number or address where readers can potentially reach the group for questions or comments. The intent is clear: no questions, no discussion. Just do as you're told.

F.A.I.M.A's message is a bold manoeuvre and a dangerous precedent that must not be permitted to take root. The stakes involved with religious edicts get much higher when every zealot out there thinks they've got the right to tell the rest of us what to do. Until this group steps forward to reveal who they are and what authority they possess, everyone should disregard page 69 of the *Community Link*. Once we know who or what F.A.I.M.A is, we can all decide how to respond to its message.

## Eggplant-Tuna Casserole

2 (6 oz.) cans tuna
1/2 cup oil
1 large onion, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 small or 1 large eggplant, peeled and diced
1 16 oz. can tomatoes
salt and pepper
1/2 cup grated cheese

Heat oil in large frying pan. Add onion and garlic; cook for 5 mins. Add eggplant, tomatoes, salt and pepper. Mix well. Cover and simmer for 30 mins. Spray 2 qt. baking dish with cooking spray. Spread tuna over bottom. Put eggplant mixture on top. Sprinkle with cheese.

Bake uncovered for 375°F for 30 mins.

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**These kindergarten children in Tel Aviv bring their first fruits – the traditional festive offering on the holiday of Shavuot – to their school.**
**[Israel Sun photo]**

## Correction

The Senior Side of Life column, "Not necessarily too old for surgery" (*CJN*, May 25), included an incorrect statement. It should have said, "I told him that getting a surgical opinion does *not* obligate him to surgery…"

*The CJN* regrets the error.

Guest Voice

# If not the rabbis, how the community?

By RABBI HOWARD MORRISON

In my six years serving a large congregation in Toronto, I have learned to admire the strength and vitality of this Jewish community. The choice and substance of synagogues, day schools, kosher restaurants, mikvaot, and the like is truly amazing. The significance of so many communal Jewish organizations is equally remarkable.

One of our community's strengths is its diversity. Never before have I been part of a community that offers something for everyone in such close proximity. For example, the availability of Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative and Orthodox synagogues is unmatched anywhere else.

I learned a long time ago to admire diversity and not to fear it. I also learned that there can be Jewish unity without imposing Jewish uniformity. Unity means recognizing internal differences while staying in meaningful contact so that similarities and shared values outweigh competing understandings of Jewish law and its synthesis with modernity.

One of my favorite midrashim harks back to Passover. How could it be that the 12 tribes of Israel all entered the Sea of Reeds at the same point and emerged at an identical place after the sea split? The midrash answers that each tribe travelled in its own vault, but each vault was transparent so that each tribe could stay in contact and close to the others. Certainly, each tribe had its own distinctiveness and style. Each tribe would travel in the wilderness under its own banner. However, their overall connectedness displayed Jewish unity without sugarcoating internal differences.

In the Toronto area, rabbis representing different streams of Judaism get together with colleagues who share a common ideological or institutional point of view. The Vaad Harabonim (Orthodox), the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), and the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto meet regularly. These separate groups are important because they enrich the diversity of our community.

But where is the point of meaningful contact and unity?

The Toronto Board of Rabbis (TBR) is a longstanding umbrella organization that brings together Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist rabbis to address topics of mutual interest. Certainly, the rabbis who comprise the TBR disagree on many matters, be they theological, philosophical, halachic or otherwise. But their coming together in respect of each other allows them to explore and find amicable solutions to common problems.

To my chagrin, some communal organizations that seek rabbinic advice look to rabbinic groups other than the TBR for input. Such an approach makes little sense unless every denominational rabbinic group is equally recognized. I encourage communal agencies to consult with the TBR for rabbinic insight, since only the TBR includes rabbis from all streams of Judaism. The TBR is truly a community-minded gathering of colleagues.

I invite those rabbis who only affiliate with rabbis from their own stream of Judaism to also affiliate with the TBR. Rabbis need not agree on everything. But rabbis who care about the entire Jewish community should be willing to sit with each other, talk and listen with respect, and be open to exploring issues of mutual concern together. In this way, we can authentically blend the best of Jewish unity and diversity.

If not the rabbis, how the community?

*Rabbi Morrison is senior rabbi at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.*

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## This Week

### National

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### Party Supplement

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### Arts & Travel

**Yakov Yavno** explores Jewish culture in several languages. *Page 36*

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**Historian examines** centuries of Islamic imperialist ambitions. *Page 40*

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# No evidence terror suspects targeted Jewish institutions

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Senior officials with two Jewish organizations were told that there was no indication the 17 alleged Islamic terrorist arrested in Ontario over the weekend were considering Jewish targets.

However, two terrorism experts suggested the Jewish community should be concerned about the alleged homegrown terrorism plot, since Islamic extremists often include Jews on their hit list.

Leo Adler, director of national affairs for the Canadian office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said he participated in an RCMP briefing in which it was made clear that "there has been no Jewish target." Authorities investigating the terror plot found "nothing regarding Jews specifically. The target was not a synagogue or a Jewish community centre or anything like that," he said.

The briefing took place at a meeting of the Cross-Cultural Roundtable on National Security, a multicultural group established 1½ years ago to assess the Anti-Terrorism Act, which has been incorporated into the Criminal Code. The 15-member cross-cultural group was meeting in Ottawa when the weekend arrests were announced, and the group was briefed by the RCMP for more than an hour. The roundtable group was told there were no indications Jews or Jewish institutions were targeted. The RCMP official also discounted reports that the TTC or the Parliament Buildings were on the terrorists' hit list, Adler added.

Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan said, "Our contacts within Toronto police and the Ontario Provincial Police have assured us there was no particular Jewish community target on these individuals' lists. Obviously, the Jewish community is as concerned as are all other Canadians about safety of our community and protecting public buildings."

More than 400 police and intelligence agents were involved in the arrests of 17 Islamic terrorism suspects – 12 men and five youths who cannot be identified – alleging they had plotted attacks in southern Ontario using bombs made with a chemical fertilizer.

Police seized material that could be used for a bomb, including a cellphone wired to a possible

**Continued on page 21**

# *Sumos strengthen Japan-Israel ties*

**Thirteen sumo champions were in Jerusalem last weekend, visiting such sites as the Western Wall, the Mount of Olives, the Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The week-long tour by the wrestlers, who were hosted by Israel's tourism and foreign ministries, was meant to strengthen Japan-Israel ties. The wrestlers only leave Japan once every two years. Inset, Sumo champion Ozeki Kotooshu, considered the**

**Naso**
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*Greater Toronto Area*

...ed to your door every week.

Jewish CUPE members upset at union resolution — see page 30

# The News in Brief

## CANADA

### Doc Lured to McGill

**MONTREAL** — McGill University has lured an American scientific and academic star to head its medical school. Dr. Richard Levin, currently a vice-dean at the New York University School of Medicine, will become McGill's vice-principal (health affairs) and dean of its faculty of medicine in September. Part of his mandate is to foster stronger ties with the community, including the private sector.

### Campaign Sets Record

**HAMILTON** — Hamilton's 2006 UJA campaign is expected to raise more than $1,040,000, a new record, the *Hamilton Jewish News* reported. That exceeds 2005's $1-million haul, also a record, and comes after the drive got off to a slow start because of a delayed launch and a leaky roof at the building that houses UJA Federation of Hamilton.

### Magazine Removed

**TORONTO** — Indigo Books and Music, Canada's largest book retailer, has removed copies of the June edition of *Harper's Magazine* from its 260 Indigo, Chapters and Coles book stores, saying an article in it could spark protests similar to ones earlier this year by Muslims angered at a Danish newspaper's publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. The 10-page article "Drawing Blood," by New York cartoonist Art Spiegelman – best known for his graphic novel about the Holocaust, *Maus* – reproduced all 12 Danish cartoons and included one by Spiegelman and two by Israelis that were inspired by an Iranian newspaper's call for cartoons questioning the Holocaust, Canadian Press reported. Indigo CEO Heather Reisman and her husband Gerald Schwartz are among the co-founders and board members of the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy.

### New Trade Group

**OTTAWA** — Business leaders from across Canada attended the launch last week of the new Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce at the residence of Israel's ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, in Ottawa. The Toronto-based group, headed by interim president David Rubin, aims to promote business opportunities for Canadian and Israeli firms beyond current bilateral trade levels of $1 billion.

## WORLD

### Pope Answers Critics

**ROME** — In what many saw as a response to Jewish groups' criticism for his not explicitly mentioning anti-Semitism during his May 28 address at Auschwitz, Pope Benedict XVI referred specifically to anti-Semitism and wartime Jewish suffering in a speech last week to a crowd in St. Peter's Square. "Today's humanity must not forget Auschwitz and the other factories of death where the Nazi regime tried to eliminate God in order to take His place," he said. "Humanity must not give in to the temptation of racial hatred, which is at the origin of the worst forms of anti-Semitism." After the Pope's Auschwitz address, the Anti-Defamation League's national director, Abraham Foxman, said, "Standing at the crematoria, the world's largest Jewish cemetery, the Pope uttered not one word about anti-Semitism" and "not one explicit acknowledgment of Jewish lives vanquished simply because they were Jews."

### Chief Rabbi Assaulted

**WARSAW** — Poland's chief rabbi was punched and hit with pepper spray. The man who assaulted Rabbi Michael Schudrich also shouted, "Poland is for Poles," as the rabbi was accompanying several Shabbat worshippers out of a Warsaw shul May 27. Rabbi Schudrich tried to detain his attacker, witnesses said, but the assailant escaped. The U.S.-born rabbi wasn't injured. The attack came a day before the rabbi was to join Pope Benedict XVI on a visit to Auschwitz.

### Iran Says Its President Will Skip World Cup

**TEHRAN** — Iran's president will not come to Germany for soccer's World Cup this month, an Iranian government spokesperson said last week.

Gholam Hossein Elham told Agence-France Presse that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won't attend the tournament, in which the Iranian team will take part. Campaigns had been launched calling on Germany to bar Ahmadinejad from the World Cup, which begins June 9, because he has repeatedly denied the Holocaust and called for Israel's destruction.

In an interview published May 28 in Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine, Ahmadinejad said he might attend the World Cup despite protests sparked by what he called a "worldwide network of Zionists." Germany's interior minister, Wolfgang Schauble, said Ahmadinejad would be welcome because Germany wants to be a good host.

Ahmadinejad also told *Der Spiegel* that Germany should stop feeling guilty about the Holocaust. "German people are prisoners of the Holocaust," he said, adding that "if the Holocaust happened, the Europeans must accept the consequences" and take the Jews back, as "the price should not be paid by Palestine. If it did not happen, then the Jews must return to where they came from."

### Shavuot Pilgrimage

**KIEV** — Chassidic Jews celebrated Shavuot last week with a pilgrimage to a Ukrainian town considered to be the birthplace of Chassidism. About 1,000 Chassidim from different countries arrived in Medzhibozh, which contains the grave of the Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of chassidic Judaism. Chassidim have been coming annually to the town since Jewish pilgrimages to Ukraine were revived in 1988, after the Soviet Union loosened restrictions on religious practice. Pilgrims are also expected to visit the towns Berdichev, Nezhin and Gadyach, also considered chassidic holy sites.

### Construction Protested

**ODESSA** — The Jewish community of Odessa, Ukraine, is trying to stop construction in an area thought to be on or near the site of a wartime massacre. In 1941, the Nazis killed some 25,000 people, mainly Jews, in the area, which is marked by two memorials to Jews and Soviet prisoners of war who were killed. The work site is 300 yards from one of the memorials. A spokesperson for the mayor said it's far enough away from the memorial to make construction OK.


The Canadian Jewish news

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# Neo-Nazi propaganda found on art Website

***One posting states 'the gas chambers were in reality air raid shelters'***

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Rochelle Michaels has been a "deviant" for less than a year, but has become increasingly disillusioned with the online community she joined.

As one of the many of members of deviantART, a web-based community of artists and art lovers, she has scanned the site's postings to enjoy photo displays and to communicate with the artist. She so enjoys the opportunities afforded by deviantART, she is curating a photo exhibit on the site.

But in the course of her deviantART browsing (www.deviantart.com), she has come across postings from some of the site's 2.5 million members (worldwide) that concerned and shocked her – postings that promoted Nazism, that denied the Holocaust and that included "bigotry and racial slurs," she said.

She brought her concerns to the attention of the site's help desk, believing the postings violate deviantART's own etiquette policy against permitting bigotry and racial slurs, but has been unhappy with the response.

Other deviants, including a colleague in Israel, have also complained but Michaels believes they have run into the American "mindset" of tolerating the kind of material that would be beyond the pale in Canada.

On one occasion she cited, the help desk threatened to ban a 15-year old girl in Germany when she reacted heatedly with foul language to a neo-Nazi Web posting. The language seemed to violate the site's standards, but not the initial racist posting, she said.

Michaels has created a 62-page critique of deviantART's practices, detailing numerous postings and links she said are problematic. She has asked the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles to intervene and Rick Eaton, the centre's senior researcher and a specialist on Internet hate and terrorism sites, said the centre will send a letter to deviantART outlining the centre's concerns.

In the time between Michaels' initial complaints to deviantART and *The CJN's* press time, it appears that many of the more problematic postings cited by Michaels have been removed. Postings that included swastikas, that proclaimed the Latvian Legion (a SS unit) as "heroes" and others turn up a "file not found" response. A search for the deviant who posted many of the problematic sites turned up, "user no longer a member of deviantART."

Eaton said it is not uncommon that Internet providers "won't acknowledge a complaint, but do take [the offending posting] off quietly."

One posting that remained after many others were deleted was headlined, "the NSDAP (Nazis) and the Jews" and featured a black swastika on a map of the globe.

The posted "deviation" is written in a calm tone and repeats many neo-Nazi and "revisionist" claims – that "the gas chambers were in reality air raid shelters;" that "there is not the slightest proof that any program of mass extermination was carried out in these [concentration] camps at all"; that Treblinka and Sobibor were nothing more than transit camps; and there was no "extermination plan" as "Hitler never supported this idea as he had too much respect for life to order such a thing."

Eaton said "I appreciate Rochelle's concerns on this sort of material, but this is legal in this country. It's quite legal to deny the Holocaust and promote hatred." In the United States, a boundary is only passed if material incites actions against individuals, he added.

Rachel Reynolds, deviantART's publicist, said, "deviantART does not have a policy requiring the removal of Holocaust-denial material and the staff does believe it is protected by freedom of speech rules.

"The CEO and co-founder of this website, Angelo Sotira, is half-Jewish and personally feels very strongly about this type of propaganda and does not condone it in any way. He believes denying the Holocaust is a statement of utter ignorance and does not believe the site should encourage this point of view, however he also asks what good removing the

**Continued on page 22**

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# Serving their country and soul

*Part 4 of the highlights from the International Conference of Jewish Newspaper Editors May 7 to 11 in Israel.*

*From the editor's desk*

After our travelling troupe of tired yet wide-eyed Jewish editors visited with Rabbi David Hartman at the Shalom Hartman Institute, we continued farther south and east into the Jerusalem hillside to the educational complex run by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in Kiryat Moriah.

There we met with JAFI officials from whom we learned of the many educational programs for Israelis and foreigners that the agency runs. We met with young students from abroad, including a Canadian, participating in MASA/Israel Journey, a wide, umbrella initiative that offers a large variety of programmatic frameworks for youngsters wishing to spend more than 10 days of birthright israel or two months of summer exploring the Jewish state in greater depth and in the process, discovering more of one's self, too.

But the most poignant of all meetings in Kiryat Moriah was with four young Israel Defence Forces soldiers enrolled in NATIV, a special educational program, supported by the Agency, in which soldiers come to learn about their Judaism and their Jewish history. And they are not just any soldiers. They are new immigrants who are not halachically Jewish. Study at NATIV is part of the process they have freely chosen to become Jewish.

The close, small-room encounter with the young soldiers made achingly tangible the inspiring, yet abstract, words concerning Jewish identity imparted to us merely hours before by Rabbi Hartman.

In 1999, the Netanyahu government of Israel created a special Conversion Institute to oversee and administer conversions to Judaism. The establishment of the institute was the recommendation of Yakov Ne'eman, the chair of a committee charged with the responsibility of enshrining a conversion process in Israel that would placate all streams within Judaism. The Conversion Institute was not a perfect solution. But it was a sufficient compromise that the contending parties agreed to it with Benny Ish-Shalom – an appropriate name for an individual if ever there was one – chosen to be its head.

Ish-Shalom told us that "it was almost mission impossible to find acceptance among all the streams in establishing a governing board of directors for the institute. Decisions at all levels are made jointly. But we do not gloss over the difficulties." He believes he has gained the trust and support of all streams.

"No one is forced to become Jewish," Ish-Shalom emphasized. Since 1999, more than 18,000 individuals have enrolled with the institute. The conversion program for adults in civilian life takes from 10 to 12 months, or about 450 hours of study through the year.

Individuals in the army, however, go through the NATIV program.

NATIV has three components: seven weeks of morning and evening study; a 10-day seminar about one month after the conclusion of the first seven weeks and a decision is made to continue; then, a final 10-day seminar, again, about one month later. After the soldier completes all three stages, he or she converts through an IDF beit din. The course is open to all soldiers in the IDF who are new immigrants.

"Youngsters from the former Soviet Union comprise about 25 per cent of the soldiers in the IDF," Ish-Shalom notes. "They want to belong. We cannot reject them. We must embrace them and show them that, indeed, they do belong.

"The state must welcome all people of mixed families who want to tie their fate to ours. And to welcome all new Jews, we must create a conversion process that is friendly, respectful, that helps integrate new immigrants into the society and that is acceptable by all streams."

The four young soldiers whom we met all grew up believing themselves to be Jews. They want the Jewish state to believe that, too. They want to build their lives in Israel as Jews, and raise their families in Israel as Jews.

Ortal Mirkov came to Israel 12 years ago from Uzbekhistan. Her mother had converted to Judaism in Uzbekistan, but the Israeli rabbinate did not recognize the conversion "even though our entire lives we grew up and lived as Jews," she said. "When I heard about the NATIV program, I joined."

Max Voprovsky came to Israel 10 years ago from Ukraine. His maternal grandfather was Jewish. And his mother was always regarded as a Jew by their neighbours.

Yevgeney Shev-Lev came to Israel seven years ago from the Ukraine. His mother is not Jewish. But, like Max, everyone in his city always considered him a Jew.

Maya Nahor, a 20-year-old from Spain, is a lone soldier. Her father is Jewish; her mother is not. They live in Spain. "We were Jewish in the house, but outside, we were not", she said. "Don't tell people you are Jewish. They don't like that," she recalled her father saying. She intends to remain in Israel. She explained her gratitude at being able to enrol in NATIV: "All my life, I believed I was a special girl. Now I know it."

For these young soldiers, there was nothing theoretical or abstract about their Jewish identity. It was as real as an embrace from a long-sought friend.

— *MBD*

See JN

## NATIV GRADUATES

**IDF soldiers from the former Soviet Union listen to a presentation by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. Graduates of the NATIV program (see *From the Editor's Desk above*), they were invited to the prime minister's office the day after Shavuot, the holiday during which the story of Ruth, a convert to Judaism, is traditionally read in synagogues.**

**[Isranet photo]**

# Muslim-Jewish dialogue attempts to build bridges

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Akbar Ahmed and Judea Pearl returned to Toronto for Round 2 of the Muslim-Jewish dialogue in honour of Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was murdered in 2002 in Pakistan, after last year's dialogue left both communities disappointed and offended.

About 300 people gathered at the Islamic Iranian Centre of Imam Ali in Scarborough, Ont., to take part in the Daniel Pearl Dialogue for Muslim-Jewish Understanding.

Before the dialogue began, Zul Kassamali, the vice-president of the Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada, Leo Adler, the director of national affairs at the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and Ron Smith, the immediate past president of Temple Har Zion, commented on last year's dialogue.

"We had the Pakistani Consul General who made a few remarks, very kind remarks, very proper, and the Israeli Consul General who perhaps cast a few stones," Adler said.

Last year, Israeli Consul General Ya'acov Brosh made statements such as "the majority of terrorists in the world today are Muslim" and that progressive Muslims like Ahmed "are a minority in the Muslim world today."

"After the dialogue, I spent a week working the phones," Smith said.

"I spoke with outraged Muslims and Jews. The Muslims were outraged, naturally, because they were insulted, and the Jews were outraged because our guests were offended in our house of prayer."

"But in the nature of the dialogue, we were determined to continue because that is what dialogue is all about," Adler said.

Pearl, a computer science and statistics professor at the University of California, began the dialogue – which was moderated by CTV News chief anchor and senior editor Lloyd Robertson – by talking about his son's passion of giving a voice to millions of voiceless Muslims from Iran to Sudan.

"His murderers schemed to [create] divisions among his peers and among us, but with all their sophistication, they made a crucial mistake," he said.

Now, Daniel Pearl, and the circumstance under which he was killed, serves as a constant reminder that violence and hatred is what will erode the fabric of humanity, added Pearl who founded the Daniel Pearl Foundation in April 2002.

Ahmed, an international relations professor at the American University in Washington D.C., said that after having recently spent two months touring 10 Muslim countries, his impression is that anti-Americanism and anti-Semitism is more prevalent in the Muslim world than even he imagined.

He said that he had participated in dialogues with large Muslim audiences and the popular sentiment was that America was on a warpath against Islam and the Jews are controlling America.

"I would have to explain to them that just as we would complain that Islam is not a monolith – that there are 4.5 billion Muslims, there are different ethnic groups, tribal groups, sectarian groups that divide the Muslim community – similarly, America and the Jewish community are not a monolith," Ahmed said.

"So, how do you deal with this wall of anti-Americanism and anti-Semitism? You cannot pretend it doesn't exist. It's the elephant in the room."

The solution, he said, based on his experience as someone very involved in the Muslim community, is to engage in dialogue that will change people's attitudes.

"We are aware that this dialogue leads to understanding of the nuances in our different faiths, and that, in turn, leads to friendship. When you have friendship, everything changes. We talk about Israel and the Palestinians. The reason it is going nowhere is because these two [sides] are talking to each other not as friends… but as enemies."

The majority of the question and answer period was spent discussing the Danish cartoon incident, which involved the publication of 12 cartoons depicting the Islamic prophet Muhammad in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* last year, and the subsequent violent protests by Muslim communities.

"The Danish cartoons was a very sad incident," Pearl said. "It caused a further widening of the gap, a further polarization between the two communities," but, he added, as offensive as the cartoons were, it does not justify the violence that resulted.

But Ahmed countered by saying that after interviewing many Muslims, they unanimously said that the prophet Muhammad was their role model.

"I'm not surprised at all at the outrage. I'm only surprised by the surprise of the West. Are you serious about wanting to build bridges with the Muslim world or not?" Ahmed said to Pearl.

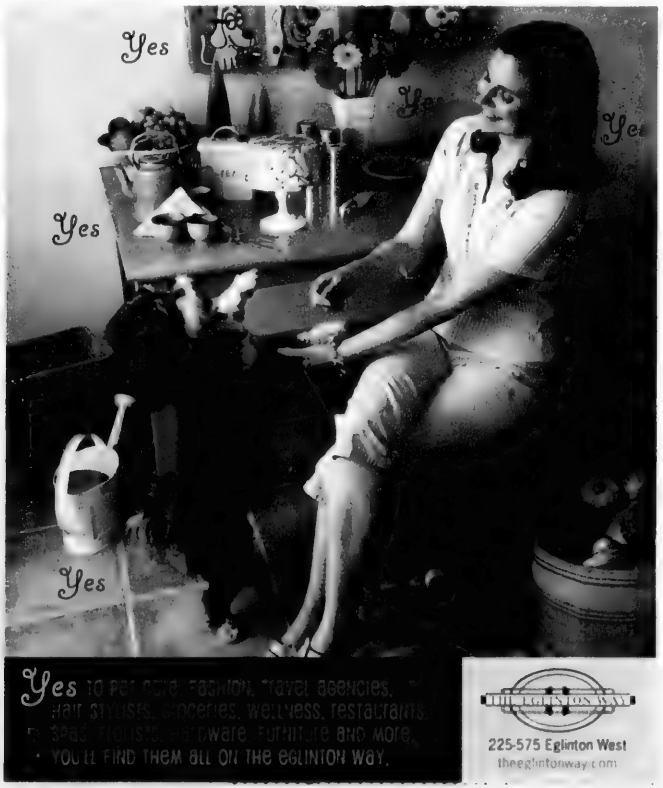
"No Muslim will compromise his love and reverence for the Prophet of Islam. That is at the centre of his belief."

He said that even the most secular Muslims get angry when speaking about the Danish cartoons and that if he was so insensitive as to make fun of Jewish symbols, he would expect a negative response as well.

But Pearl responded by saying that when Jewish symbols are used to make anti-Semitic statements, people don't resort to the kind of violence that escalated after the Danish cartoons were published.

The two scholars ended the dialogue with advice to the audience about what he or she can do to improve relations between the two communities.

"What you can do as an ordinary person is to understand that you are extraordinary. Each one of you can change the world. One man, one woman can take that step, like Judea Pearl. He took the step, he started a dialogue and he is changing the world," Ahmed said.



# International Red Cross to vote on admitting Israel

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Changes to the Geneva Conventions that add the neutral red crystal to the red cross and red crescent humanitarian aid symbols of the International Red Cross do not guarantee that Israel can become a full member of the IRC, warned Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada.

What it does mean is that during conferences or when giving aid, Israel will display the Magen David Adom inside the crystal. In wartime, the crystal will be painted on vehicles or hospitals next to the Jewish star.

The measure to add the red crystal was adopted by the states party to the Geneva Conventions on Dec. 8, 2005, by no means unanimously, Baker said.

"All the Arab states, except Jordan, which abstained, opposed it." Syria, he said, tried to forbid the use of the Star of David at all on the Golan Heights.

In June, he said, there will be two conferences, one to amend the statutes of the International Red Cross Society to allow the red crystal, and the second to allow Israel, along with the Palestinian Authority, to join the society.

The neutral red-crystal symbol, Baker said, will apply not only to Israel but to any other group involved in humanitarian efforts that does not wish to use the red cross or red crescent.

Baker was speaking at Jerusalem Day celebrations sponsored by Canadian Magen David Adom, at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre in Thornhill.

Israel, Baker said, is counting on Canada to take the lead in supporting the adoption of the neutral symbol and accepting Israel as a full member of the IRC. The two countries "have the same values, the same immigrant population and commitment to fighting terrorism – Israel against Hezbollah, Canada against the Taliban."

He urged the audience to impress on the Canadian Red Cross and the government the need to stand behind Israel, and not allow Israel's enemies to politicize the situation.

Magen David Adom, he said, was founded 75 years ago, long before the establishment of the state, providing health and ambulance services to the Yishuv. "It was the backbone of Israeli relief, part of everyday public and military experiences, and in wartime an emblem of ambulances, medical shipping, helicopters and hospitals. It was a vital component of Israeli society."

It has been recognized internationally as being representative of Israel's humanitarian efforts – even by warring Arab states, although not by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In 1947, Baker said, there was a proposal for the IRC to adopt four symbols: the cross, the crescent of Muslim nations, the lion and sun of Iran, and the Magen David.

For some "strange reason," Baker said, the proposal lost by one vote, when one delegate who had promised to support it, went to the washroom.

In 1949, he said, it was noted in the Geneva Conventions protocols as the emblem used by Israel.

Several presidents of the IRC have undertaken to end the discrimination against Israel, and the American Red Cross vowed, and has stood firm, to withhold funding until Israel is accepted as a full member.

With a Palestinian state seen as being in the cards and thus eligible for full membership as a red crescent state, it would leave Israel and the Jews as the only state outside the organization, Baker said,

"That," he noted dryly, "is not acceptable."

**THE SOUND OF LIBERATION: In a Yom Yerushalayim program at Netivot HaTorah Day School, Grade 4 students – from left, Gilad More, Gideon Turk, Jeremy Piwko, Ariel Lewis and Shlomo Sabovich – recreate the moving sound of the shofar that heralded Israel's unification of Jerusalem on the 28th day of Iyar in 1967.**

**[Rebecca Ansel photo]**

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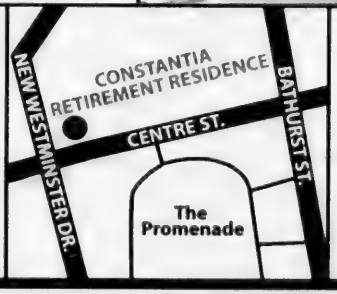


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# Vigilant abroad and at home

The details of the alleged conspiracy are still sketchy. As of this writing, the charges have not been fleshed out and the particulars outlining the alleged connections among the accused have not been released. Thus, we tread into commentary warily. But the arrest over the weekend of 17 individuals suspected of having plotted to commit acts of terror against Canadians was like the sound of heavy glass shattering at our feet: jolting and jarring.

And the shards of the shock cut even deeper because all of the suspects – 12 adults aged 19 to 43 and five minors – are Canadians. If the charges prove true, we must reconcile the irreconcilable: that Canadians were preparing to murder and slaughter other Canadians in Canada, that the enemy is not at a safe remove from our shores some thousands of kilometres away, but rather, that it is also at home, within our shores.

At the Saturday news conference, RCMP assistant commissioner Mike McDonnell said: "This group posed a real and serious threat. It had the capacity and the intent to carry out these acts." The capacity to carry out acts of terror, we presume, was established in the minds of the law enforcement authorities as a function of the arms and electronic devices they seized and the three tonnes of ammonium nitrate that had been purchased by members of the group.

As more of the details of the charges come to light, Canadians will rightly ask how such vile hatred could have become so deeply embedded here, among our own.

"They appear to have become adherents of a violent ideology inspired by Al Qaeda," said Luc Portelance of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, although he added that there was no evidence of a direct link with Al Qaeda.

What Canadians, however, must not ask is how did we bring this upon ourselves? Many people will seek to blame Canadian foreign policy for steering the alleged terrorists toward their intention to commit acts of terrorism. "Canada's participation in the 'American war' in Afghanistan" and "Canada's boycotting of the duly elected Hamas government of the Palestinian Authority," we will be told by the familiar root-cause apologists, have so enraged the hearts of the accused and people like them, that they felt compelled to act according to conscience, if not misguided beliefs. But this line of misreasoning must be rejected.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper succinctly explained why Canadians appear now to have also been targeted by jihadi terrorists: "We are a target because of who we are and how we live, our society, our diversity, our values – values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law." He is correct.

We commend and thank the combined Canadian security forces for their vigilance abroad and at home.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat told Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin that Egypt would not interfere in a war between Israel and Syria. At a meeting in the Sinai, Sadat said Syria caused a crisis by deploying anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon, and he said Egypt put its peace treaty with Israel before its commitments to Syria.

## Proposed boycott of Israeli academics

We, the undersigned, are protesting, in the strongest possible terms, the proposed boycott of Israeli academics by Britain's National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE). This proposed boycott is wrong in principle for the following reasons:

1. NATFHE has singled out Israel and Israeli academics in particular, for such a brazenly discriminatory act. Institutions and organizations should eschew one-sided approaches to the conflict that single out Israel for discriminatory and differential treatment and place no responsibility at all on the other side (i.e., Palestinians and/or Arab states).

Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East. We challenge NATFHE to find another country in the Middle East where freedom of speech is taken for granted and where a minority would be able to use the Supreme Court system to stop actions of the government that they deem unfair. Do other Middle Eastern nations allow members of a minority, many of whom demonstrate against the government, to sit in Parliament as does Israel? When there are so many other nations that actually do condone egregious human rights abuses, the singling out of Israel for censure is abhorrent and an abuse of so-called academic freedom.

2. Universities in particular have an obligation to uphold academic freedom and to encourage rational debate and discussion. Loyalty tests, McCarthy-esque blacklists and straitjacketed thinking undermine the free exchange of ideas that is the raison d'être of institutions of higher learning. In this regard, Israeli universities are open, vibrant and multicultural. It is particularly unconscionable for a teachers' association to urge a primary boycott – of Israeli universities and academics – on the basis of nationality and a secondary boycott – of academics that do not distance themselves from Israeli policy – on the basis of political ideology. This smacks of Orwellian groupthink at its worst.

We call upon the proponents of this boycott to recognize the blatant immorality of this position and reject it out of hand.

**Howard Tenenbaum,**
**Barry Korzen and**
**Ze'ev Seltzer,**
**for 173 Canadian and international academics**

* * *

## Eli Cohen

The tragedy of the torture and execution of Eli Cohen is a symbol of Syria's hatred toward Israel and the Jewish People ("Brother pleads for Syria to release remains of Eli Cohen," *CJN*, May 25).

Not only has the government of Syria refused to allow Cohen's body to be exhumed and buried in Israel, but the terrible part is that nobody, outside of the Syrian hierarchy, knows if and where he is buried.

Over the 28 years of my involvement with the secret rescue of the Syrian Jewish community, I asked every Syrian Jewish leader, when they finally got out of the country, if they had been to Cohen's grave, or if, at least, if they knew in which cemetery he was buried.

The answer was always negative. Each person told me that Cohen's body disappeared after he was executed. The community was not allowed to mourn him.

**Judy Feld Carr**
**Toronto**

* * *

## CUPE boycott of Israel

So now, the Canadian Union of Public Employees ("CUPE votes to boycott Israel," *CJN*, June 1), which hardly seems capable of governing its own affairs, considers itself capable of standing in judgment regarding the affairs of others. I would ask CUPE's leadership how Israel is so deserving of the honour, with so many egregious violators of human rights to choose from. Not the least of these are their Arab brothers themselves, who turned away from Israel's example of absorbing every last Jewish refugee into an already burdened infrastructure, from Europe, from the former Soviet Union, from Ethiopia, and from Arab states.

If they wish to boycott Israel, so be it. We expect them to immediately cease from using their cellphones and computers with the Windows XP operating systems or with Centrino chips, all products of Israel. We further call upon them, if, God forbid, any of those harbouring illusions of power are stricken with cancer, they should inquire about any Israeli contribution to their course of treatment before embarking on it.

After all, we wouldn't want the nobility of their cause to be tainted with hypocrisy.

**Sheldon Liberman**
**Toronto**

* * *

## A Jew in the German army

In Sheldon Kirshner's book review "The German army's role in the Holocaust," *CJN*, May 18), he mentions Field Marshal Erhard Milch's Jewish background. In 1941, I was working for the Jewish Refugee Committee in Lisbon, Portugal, and once every week we received from 50 to 60 Jewish people arriving directly from Germany with U.S. immigration visas. One family was observed visiting the German embassy in Lisbon a number of times. We called them in for questioning and were told they were related to Milch and he told them he would forward $1,000 (US) to them through the German embassy, which they did receive.

**Fred Mann**
**Toronto**

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# 'Israel is mistaken if it thinks Hamas will ever change'

*Interview with Magdi Allam*

**By KHALED ABU TOAMEH**

Prominent Egyptian-born editor Magdi Allam, who has been living in Italy for the past 30 years, was in Israel last week to receive an award for his "exceptional journalistic work and commitment to freedom of the press."

Allam, 54, shared the $1-million Dan David prize with three other journalists Monica Gonzales of Chile, Adam Michnik of Poland and Goenawan Mohamad of Indonesia. The prizes were awarded at a ceremony at the Tel Aviv University campus.

The prize committee praised Allam "for continuously voicing his opinion against extremism and in favour of tolerance."

The committee members said Allam proves that "positive dialogue with moderate Islam is both possible and necessary."

Allam, who studied sociology at La Sapienza University in Rome, today serves as deputy editor of *Corriere della Sera*, Italy's largest newspaper.

Over the past few years, he has won the admiration of many in the West for his open and daring criticism of radical Islam. In his writings and public appearances, he has even gone as far as attacking what he describes as the weakness of the West in the face of radical Islam.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Allam expressed deep concern over the emerging alliance between Muslim fundamentalists and extremists living in Europe.

He also warned Israel against believing that Hamas would one day change its radical and dangerous ideology. Hamas's terrorism against Israel, he explained, is ideological terrorism. "They simply want to destroy Israel and that's all," he said. "That's why there's no point in talking to them."

**Jerusalem Post:** *Do you think the international community and Israel are doing the right thing by boycotting the Hamas government?*

**Allam:** I believe it was a big mistake in the first place to allow Hamas to participate in the election, because it's a terrorist organization that does not recognize Israel's right to exist and does not abide by any agreements.

**Jerusalem Post:** *What about the belief that Hamas may change its strategy now that it's in power?*

**Members of the Hamas government pose after they were sworn in at the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority president in Ramallah on March 29, 2006. [RNS/Reuters photo]**

**Allam:** If Hamas wants to change, it should have done so before the election. It's a grave mistake to think that such a change could happen after its victory in the election.

Today we see that it was a big mistake to permit Hamas to participate in the election because it has not changed, and will not change, its position. In the best case, it would agree to a long-term *hudna* (ceasefire) with Israel. But that does not mean it will ever accept Israel's right to exist.

When it talks only about a *hudna*, it is actually saying that it doesn't recognize Israel's right to exist. It's not talking at all about peace and a just and permanent solution, as we all want for the sake of the two people.

**Jerusalem Post:** *But isn't a* hudna *better than violence and bloodshed?*

**Allam:** What does a *hudna* mean? From an Islamic point of view, the *hudna* only means a temporary cessation of war activities. It is based on the Hudaibiyah example, when the Prophet Muhammed preferred not to enter Mecca. He waited for one year to prepare new forces to invade Mecca and occupy it. This *hudna* does not mean recognition of the other side and its right to exist. It only means winning some time to prepare for achieving what they really want. When we examine Hamas' ambitions, we see that its constitution calls for the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state based on *sharia* law. I don't believe we can allow Hamas to reach its goal, because this means the destruction of Israel. And it would also harm the Palestinians themselves. Hamas' strategy won't lead the Palestinians to statehood and peace based on coexistence alongside Israel.

**Jerusalem Post:** *Many Palestinians say there is no alternative to Hamas and that they would not vote for Fatah because of corruption and abuse of power. Do you think it's a good idea to bring down the Hamas government under the current circumstances?*

**Allam:** I believe that we should criticize the lack of democracy and the corruption that existed in the Palestinian Authority under Yasser Arafat. But we can't deny others the right to live. This is a basic right for all people and it's non-negotiable. By denying Israel's right to exist, we are causing a lot of harm to both Israelis and Palestinians.

There is no alternative to peace between Israel and the Palestinians, one that is based on a two-state solution where both people live next to one another peacefully. The solution begins by recognizing Israel's right to exist.

There's a majority on both sides that believes in the two-state solution. The biggest obstacle to peace and coexistence is Palestinian terrorism that seeks to destroy Israel. Terrorism harms not only Israel, but the Palestinians as well.

**Jerusalem Post:** *How serious do you think are the reports about al-Qaeda and other Islamic terrorist groups moving to the West Bank and Gaza Strip?*

**Allam:** Hamas, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah and Iran all share the same ideology of violence, terror, death and denying Israel's right to exist. They resort to terrorism to achieve their goals. We live in a world that is united in many ways through economy, information and technology.

Unfortunately, there is also another kind of unity between those who believe in the ideology of force and violence. This is an ideology that is based on strong opposition to the United States, the West and Israel. It is based on radical Islam, and its followers are responsible for the terror bombings in Iraq and Britain. Israel has also been targeted by extremists in Europe who have allied themselves with radical Islam, when two British nationals of Pakistani origin carried out a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv in 2003. We must pay attention to this dangerous phenomenon of Westerners finding a common ideology with radical Islam.

**Jerusalem Post:** *How do you think Israel and the West should respond to the Iranian threat to develop nuclear weapons, and calls by its president to destroy Israel?*

**Allam:** Iran is a main threat to stability and security in the world. When Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinajad talks about his intention to acquire the nuclear bomb and at the same time to destroy Israel, he is assuming the role of the new Adolf Hitler and the head of a Nazi Islamic regime. He is a threat not only to Israel, but to Arab countries, especially in the Gulf. Iran is a real threat that should be dealt with instantly. We must stop this mad regime. If all the diplomatic initiatives fail to convince Iran to abandon its efforts to obtain the nuclear bomb, there will be no other choice but to launch a military strike.

**Jerusalem Post:** *What, in your opinion, is the best way to stop the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and terror?*

**Allam:** Today, the modern world must stick to the principle of the right to life and liberty for all. This is what human civilization is about. We cannot accept any compromise on this principle. Israel is making a big mistake if it thinks Hamas will ever change. This week, I read an interview with Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh in an Israeli newspaper in which he said he was prepared for a *hudna* if Israel withdrew to the 1967 borders. The talk about a *hudna* only confirms Hamas' long-standing position that it is opposed to Israel's right to exist.

**Magdi Allam**

It would be a big mistake to think these statements reflect flexibility and pragmatism on the part of Hamas.

Israel must stick to its principles, because this is the only way to guarantee its right to exist. There is a global war between those who deny the others' right to exist and those who carry the ideology of violence and terrorism. It's a struggle between civilization and radical Islam and terrorism. Muslims are the biggest victims of the terrorist attacks. True, Muslims are the ones carrying out most of the attacks, but the majority of the victims are Muslims in Iraq, Algiers, Jordan and other countries. The civilized world must not give up on the right to life for all. If we exclude Israel, we will open the door wide for terrorism against all of us.

Opinions

# The march of the future

It's a bizarre place to take a group of high school students. On this year's March of the Living, I travelled with teenagers to Poland and Israel.

It was a gut-wrenching journey. An itinerary that includes ghettoes, concentration camps and death camps is gruesome, even for people with thick skins. So why were 16-year-olds visiting these sites in Poland?

*Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal*

We went because we had to go. No one wants to visit some of the most horrific places on earth. But for Jews, history is current events. Year after year, we sit at the seder and recount the Exodus from Egypt. Even though 3,300 years may have passed, the Exodus is still our story, one that reminds us who we are. Certainly, the most recent chapters of that story, the Holocaust and the State of Israel, cannot be ignored. And so we travelled to Poland and Israel, on a journey to reconnect with our history.

In some ways, 60 years ago could not be more distant. Yet there they were, a group of comfortable 21st-century teenagers with iPods, cellphones and digital cameras, confronting the unimaginable. At first, many of them found it difficult to feel sad. They simply couldn't grasp what they were seeing. It was too foreign, too unbelievable.

That changed when the survivors began to speak. Six survivors, eyewitnesses to the Holocaust, were travelling with us. As we heard their stories of suffering and survival, everyone's tears flowed.

The survivors, all senior citizens, did not come along to serve as guides. They came back to Poland – one last time – to offer testimony on behalf of the six million. It was their last chance to make sure future generations do not forget.

These teens may not have realized it, but they are the last generation to hear eyewitnesses to the Holocaust. As time marches on, fewer and fewer survivors remain. Ultimately, we will be left with witnesses of witnesses, and these teens are the ones who will retell the story of the Holocaust in the future.

When I returned, a student asked me if there will there be a March of the Living 50 years from now? Will people still care about this story?

My answer was simple: "It's in your hands. You will decide whether future generations remember the horrors of the Holocaust and the miracles of Israel. You will decide if future generations know what it means to be a Jew. The future of the Jewish people is in your hands."

On the March of the Living, I saw the Jewish future. I saw a group of ordinary teenagers learn about Judaism with idealism and intensity. I am proud to know them, and I can't think of better people to entrust with the Jewish future.

# What we can learn from l'affair Yehoshua

The only surprise about the recent A.B. Yehoshua brouhaha was that the Israeli novelist's rantings at the American Jewish Committee's recent centennial celebration surprised anyone. For years, Yehoshua – who said Jewish life is experienced more completely in Israel than anywhere else – has dismissed Diaspora Jewry as sterile, neurotic, and unfulfilled, while claiming that simply living in Israel makes Jews authentic. In inviting Yehoshua, the organizers chose a big name over good taste, and they got what they deserved.

*Gil Troy in Montreal*

I would respect Yehoshua's Diaspora rejectionism more if he also rejected the royalties and honours he receives from his benighted brethren. He may flatter himself that his American gravy train consists mainly of Christians fascinated by his creativity. Yehoshua's worldwide meal ticket validates Achad Ha'am's late-19th-century cultural Zionism, envisioning Jewish life centred on Israel with its revived Hebrew culture. Yehoshua's novels make him one of the glittering spokes linking Israel, the centre of Jewish life, with the periphery dispersed along the worldwide wheel of the Jewish Diaspora. As with most celebrities, it's better to read Yehoshua's novels than hear him speak about contemporary issues.

More disturbing is Yehoshua's lazy approach to Judaism, which has helped raise a generation of Israeli pagans. Living among a Jewish majority, on Jewish time in the magical, historically Jewish space called Israel is great. And many Israelis who call themselves *chiloni* (secular) don't realize how deeply Jewish they are with their fluency in Hebrew and the Bible. Likewise for the overwhelming numbers of Israeli Jews who believe in God, eat Shabbat dinners with their families, sit shivah when tragedy strikes, and ate cheesecake and blintzes in celebrating Shavuot last week, while most Diaspora Jews have never even heard of the holiday. Still, as one of my teachers, Prof. Deborah Weissman, notes, many Israelis have content without consciousness, while many North American Jews have consciousness without content – and Judaism requires both.

On June 19, the 35th World Zionist Congress will convene in Jerusalem. How to sing a new, positive relevant song of Zion for Jews both in Israel and abroad should be the real concern, rather than divvying up spoils for Israeli political hacks. We Zionists should be broadening our base, not making our club more exclusive. Saying "I am a Zionist" in the Diaspora is an act of triple-chutzpah. We risk the opprobrium of anti-Zionists who libel Zionism as racism; of Diaspora Jews who, because of rude Israelis like Yehoshua, label Zionism doctrinaire, fanatic or passé; and of Israelis such as Yehoshua, who sneer that Zionists cannot live outside of Israel, while younger Israelis consider Zionism anachronistic nonsense.

With Jews worldwide focusing on Israel these days, this is an opportunity for Zionist renewal. The Zionist movement began in the Diaspora to solve the 19th-century Jewish problem and help Jews reconcile the modern secular world with Jewish tradition. Moreover, just as living in the Diaspora does not preclude you from being a Zionist, living in Israel is not enough to make you a Zionist. The Jewish state includes Israeli Arabs, Orthodox extremists and post-Zionist intellectuals who all reject the ideology.

We need to define Zionism – and Israel – as solutions to our modern Jewish problems. We need to see Israel as an inspiration to Jews everywhere, pushing Jews in Israel and abroad toward a more meaningful, more relevant engagement with tradition as a guide for navigating modern life. We need to approach Zionism – meaning Jewish nationalism – as a conceptual framework, building on Jews' still strong feeling of history, ethnicity and common destiny toward a deeper Jewish identity.

Zionism can give our sense of tribalism transcendence by offering an alternative values system to contemporary materialism and selfishness. Zionism explains Jews' sense of family, this connection that stimulates altruism and links Jews together in joy and sorrow. A thoughtful, critical Zionism can help us see the neurotic aspects of Diaspora life and fix them, not just wallow in them. A thoughtful, critical Zionism can also help us see the flaws in Israeli life and try to fix them, not just mindlessly defend them.

In our world of multiple identities and multidimensional paradoxes, we can still yearn for the ingathering of the exiles without negating those who have not yet returned. In that way Zionism, like Judaism, helps challenge us, stretch us, complete us, acknowledging that despite our human imperfections, we strive to improve ourselves and our communities.

# The danger of famous writers

When Israeli novelist A.B. Yehoshua startled his audience last month at the opening of the American Jewish Committee's two-day symposium on the future of the Jewish people by asserting that only Israel, and not Diaspora Judaism, can determine a meaningful Jewish future, he set off a flurry of discussion in Israel and North America.

Cultural commentators, journalists, intellectuals, rabbis and bloggers on both continents took him on, disagreeing or agreeing passionately. Yehoshua himself published a long article in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* expanding on his remarks. Several days later he publicly issued "deepest apologies" for the "distress" that the "tone" and "content" of his remarks caused his audience. But he emphasized that he stood by them.

*Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto*

I was reminded of the first time I met Yehoshua. I was taking a course in Hebrew literature at Brandeis University taught by a dynamic Israeli professor named Yehuda Friedlander, who was on sabbatical from Bar Ilan University. He had prevailed upon Yehoshua to speak to his class and to meet with his graduate students.

I recall the frisson of being in Yehoshua's presence. It was in the late 1970s and although he was at a relatively early point in his career, he was already regarded as an important Israeli author. He spoke to a group of students who were rapt in their attention as students can be. I can no longer recall the gist of his talk, but he made one statement that has kept the encounter and the context vivid in my memory.

Yehoshua was discussing Israeliness, Diaspora, and Jewish identity. He told us that religious observance was no more than *onanut ruchanit*, spiritual masturbation. I remember being disturbed by Yehoshua's statement – by the crassness of the metaphor, of course, but more so by the utter denigration of Diaspora Jewish life, and by the wholesale dismissal of religious Judaism – whether in Israel or elsewhere – as being inauthentic and meaningless. That Karl Marx might dismiss religious belief as an "opiate" was one thing, but for an Israeli author to declare it meaningless to the Jewish experience was quite another.

In retrospect, it could not have been lost on the author that many of the young men in the class wore kippot, and that almost all of us listening as he spoke in Hebrew at an American university owed our facility in the language to years of instruction in religious day schools. And it surely was not lost on Yehoshua that the professor who invited him into his class wore a kippah. Yehoshua's delight in deliberate abrasiveness remained with me, and I brought it always into my reading of his fiction.

In the late 1970s, Yehoshua was still considered a young, rebellious author, an *enfant terrible*. By now an *éminence grise*, his talk at the AJC and his subsequent reflections on the ensuing controversy proves that he is no less the agent provocateur.

By now, almost everyone who writes on Jewish and Israeli culture has weighed in on *l'affair Yehoshua*: Avraham Burg, Shulamit Aloni, Natan Sharansky, Yossi Beilin, Leon Wieseltier, Abraham Foxman and many others have parsed, picked bones with or hailed his remarks. There is no need for me to add my view of Yehoshua's remarks.

Instead, I'd like to offer a few words about the dangers of inviting illustrious authors to speak at public functions. Keynote speakers are invited to functions to inspire their audience, to bring people closer and affirm shared values, and to make them feel good about the organization that has gathered them together.

But good writers don't believe it's their job to make people feel good. They aim to disturb the equilibrium of their audience, to provoke thought, to unravel what we complacently thought we knew but have not sufficiently examined. Through the seductions of fine language, enticing characters and engaging plot, they entice us to confront what disturbs us and what we had pushed from consciousness.

However one feels about Yehoshua's views, the issues he raises – Jewish identity in North America and in Israel, the gap between large numbers of Israeli Jews and Diaspora Jews, the migration of Israelis and North Americans to one another's countries – are vexed issues that we must confront as we enter the 21st century. The terms are not quite as simple as most of Yehoshua's detractors and admirers have made it seem.

The Kirshner File

# Spectre of *fitna* haunts the Palestinians

In the lexicon of Palestinian politics, one Arabic word above all others inspires a sense of dread: *fitna*, or civil war. Yet in the past few months, ever since Hamas coasted to victory in the Palestinian legislative election, defeating Fatah by a wide margin, this spectre has begun to haunt the Palestinians. Violence has flared as rival militias have clashed in the Gaza Strip and political infighting has erupted as Fatah and Hamas jockey for power.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Last January's election in the Palestinian Authority set the stage for the current tensions bedeviling the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Fed up by rampant corruption, financial mismanagement, lawlessness, lack of transparency and cronyism in the Fatah-dominated PA, Palestinians handed Hamas – the Islamic Resistance Movement – an overwhelming but totally unexpected mandate to reform the system.

According to surveys, Palestinian voters neither rejected a two-state solution nor a peace agreement with Israel, concepts that Hamas has yet to embrace and internalize.

The disconnect between Palestinian attitudes on coexistence and Hamas' refusal to acknowledge Israel's very existence placed Fatah on a collision course with Hamas (whose military wing has taken credit for most of the suicide bombings in Israel in recent years, but has adhered to an informal but shaky ceasefire).

Less than two weeks after the Jan. 25 election, the first sign of acrimony surfaced as a Fatah leader warned Hamas that its uncompromising stance on Israel would have dire consequences.

On a visit to Cairo in early February, Moussa Abu Marzouk, the Lebanon-based deputy leader of Hamas, declared that the PLO leadership had erred by recognizing Israel under the 1993 Oslo accords. Responding to his comment, the PA's acting finance minister, Jihad Wazir, said that Hamas had to readjust its views in the interests of preventing a collapse of the Palestinian economy.

As it happened, Wazir's veiled threat was a harbinger of things to come. On Feb. 18, when the Hamas government was officially installed, Fatah veteran and PA President Mahmoud Abbas told the Palestinian parliament in Ramallah that statehood could only be achieved through talks with Israel. Lest he be misunderstood, Abbas added, "The presidency and the government will continue to respect our commitment to the negotiations as a strategic, pragmatic political choice."

Abbas, of course, was referring to the road map to peace, a plan conceived and adopted by the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations in 2003, but never implemented.

As if to denigrate Abbas' declaration of principles, Ismail Haniya, the incoming Hamas prime minister, underscored the "points of disagreement," while Mushir al-Masri, Haniya's spokesman, observed that negotiations with Israel "are not on our agenda." Taking note of these statements, Rawhi Fattouh, Fatah's outgoing speaker of parliament, asserted, "The crisis has already started on the political level."

On May 25, against the backdrop of further armed clashes between Hamas and Fatah gunmen, Abbas brought tensions to a head with an unprecedented ultimatum.

He gave Hamas just 10 days to agree to a proposal, drafted by Fatah and Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails, to implicitly recognize Israel's pre-1967 borders within the context of a two-state solution, or face a referendum on the issue within 40 days.

In all probability, Abbas issued the ultimatum out of sheer frustration with Hamas, which, at best, would accept a long-term truce with Israel. Only a week before, Abbas had urged the European Union – the PA's largest donor – to give Hamas "a chance to adapt" to realities and end its freeze on aid to the PA. In concert with the United States and Canada, the EU halted payments to the cash-strapped Hamas government in March due to its refusal to renounce violence, recognize Israel's right to exist and accept previous accords with Israel.

**Mahmoud Zahar**

Reacting to these demands, Haniya said, "We will not recognize the legitimacy of the occupation, we will not renounce resistance and we will not recognize unjust agreements." Mahmoud Zahar, the Hamas foreign minister, and Khaled Mashall, its exiled leader, were just as adamant. Zahar, whose Gaza home was bombed by Israel three years ago, ridiculed a referendum as "a waste of time and money." Mashaal, the object of a 1997 Israeli assassination attempt in Amman, Jordan, said, "We are determined to stick to our national principles."

It remains to be seen whether Abbas will ultimately act on his ultimatum to hold a referendum. But if public opinion polls are correct, the vast majority of Palestinians in the territories are ready to accept Israel. In a recent survey, Near East Consulting, a Ramallah company, found that 88 per cent of respondents would support the so-called prisoners document, signed by, among others, Fatah's Marwan Barghouti and Hamas' Abdel Khaleq al-Natsheh, two of the most prominent Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

**Mahmoud Abbas**

(Israel, like Hamas, rejects the document, ostensibly because it has no intention of returning to the pre-1967 frontiers. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has outlined a plan to annex major settlement blocs in the West Bank, maintain a military presence in the Jordan Valley, finish the separation barrier that juts deeply into the West Bank in some places and retain much of eastern Jerusalem.

**Ismail Haniya**

(Meanwhile, Israel attacks Qassam rocket launching sites in Gaza. Since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza last summer, Palestinian radicals have fired hundreds of Qassams at Israeli settlements near Gaza, causing property damage and wounding a small number of Israelis.)

It seems clear that, on ideological grounds, Hamas will continue to reject the prisoners' proposal. A two-state solution does not suit an organization whose objective is an Islamic state in all of historic Palestine on Israel's ashes. But if Hamas works to subvert a referendum, internal fighting is likely to resume.

During the month of May, pitched battles pitting Hamas against Fatah claimed the lives of nearly a dozen Palestinians in Gaza. Several clashes broke out after Hamas deployed a new security force in a daring challenge to Abbas' authority. In two instances, high-ranking Fatah intelligence officers were injured and killed by powerful bombs. Prior to these incidents, Fatah sympathizers in Gaza began boycotting Hamas-controlled mosques, highlighting their mutual animosity.

Fatah's deteriorating relationship with Hamas is also a function of an old fashioned power struggle and of concerns voiced by Abbas that Hamas' rejectionist policies will exacerbate the economic crisis in the PA.

Since the PA election more than four months ago, Fatah has taken bold and provocative steps to consolidate its base.

On Feb. 5, Abbas announced that he would transfer responsibility for all Palestinian security forces to his office. By way of reaction, Hamas published a statement opposing the move. The following day, Abbas said that he would be in charge of all diplomatic contacts with Israel.

Stunned by these developments, Hamas warned Abbas not to try to reshape Palestinian institutions without consultations. But on Feb.13, only five days before Hamas took over the government, Fatah legislators gave Abbas permission to appoint a new constitutional court, which will serve as the final arbiter in disputes between himself and Hamas.

Emboldened by his sweeping new powers, Abbas placed the official Palestinian media newspapers, radio and television – under his personal supervision. But on March 7, Hamas voted to strip Abbas of these powers.

In early April, nonetheless, Fatah assumed control over Gaza's border crossings into Israel. Subsequently, the Fatah-dominated PLO demanded that Hamas co-ordinate all diplomatic moves with Abbas.

In another sign of worsening tensions, Abbas, on April 21, blocked a Hamas government decision to appoint a well-known militant to a senior security position in Gaza. The appointee, Jamal Abu Samhadana, was head of the Popular Resistance Committees, which, along with Islamic Jihad, has launched Qassam rockets at Israel. On April 24, Abbas was at it again, claiming that he has the authority to remove the Hamas government.

These disputes have greatly aggravated stresses and strains in the PA, yet Abbas insists that a civil war is hardly imminent. But a *fitna*, with all its murky ramifications, may yet convulse the Palestinians.

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# Visionary couple helps vulnerable women escape abuse

## *Generous gift to UJA Federation allocated to JF&CS's Women Abuse Program*

By CARLA LANCIT
UJA Federation

Spousal abuse is an often ignored social challenge in the Jewish community, one that usually hides in the shadows of denial. But one Toronto couple has no difficulty looking the problem straight in the eye.

Inspired by UJA Federation Campaign 2006, Lewis and Charlotte Steinberg recently donated a special gift of $100,000 to UJA Federation for the Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) Women Abuse Program, for another staff person who will assist abuse victims.

The Steinbergs hope that their gift will encourage abused women to come to JF&CS for help and enable them to leave troubled relationships. "A lot of women are embarrassed and ashamed that they're in this situation," says Charlotte Steinberg. "Sometimes these women think it's their fault, but it isn't."

*Charlotte and Lewis Steinberg*

"This represents a donor stepping forward to make a difference in the life of the Jewish community," says Dr. Richard Cummings, executive director of JF&CS. "It was visionary of them. We have to first recognize the existence of this problem in our community. Acknowledge it and respond to it."

According to Cummings, the Women Abuse Program will assist approximately 400 women in the coming year. It also serves children and men affected by abusive relationships.

"This donation has allowed us to expand and enrich our support to vulnerable women and children and their families," says Cummings.

"The staff is carrying enormous caseloads," adds Debbie Feldman, supervisor of the Women Abuse Program. "This way we can give service in a timely fashion." Feldman hopes that the agency will also be able to add a drop-in centre for abused women.

The Women Abuse Program provides a spectrum of services, including crisis intervention, assessment, and counseling. The additional funds have allowed JF&CS to enhance its assistance to abuse victims in navigating what Cummings calls "a complex and not always welcoming system," referring them to lawyers, social assistance, and housing. JF&CS also partners with Jewish Women International on emergency housing.

"All of these services will be enhanced and enriched through the donation of this family," says Cummings. "It's a donation that makes a significant difference, and has impact on the ground."

Feldman notes that it's important for abused women to receive these services within their own community. "It's really important for our community to acknowledge that these problems exist within," she says.

"This gift is going to give women the opportunity to remove themselves from abusive relationships," says Feldman. "It's going to give them the opportunity to reach the potential in themselves and raise healthy children who can contribute to the Jewish community in non-violent ways."

## Whirlwind mission takes participants to Greece, Israel

"The Jewish community is not alone. We're one big family." That thought kept coming back to Alan Gozlan, co-chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's recent Prime Minister's Mission to Israel and Greece. Gozlan and co-chair Jeffrey Rubenstein led 37 top donors on the 10-day May trip.

In Greece, participants visited Athens and Thessalonica. The itinerary included a special tour of the Acropolis and the Partheon, Jewish museums, synagogues and Holocaust museums. But, for many, meeting members of the local Jewish communities — including a dinner at the home of Israeli Ambassador Ram Aviram—was equally moving.

Thessalonica was the first Jewish community in Greece to feel the wrath of the Nazis who, in April, 1941, started discriminatory policies against the Jews as a prelude to arrests, deportations and killings. "Because of what happened during the Second World War, this once vibrant and thriving community was all but annihilated," says Gozlan. "The fact that we went and lent our support to them meant a great deal to them and a great deal to us."

"Thessalonica was incredible," says Karen Morton. "The community was warm and inviting. We were the first mission to ever go there."

In addition to meeting with the president of the community and other local leaders, the Torontonians met with seniors at a retirement home and visited a day school.

*Mission participants pose in front of the Acropolis in Athens. (photo by Andrea Marcus)*

In Israel, mission members met with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, visited the Kotel, toured a military base, and were granted a private tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. They also toured several communities, such as Kiryat Moshe, Kfar Gvirol and Eilat, with which UJA Federation has developed special relationships. "Being a contributor to UJA for many years, it was heartwarming to see the good work that is being done," says Gozlan.

The trip resonated with each participant in a different way. For Honey Rubenstein, the highlight of the trip was visiting the Old City of Jerusalem and seeing the Kotel.

For Gozlan, it was dancing around a hangar at a naval base in Eilat. And for Morton, the highlight was the fulfillment of a personal goal to climb the Red Canyon.

The trip appealed to mission novices, like Rubenstein and Gozlan and veterans, like Morton. "We've been on 'jillions' of missions," says Morton. "Each one shows us something we haven't seen before."

Both Gozlan and Rubenstein say that while this was their first mission, it will not be their last

"If this mission did anything, it hooked my entire family onto a love for Israel that will not go away," says Gozlan.

## Over 20 global Jewish cultures on display in Toronto

Torontonians often celebrate the multicultural nature of their hometown, but few realize that this diversity also extends to the city's Jewish community.

On June 11, this vibrancy will be celebrated with the Jewish Mosaic Festival, an event, to be held at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC), showcasing Jewish life in the Greater Toronto Area, originating from countries around the world.

Representatives from more than 20 countries, including Turkey, Jamaica, Argentina, Mexico, China and India, will participate in the festival. The event will include exhibits, presentations and entertainment celebrating both the differences and the commonalities of the featured Jewish communities.

Entertainment will include an Argentinean choir, Israeli dancers, The Hallelujah Drummers, and Lenka Lichtenberg. There will also be food from Jewish communities and a marketplace selling an array of products.

*Lenka Lichtenberg - Czechoslovakia*

*Baza Makonan - Ethiopia*

"This festival will allow each country to showcase cultural artifacts and customs," says Janet Klein-Slavin of the BJCC. "These items may be either unique to Jews from their respective country or may emphasize similarities."

"What makes this unique is the number of different cultures reflecting our Jewish diversity," says Gail Gould, assistant executive director of the BJCC.

"It's Jewish people from India and Iraq and places where we don't really know about the Jewish communities. It's a learning experience," adds the BJCC's Noa Lipton.

Lipton notes that the event will appeal to people of all ages, with wheelchair accessibility and a kids' zone with inflatables, face painting, and activities geared towards children. Adding to the accessibility of the event will be a complimentary bus running from the Bernard Betel Centre to the BJCC.

*Faces of Jewish Toronto*, a photo exhibit organized as part of the festival, will also open that day. The exhibit features portraits of Jewish Torontonians from around the world by Toronto-based photographers Andrew Maidanik and Dimitry Chatrov.

In addition, the festival will feature an evening screening of *Quest for the Lost Tribes*, a documentary by Toronto filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici.

"Our Jewish community, which stands at close to 200,000, is diverse, vibrant and very proud of its roots," says Howard English, vice president, Marketing and Communications, UJA Federation. "This festival will not only reflect the community's remarkable quality of life, but also the pride felt by Jewish community members in the Greater Toronto Area," he adds.

"As Jews, we're always encouraging pluralism in the broader community," says the Bernard Betel Centre's Mara Koven. "But we have to do that within our own community as well. This is a proactive way to keep celebrating diversity."

The Jewish Mosaic Festival is sponsored by UJA Federation, Chartwell Constantia Retirement Residence, The Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, and JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto.

For more information, call Noa Lipton at 416.636.1880 extension 296.

**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

**JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.**

# Jewish organizations fight union's Israel boycott

## *UJA Federation to implement CJC & CIC campaign*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) are mounting a strong campaign of opposition to a recent resolution approved by the Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) calling for a boycott against Israel. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is working locally with CJC Ontario Region to implement this campaign.

The CUPE resolution calls for "the international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law including the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194."

*Steven Shulman*

"CUPE Ontario has taken an extremely radical position which, based on a flood of reaction we've received from CUPE Ontario members, is not representative of the union rank and file in this province," says Steven Shulman, Ontario regional director, and national general counsel, Canadian Jewish Congress. "Unfortunately, a small number of people within the union and its leadership are behind this outrageous position to the detriment of CUPE Ontario's reputation."

According to Shulman, the resolution is not based in fact, but rather anchored in complete falsehood.

"This resolution reads like something that might have been issued 20 years ago instead of today," he says. "In the wake of the Gaza disengagement, coupled with a Palestinian Hamas government which supports terror and is committed to the destruction of Israel, this resolution is an anachronism."

"CUPE local 2063, which represents workers from UJA Federation, Canadian Jewish Congress and JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto, are absolutely outraged at this ridiculous anti-Israel initiative," says Lil Nobel, president, CUPE local 2063. "The phone has not stopped ringing since this boycott was announced, as people – Jews and non-Jews alike – want to voice their displeasure. Our employees are voicing shame in being part of CUPE and we are currently looking at our options."

*Sid Ryan*

An Action Alert from CJC and the Canada-Israel Committee calls for Canadians to contact CUPE's leadership to denounce the resolution. Messages can be sent by email to CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan at sryan@cupe.on.ca.

The alert also asks Canadian clergy to call upon their congregants to contact CUPE Ontario. Canadian Jewish Congress is also discussing the CUPE Ontario resolution with other Canadian unions and with representatives from different faith communities across the country.

This isn't the first time that CUPE Ontario has become immersed in Middle East resolutions. In June 2002, at the height of the intifada, a CUPE resolution demanded that "Israel immediately end its current military assaults" and that the Israeli government "immediately withdraw from the occupied territories and abide by UN resolution 242."

The resolution referred to territories that Israel "invaded" in 1967. It also called for "an end to the suicide bombings and other acts of violence that take the lives of innocent people."

# UJA Federation establishes earthquake relief fund

## *Donations will help Israeli organization assist Indonesian victims*

On May 27, a devastating earthquake ravaged highly populated areas just east of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta. The magnitude 6.2 quake flattened homes and buildings as people slept, with a death toll that stands at close to 6,000 people at press time.

More than 200,000 people are homeless in the nation's worst disaster since the 2004 tsunami, forced to live on the streets, in rice fields and even in graveyards.

*(pictured above) A woman stands near the ruins of her home flattened by the May 27 Indonesian earthquake. The powerful quake flattened homes and buildings, killing close to 6,000 and injuring thousands more, while leaving more than 200,000 people homeless in the nation's worst disaster since the 2004 tsunami. (AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)*

*(pictured right) IsraAid workers were recently on the ground, to assist refugees fleeing Darfur.*

To assist victims of this tragedy, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has created the Indonesia Earthquake Relief Fund which will support the activities of IsraAid, the Israeli Forum for International Aid, an Israeli relief organization which travels around the world helping those in need. Most recently, IsrAid helped the people in the Darfur region of Sudan, who were fleeing a program of ethnically charged violence.

"We have sent in a team of relief workers with kitchens and chefs, some doctors and logisticians," says Shachar Zahavi, founder of IsraAid. "The idea is to provide feeding stations for the thousands of people going without food and shelter and take care of these needs until the government and the United Nations are able to provide a steady, ongoing feeding program."

According to Zahavi, many Israelis believe that people affected by disasters – even some who live in countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel – deserve their assistance.

"This is not the first mission and won't be the last where Israel is offering its assistance," he says. "We see ourselves as part of the international community and rely not only on the generous heart of the Israeli people, but also on our long-standing tradition of *tikun olam*, helping those in need. We believe that we have the capabilities and the knowledge to help relieve the suffering and pain of those affected, and that's what we must do."

"Wherever there are tragedies and innocent men, women and children are forced to live without the basic necessities of life, we simply must not look away," says UJA Federation chair David Engel.

To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.jewishtoronto.com and click on the UJA Federation Indonesia Earthquake Relief Fund icon or call 416.631.5705.

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Greater Toronto Area

# Educators look at Jewish identity in day schools

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

## *Association for Canadian Jewish Studies*

Although Jewish schools are designed primarily for children, York University sociologist Randal Schnoor suggests that they may be just as important in the lives of Jewish parents and their own Jewish identity.

Schnoor – who is working with Alex Pomson of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, York's former chair of Jewish teacher education at York University, on a book about the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School (DJDS) – spoke last week at the annual Association for Canadian Jewish Studies conference held in part at York University. "One of the key themes we're looking at is how the Jewish day school can help foster the Jewish identities of the parents," he said.

Also speaking at the same session on Jewish day schools were Dan Mendelsohn Aviv of Bialik Hebrew Day School, who discussed Hebrew language instruction, and Jack Lipinsky of United Synagogue Day School and the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, who discussed the Canadian Jewish history text he co-wrote.

"Adults in their 30s, 40s and 50s are finding less meaning in Jewish institutions," Schnoor said. For many of the Penna school's parents, he said, living downtown represents "an intent to disengage from organized denominational Jewish life." About a third of them are intermarried, have converted to Judaism, are part of same-sex families, live common-law or are single parents, and only a small proportion belong to synagogues, he added.

Schnoor's presentation, titled "School as Shul," likened the school to the synagogue in terms of three roles that have been connected to the synagogue by other scholars. Traditionally, Schnoor said, the synagogue fills three functions: a house of meeting or assembly (socializing), educational, and spiritual.

Even as a researcher who is not a school parent, Schnoor said he has felt "a warm sense of being part of an accepting community."

For many DJDS parents, the school serves as "a type of Jewish haven, the only Jewish place they feel comfortable."

Also, he said, although parents at the school showed little interest in attending formal educational programs, aspects of the school curriculum often provoked them to contact the school regarding theological issues.

The school is "an instructive case study for the potential for schools to have an impact on parents," said Schnoor. "We are suggesting the school can serve as a primary locus of Jewish identity for adults.

"It may serve as a gateway to engaged Jewish life for parents no less than for the children themselves."

Mendelsohn Aviv, a Hebrew studies teacher at Bialik Hebrew Day School and an adjunct professor of Jewish education at Gratz College, said that Hebrew instruction is an essential component of Jewish identity.

However, he noted, despite the thousands of hours devoted to teaching Hebrew to 11,000 Jewish students in Toronto every week, there are "countless" anecdotes about students who can't read a newspaper or have a conversation in Hebrew.

"Perhaps we must consider teaching Hebrew for specific purposes," he suggested, citing travel to Israel as one possibility. "No one method will work for all classrooms and all students."

By 2030, he noted, more than half the world's Jews will be Hebrew speakers.

Lipinsky, of United Synagogue Day School and the University of Toronto, admitted that students "are not always excited about history, especially Canadian history."

As co-author of the textbook *Telling Our Story: A History of the Jews in Canada to 1920*, he said most day school students tend to compartmentalize their Hebrew and general studies.

He has found they relate better to their history lessons when they are "ethnically flavoured.

"Part of our role as historians is not only to measure identity but to foster it," he said.

**CREATIVE WRITER: Rennie Shashan Bimman, a Grade 3 student at Darchei Noam Hebrew School, was among the students who won this year's creative writing contest organized by UJA Federation Jewish Board of Education. Her story *Slow and Steady Wins the Race* was one of three winning Grade 3 entries. Pictured with her is her teacher Rosie Gringler, right, and school principal Ady Bell.**


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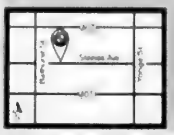


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Telehop

# Battle of the Bands helps teen drug program

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

At a Pink Floyd concert in Toronto nearly two decades ago, 14-year-old Benji Hayward tried LSD. Later that night, Hayward drowned in Lake Ontario.

Eighteen years have passed, and to honour Hayward's memory, Toronto teens have come together at another concert to prevent tragedies like his from recurring.

High school bands from across the city converged recently at The Reverb, a club on Queen Street, to compete in a Battle of the Bands to raise money for the Benji Hayward Teen Program.

The program, run by Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others (JACS), was named in Hayward's memory and is a forum for high school students to talk openly with peers about drugs, alcohol, sex and life issues.

"We started the Benji Hayward Teen Program this past September, and since then we have been extremely successful, with 150 teens participating," said Nicole Burger, Benji Hayward teen program co-ordinator.

The group meets every Sunday from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at JACS Place, located at 858 Sheppard Avenue West. "We have free pizza and pop, and we give community service hours for attending," said Burger.

"Everyone in the room at the program is a teen except for myself and an addiction specialist," said Burger. "It's an open environment where people don't feel embarrassed or judged. We talk about sex, drugs, family, exams, everything."

**Two members of the band "The Weathermaking Challenge", are seen performing in the JACS Battle of the Bands.**

A wide spectrum of kids attends the weekly sessions. "We have really rich kids and kids from broken homes. We have Orthodox kids and unaffiliated kids."

Apparently, drugs don't discriminate. Substance abuse is an issue that plagues the youth of every part of Toronto's Jewish community.

At the sessions, the teens make pledges to progress in their own way. "The kids who use hard drugs commit to only use marijuana. The kids who use marijuana commit to limiting their use to the weekends," said Burger.

Connecting kids who feel that they need help with drug counsellors and treatment centres is another aspect of the program. The object is to prevent drug abuse and tragedies in the community.

Benji Hayward's father, Gordon, is the chair of JACS' outreach and education committee, and is a member of JACS' board of directors.

The Battle of the Bands event was organized by Benji Hayward Teen Program participants themselves, and raised $5,000 for the program. An audience of 500 came to see bands compete for the coveted prize: the opportunity to lay down their tracks at a professional recording studio.

Seven bands comprised of students from high schools across the GTA played for a panel of celebrity judges, including former member of Our Lady Peace, Mike Turner, radio personality Todd Shapiro of 102.1 The Edge, and MTV Canada host Anna Cyzon.

The big winners of the evening were the members of a band called Stop Drop N Skank from York Mills, Avendale, Rosedale and Earl Haig high schools.

They were followed by Sugarcraft of CHAT Richmond Hill in second place. Third place was awarded to The Weathermaking Challenge of Westmount Collegiate Institute and Crestwood.

Burger considers the evening a huge success. "This was an event that the kids in the program helped to plan, which allows them to feel part of JACS. They walk away knowing they've accomplished something.

"Our goal was also to raise money and awareness of the Benji Hayward Teen Program, and now the 500 people who attended the Battle of the Bands know about what we do."

For more information about the Benji Hayward Teen Program, call 416-638-9537.


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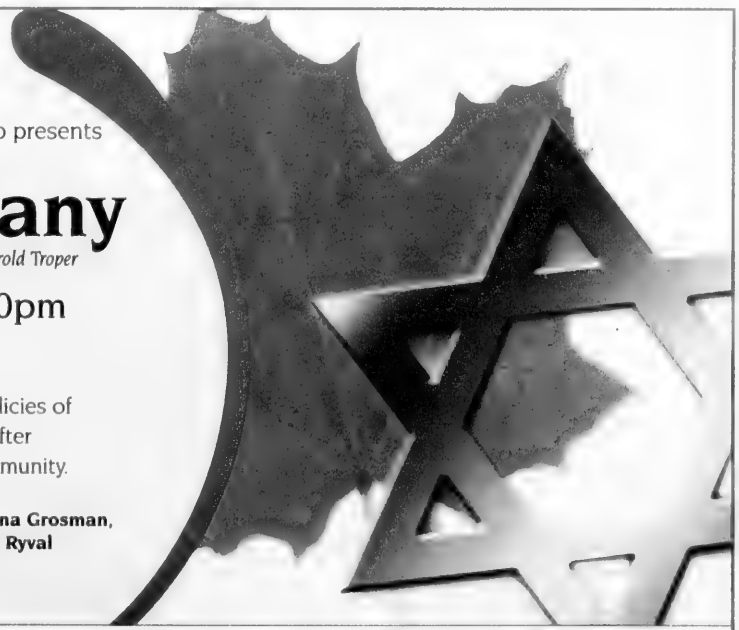

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# Judaism: no vacations, only holy days

By RABBI WAYNE ALLEN

Rabbinic Reflections

Of late there has been a surrender to Americanisms when it comes to language and spelling. Spelling bees, for example, will increasingly demand American spellings rather than the British and Canadian one. And American usages are gradually replacing the Canadian. "Bathroom" has now become as common as "washroom," if not more so. To me, it makes little difference in most cases. But there is one specific usage that I believe we should fight vigorously to retain.

Historically, Canadians, like our British precursors, went on "holidays," not "vacations." The word "holiday" is a conflation of two words: holy and day. A holiday suggests a time devoted to the sacred. On the other hand, the word "vacation" derives from a Latin root, *vacatio*, which means an emptying, an absence of something. Typically, it refers to a suspension of one's normal activities, an absence of routine.

But while the purpose of a vacation may simply be a break from one's regular duties or a change of pace, it sometimes entails much more. Vacationers themselves describe their goal as an escape from responsibilities, an opportunity to have no concerns.

Too often Jews are on long vacations from Judaism. Others just want to escape for a little while. But Judaism is a vocation that demands daily devotion, regular observance, and continuous commitment. No vacation is plausible, let alone possible.

An illustrative, though somewhat irreverent, story is told of an old-timer who decided to take a long overdue vacation. He had always conducted himself as a fine Jew, but for this once he was going to "live." So he buys a whole new wardrobe of the sharpest clothes, shaves his beard and books a flight to Las Vegas. As soon as he unpacks his bags, he stuffs some cash in his pockets and heads across the street from his fancy hotel to the nearest casino. He gets halfway across, and an oncoming truck hits him, killing him on the spot.

As his soul is departing from this world, he looks heavenward and asks plaintively: "Master of the universe, I have always been a faithful Jew. I have kept kosher, observed the Torah punctiliously, supported those in need, attended synagogue regularly, studied daily and gave generously to community institutions. Did I deserve to die in such a way?" And a heavenly voice responds: "Moish? Was that you?"

The danger in taking a vacation from Judaism is not that vacationers might get hit by a truck, but that vacations from Judaism might become permanent. And the consequences would be tragic. Consider the case of the Trobriand Islanders of Melanesia. These inhabitants of the South Pacific once found themselves with an embarrassment of leisure. Their yams came up so abundantly that they had no need to work for their food. To occupy their spare time, the islanders devised the Kula, a ceremonial exchange of relatively worthless objects such as red shell necklaces and white shell bracelets. The Kula soon became formalized with canoe trips around the island for no apparent reason. The Kula eventually became not only the vacation but the vocation of the islanders. With no working the soil, the yams became sparse, but the Kula persisted. And the islanders starved.

From Jewish practice, there is no vacation, only holy-days. So as we pack to take some time away, let's remember to include tallit, tfillin, a siddur, a Chumash, Shabbat candles and kosher food.

*Rabbi Allen is spiritual leader of Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto.*

# A soulful journey

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

In upcoming Torah portions, we read the desciption of the Nazarite. These are people who have taken a vow to dedicate themselves to God for a specific amount of time. During that time period, Nazarites begin a spiritual journey that removes them from many of the usual experiences we all face. A Nazarite will refrain from drinking wine or any fermented drinks and is not allowed to engage in mourning rituals or be present at a graveside. Nazarites are also prohibited from cutting their hair for the duration of the vow.

By not drinking wine, Nazarites removed themselves from the most common way in which we express our joy. We bless wine on Shabbat and we include wine in our ritual festive meals for many reasons, including a symbolic expression of our joy. Nazarites cannot partake of that expression. Such a person is also prohibited from attending a funeral or burial, even of a close family member. In other words, the extremes of human emotion are now outside the realm of the Nazarite. Neither extreme joy nor extreme sadness must be encountered.

The prohibition against cutting the hair implies a rejection of all arbitrary societal boundaries. Nature meant for our hair to grow, while society tells us to groom and cut it. By prohibiting the cutting of Nazarites' hair, the Torah has told these people that they have removed themselves from the arbitrariness of society. And the prohibition on wine and mourning means that Nazarites do not participate in the rituals that bind a community. With their absence and their wild hair, their appearance will soon reflect the outsider they will become.

All of this is done in order to partake of a spiritual journey with God. One would think this is a holy endeavour to be praised and sought. Yet, the Torah informs us that at the end of such a process, Nazarites are to bring a sin offering, for they have sinned against a soul.

The Talmud questions this sin offering by asking against which soul the Nazarite has sinned. The answer is that people who take a Nazarite vow have sinned against their own souls. Yet, surely, it would seem that it is fulfilling to their soul to engage in spiritual journeys and deny society. In fact, the very negation of human emotion in its extreme form, joy and sadness, would seem to put focus on the soul. Is this not a good thing?

The answer may lie in the fact that to become a Nazarite, to have a spiritual journey, required a separation from essential things. Humanity, emotional expression, community these are crucial parts of our Jewish existence. The Nazarite has not been commanded to take on extra commandments and good deeds, rather to refrain from things.

A Nazarite can remain spiritually true by refraining from certain actions, and yet the Torah requires a sin offering.

In an ideal world, we do not engage in spiritual journeys that negate essential human truths. That is a sin we commit against ourselves. An ancient midrash expresses this well when it teaches us that we do not enhance our souls by denying ourselves specific things. On the contrary, we enhance our souls by producing specific things. Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer teaches us that people produce three trusted companions in their life: their children, their worldly possessions and their good deeds.

Nazarites need not bring children into the world, bring positive articles to the world or enhance the world with their good deeds. Missing such an opportunity would indeed be a sin.

Jewish Life

# World Zionist Congress, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"In Basel I have founded the Jewish State. Were I to state this loudly today, the response would be universal derision. Perhaps in five years, certainly in 50 years, all will admit it."

Theodor Herzl wrote those words on Sept. 3, 1897, following the First Zionist Congress held in Basel, Switzerland. **[http://tinyurl.com/ozqhy]** Since that historic congress, Zionists have met dozens of times. They meet later this month in Jerusalem at the 35th World Zionist Congress. This week and next, a look at past congresses and at the issues facing delegates this year.

Although the official Congress site is replete with requisite constitutions, proclamations and sundry legal documents **[http://tinyurl.com/n26fo]**, I found a corner of it particularly compelling – two essays that stir up debate over modern Zionism.

Veteran left-wing member of Knesset Yossi Sarid asks whether Herzl is "turning in his grave in view of what has become of his vision in reality." Sarid says Herzl wisely warned against putting a higher value on territory than on the importance of people. In addition, Herzl warned against "the theocratic urges of our clerics to dominate."

Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, chief rabbi of Tel Aviv and former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel, responds by saying Herzl was mistaken. Without the "profound influence of the religious leadership, Zionism would not have been conceived..." **[http://tinyurl.com/mm2lj]**

The World Zionist Organization's bodies include:

• Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Jewish National Fund – founded at the Fifth Zionist Congress in 1901 – is charged with redeeming lands in Israel and conservation as an eternal property of the Jewish people; **[http://tinyurl. com/nsq72]**

• Keren Hayesod/ United Israel Appeal – founded in London in 1920 – is the central fundraising organization for Israel throughout the world (except the USA); **[www.kh-uia.org.il/]**

• Jewish Agency for Israel is the country's largest social service agency. Established in 1929, its primary goals today are economic development and the absorption of immigrants. **[http://tinyurl.com/nsq72]**

But what was accomplished at all the other Zionist congresses? You can read a brief summary of each one from the early ones that took place in European cities including Zurich, Hamburg and The Hague through to the Jerusalem-based congresses after the establishment of the State. **[http://tinyurl.com/pkq78]** To get a different taste of congresses past, visit the online exhibit of the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. For example, a striking poster from the 21st Congress in 1939 in Tel Aviv advises workers to vote for the socialist list. It shows a red flag emblazoned with the words "Unhindered Jewish Aliyah! Jewish-Arab Co-operation! Socialist Sovereignty!" **[www.jtsa.edu/library/exhib/zion/]** You can see more posters at the Jewish Zionist Education site. **[www.jafi.org.il/education/100/posters.html]**

The best site I have come across that discusses with a minimum of rhetoric the function, history and challenges facing the Congress was created by the American Zionist Movement, an umbrella group responsible for running Jewish Congress elections in the United States. Incidentally, this website has an interesting title, Congress of the Jewish People. Although the site uses the word "Zionist" throughout, it does not explain why the word does not appear in its title or web address. **[http://congressofthejewishpeople.com/]**

Keeping in the spirit of being an umbrella organization to diverse groups that share a belief in Zionism, the Congress of the Jewish People links to another site worth a look, the Blogs of Zion, "an online forum for Zionists from across the ideological and social spectrum." **[http://blogsofzion.com/]**

* * *

Speaking of blogs... readers of *The CJN* are no doubt familiar with the work of Yaakov Kirschen, the cartoonist behind Dry Bones. Although some of his cartoons have been archived online for some time, that site hasn't been updated in a while. **[http://tinyurl.com/qv78e]**

I was pleasantly surprised to come across the Dry Bones Blog. Updated several times a week, Kirschen posts cartoons along with biting insight. A different kind of Zionist site. **[http://drybonesblog.blogspot.com/]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

# Jewish choir participates in global competition

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Toronto's Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir is heading east this summer. But the choir won't be landing at Ben-Gurion airport or praying at the Western Wall. They'll be visiting a much longer wall in a much larger country. Lachan is going to China.

The choir members and their conductor, Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple, are set to compete in the 4th World Choir Games in Xiamen, China, this July. Xiamen is a southern Chinese coastal town, 500 kilometres to the north of Hong Kong.

Lachan, one of two choirs representing Canada (the other is Le Collège Vocal des Choeurs du Nouveau Monde), will be in the company of 400 other groups and 20,000 singers from countries spanning the globe – from Israel to Botswana to Saudi Arabia to Kazakhstan.

"We've spent eight months preparing for the competition," Maissner said. "We have built up and fine-tuned our repertoire."

Lachan, meaning "melody" in Hebrew, will perform a wide variety of musical styles in China, including liturgical, folk, Israeli, Yiddish and jazz.

"The mandate of the choir is to widen the awareness of Jewish values and culture," Maissner said.

He described the factors that make Jewish music distinctive. "There is a very tribal quality to the music of our people that makes us sound unique, but we are also influenced by our environments, like eastern European klezmer or American jazz or classical Romantic.

"But it's the Hebrew inflection and asymmetric meter of the language that makes Jewish music different."

Because Lachan is a unique kind of Jewish group, World Choir Games officials were uncertain as to which category the choir should compete under.

"We cover every aspect of music: religious, ethnic, cultural, jazz," Maissner said. "So, they created a special category just for us: music of religion and ethnic and folklore."

The World Choir Games' jury will consist of top conductors and renowned musician from Germany, Hungary, Sweden and China. What the judges will be looking for, Maissner said, "is the level of the choir's musicianship in terms of interpretation, tone, quality, dynamics, variety and the musical versatility of the group."

The prospect of travelling to China is exciting for the 28 members of Lachan.

"This is my first trip to China," Maissner said. "I think it's very exciting because I think that there are many in China interested in studying about Jewish culture and heritage. I understand that there are even Jewish studies chairs in some of the university in China.

"In order for the Chinese to understand the West, they study Jewish culture," according to Maissner, so the presence of a Jewish group at the competition should make for a cultural exchange.

Lachan's repertoire will spotlight four Canadian Jewish composers in Xiamen: Srul Irving Glick, Sid Robinovitch, Ben Steinberg and Aaron Charlap. As well, old favourites like the Yiddish lullaby *Raisins and Almonds* and the Israeli folksong *Shir HaEmek* will be featured.

Before Lachan jets off to China, its concert – "Jewish Identity through the Musical Lens" – at the Leah Posluns Theatre will give Torontonians the opportunity to preview the songs Lachan will be singing at the World Music Games. Proceeds from the concert on Monday, June 12, at 8 p.m. will go toward funding the choristers' trip to China. For tickets, call 416-782-3214.

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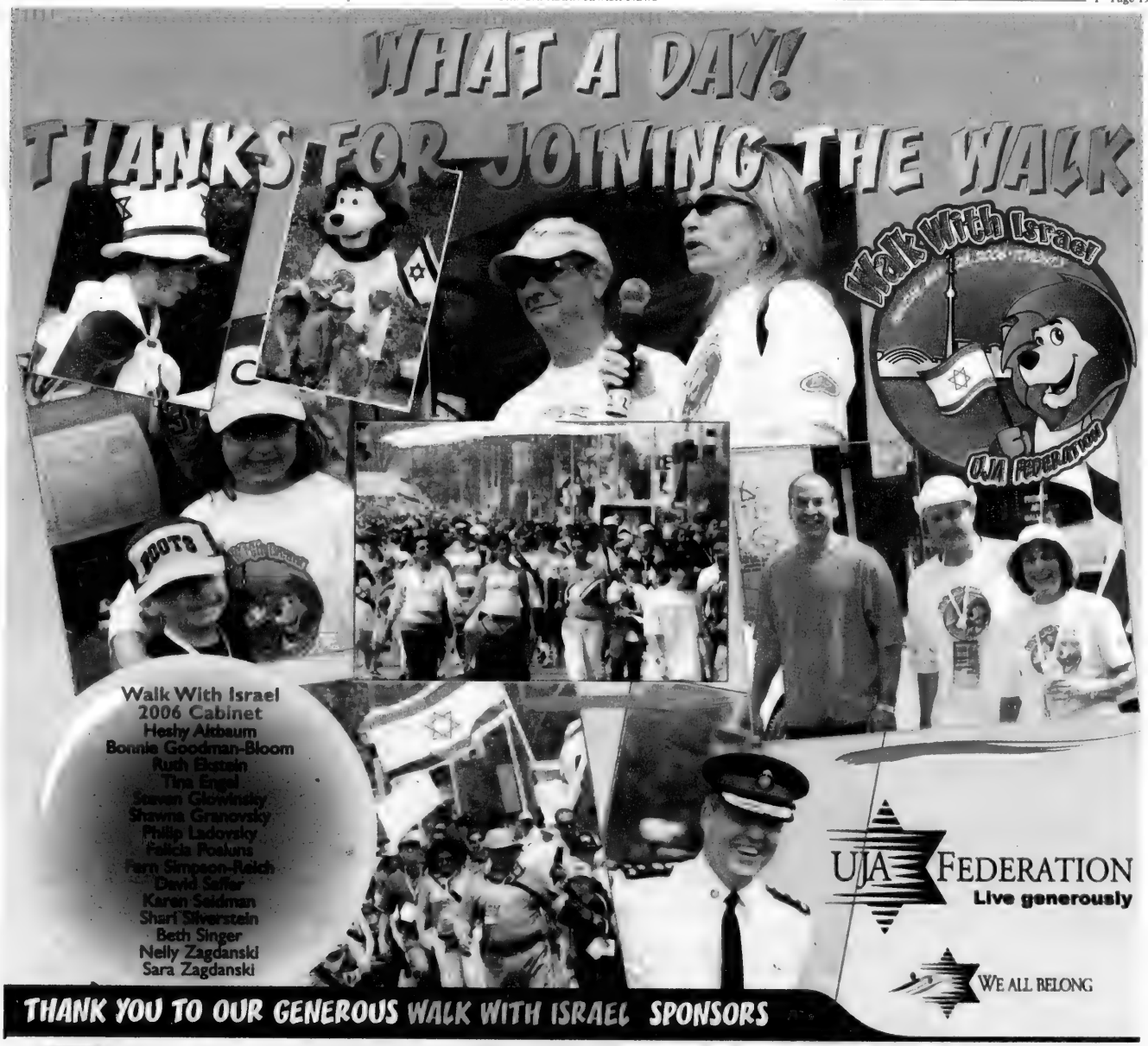


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Greater Toronto Area

# Tribute dinner to help fund leukemia research

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Michael Baker, physician-in-chief of the University Health Network is being honoured at a gala dinner this month sponsored by the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science & the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation.

The event will be held June 15 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto. The University Health Network (UHN) consists of Toronto General, Toronto Western and Princess Margaret Hospitals.

The goal of the dinner is to raise funds to support leukemia research. As of mid-May, nearly $4 million dollars had been raised, an amount Baker said "sets a new standard for fundraising."

Baker was born in Toronto in 1943 and went through medical school and interned "in the same hospital in which I was born, and where I am now."

While doing residencies at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, in internal medicine and hematology, he became interested in adult leukemia.

"In the 1960s, that was a new area of interest," he said.

For the first 10 years after he returned to Toronto, he was doing fundamental research into the disease. Even after he became the UHN's physician-in-chief in 1993, he said, "I never gave up my medical practice, especially patients with certain adult leukemias."

Adult leukemia used to be seen as hopeless, he said, noting that he was "a pioneer in uncharted territory."

Baker helped develop the drug Ara-C, which, he said, is still in use.

He considers it gratifying that he "can give hope. I still follow patients who are alive after 15 or 20 years."

It was through his practice that he became involved with the Canadian Society for Weizmann Institute of Science.

"I treated [the late] Arthur Konvisser, who then was its president. We wanted to raise money for leukemia research, to benefit both the UHN and Weizmann."

The money raised from the tribute dinner will go to stem cell transplant research for leukemia patients at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, and for work on the basic science of stem cell research in leukemia being done by Yair Reisner, a professor of immunology at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot.

This is not the first connection between UHN and Weizmann, Baker noted.

Not only have he and Reisner exchanged visits, but the two institutions have trained each other's researchers.

While he said he's "embarrassed by all the publicity," Baker said he is proud that "the money is being used so cleverly."

Baker does not spend all his time in medicine. Music is an important and precious part of his life. He and his brother, an oral surgeon, play classical and semi-classical duets on the piano, and for 15 years, they have played duets for Life Beat, a fundraising show.

Baker also plays folk music on the guitar.

He and his wife, Barbara, a nurse, even belong to a neighbourhood book club and a tennis club. The couple met when he was a medical student at Toronto General and she was a nurse at Mount Sinai. They have two married children, Jeff, a lawyer (and also a musician) and Jillian, a doctor, and two grandchildren.

**Continued on page 22**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

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## YIDDISH CORNER

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## ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

## אַ בריוו פון דענמאַרק

פון ליבל ביילין, קאָפּענהאַגען

חשובע פרייַנד —

עס קומט אייך און אייער צייטונג אַ האַרציקן דאַנק פאַר דעם לייט־אַרטיקל (Editorial) „מיר זיינען אַלע דע־נישע" געשריבן פון אייער חשובן רעדאַקטאָר **מרדכי בן־דוד** מיט עטלעכע חדשים צוריק. דאָס איז געווען אין די וואָכן, וועו די גאַנצע אילאָמישע וועלט האָט פּראָטעסטירט קעגן די קאַריקאַטורן, וואָס זיינען געווען געדרוקט אין אַ דענישער צייטונג. עס איז אייך זיכער באַקאַנט דער נערודער, וואָס איז אַנגעמאַכט געוואָרן צווישן די אילאָמישע פאַנאַטיקער. זיי האָבן אַטאַקירט דענישע בירגער און דענישע דיפּלאָמאַטישע בנינים. גלייכצייטיק אויך באשעדיקט ענלעכע בנינים פון אמעריקע, ענגלאַנד און אַנדערע מערבֿדיקע לענדער. פּראָטעסטנדלעך, אז מדינת ישׂראל איז געווען אויפן ערשטן אָרט פון אַראָבישן האָס.

איז עס געווען אַ גרויסע מאַראַלישע הילף, וועו די פּרעסע — די יידישע און נישט־יידישע — האָט זיך געשטעלט אויף דער זייט פון אונדזער לאַדע דענמאַרק. צווישן זיי איז אויך געווען אייער חשובֿע צייטונג די The Canadian Jewish News. און פאַר דעם קומט אייך אַ דאַנק. מיר זיינען טאָקע אַ קליינע מדינה מיט אַרום זעקס מיליאָן איינוווינער, אָבער מיר זיינען פּרייַע מענטשן. און וועו עס קומען דאָ אַריין נייַע אימיגראַנטן, וואָס גלויבן, אז אירע איז זייער צייט, האָבן זיי אַ גרויסן טעות. אפילו היטלער האָט נישט געקאָנט צומאַכן דאָס מויל בײַ אונדזער באַפעלקערונג און דעמאָלט זיינען מיר געווען דרײַ מיט אַ האַלבן מיליאָן נפשות.

יאָ, דענמאַרק איז אַ קליין לענדל און אין ביטערע צייטן איז אונדזער קעניג געווען אין צענטער פון לעבן. אין וויל דאָ דערמאָנען אַ זייער אינטערעסאַנטע געשעעניש פון דער פאַראַגאַנענהייט.

וועו היטלער איז געוואָרן פירער פון דייטשלאַנד אין 1933, איז פונקט אויסגעפאַלן דער הונדערטסטער יובילעום פון אונדזער שיל. אַ ספּעציעלע פייערונג איז צוגעגרייט געוואָרן און, ווי אלעמאָל, איז דער קעניג און די קעניגין איינגעלאָדן געוואָרן צו דער שמחה. אבער מיט היטלערן אין דער שפּיץ איז דייטשלאַנד גע־וואָרן אַ שונא פון אונדז אלעמען. די פירערשאפט פון אונדזער קהילה האָט דאָן געשיקט דעם קעניג אַ בריוו מיט אזעלכע ווערטער: „אייער מאַיעסטעט, אויב איר פילט, אז די צייט פאַר שמחות איז שלעכט פאַר אייך, וועלן מיר פאַרשטיין אויב איר קענט נישט קומען".

אבער נישט דאָ אין דענמאַרק. דער קעניג האָט באַלד געענטפערט: „אידן האָט אַ טעות. איצט איז דווקא די צייט צו קומען אין שיל אַריין". און דאָס קעניגלעכע פאַראַפּאַלק איז געקומען און פאַרברענגט מיט די פאַר־זאַמלטע יידן.

דעם 9טן אפריל 1940 זיינען די נאצים אַריין אין דענמאַרק. אין אַנהייב זיינען זיי געווען „פּיינע לייט" און מיר האָבן נעלעבט שטיל און רויק. אין דעם יאָר איז דער קעניג געוואָרן 70 יאָר אלט און גאַנץ דענמאַרק האָט אים באַגריסט צו דער נעלעגנהייט. דער קעניג איז, צום באַדויערן, אין מאַל געפאַלן רייטנדיק אויפן פערד און האָט געמוטט אפּלעבן זיינע טעג אין א רעדערשטול. די נאַצע באַפעלקערונג האָבן אים געשיצט קעגן די נאציס. ביז דער לעצטער מינוט פון דער דייטשער אקופּאַציע זיינען געווען אונטערערדישע קעמפערס ביים שלאָס און אים נעהיטן. נאָך דער באפרייַונג איז געשאפן געוואָרן אַ קלוב פון דעם קעניגס באשיצערס. פאראיאָרן איז דער לעצטער פון זיי געשטאָרבן.

# Jews should be concerned, says terrorism expert

**Continued from page 1**

device and camouflage clothes. Media reports suggested the suspects had trained in remote locations north of Toronto.

Although police officials have been quiet as to possible targets, media reports suggested that the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Toronto headquarters of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill were being considered.

"These individuals were allegedly intent on committing acts of terrorism against their own country and their own people," said Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "Canada is not immune to the threat of terrorism."

Media reports noted Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden had singled out Canada, along with the United States, Britain, Australia and Spain, as a possible target.

While there was no indication Jews were specifically targeted by the suspects, terrorism expert David Harris suggested Jews should be concerned by the evidence of a possible homegrown terrorist group.

"Any time you have an Islamic radical threat, one of the first targets is inevitably Jewish people," he said. "The dehumanization of Jews has been an important element in radical Islamic ideology."

Harris, director of the international terrorist intelligence program at INSIGNIS Strategic Research, said Islamic radicals have previously considered striking Jewish targets. Ahmed Ressam, the millennium bomber whose plot to bomb the Los Angeles airport was foiled by a U.S. border guard, was part of a terrorist cell "that discussed striking Jewish-related targets in Montreal," Harris said.

A Jewish school library in Montreal was firebombed by people motivated by extremist Islamic fundamentalism, he added.

Harris, who recently joined the Canadian Coalition for Democracies as senior fellow for national security, said the Jewish community must ensure the physical security of its institutions, and "Jews should agitate like crazy [for Canada] to take control of its nearly out-of-control immigration system."

About 250,000 immigrants and refugees are admitted each year, and there is no realistic way to provide a security screening for all of them, he said.

American terrorism expert Steven Emerson, executive director of the Investigative Project, an organization that studies terrorism, said "there is no evidence the [17 suspects] were targeting Jewish institutions, but the Jewish community like all other Canadian communities should be concerned."

Jews could have been killed in a random attack, he said, adding, "There is always the potential for terrorists to consider Jewish institutions along with other targets."

In the United States after 9/11, the Portland Seven "were considering targeting Jewish schools," and last summer, Islamic militants were arrested for plotting attacks against Los Angeles synagogues, Emerson stated.

Emerson said the Ontario arrests could change the way Canada is perceived in connection to terrorism. "Even the United States conventionally thought of Canada as a way station, not as a target. This has changed the way people see it."

Canada, he concluded, now is home to "a critical mass of jihadists" – people who share the bin Laden mindset, but who are probably acting on their own.

## Leading legal scholar dies at 68

**By MYRON LOVE**
*Prairies Correspondent*

**Obituary**

**WINNIPEG** — Barney Sneiderman, one of Canada's leading legal scholars and medical ethicists, died in Winnipeg May 29 at age 68 from pancreatic cancer.

Sneiderman was originally from Connecticut and graduated from the University of Connecticut Law School in 1964. He practised law in Connecticut and also worked as a journalist in South Africa for short periods of time before earning a master's degree from New York University in 1967.

That same year, he was recruited to join the law faculty at the University of Manitoba. At the time of his death, he was an associate director of the University of Manitoba's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics.

He was also a published author and journalist.

"Barney was a very interesting guy," said Allan Fineblit, executive director of the Law Society of Manitoba and one of Sneiderman's former students. "He had strong views on legal policy and what the law should be. He also had a strong interest in medical and end-of-life issues."

Over the years, Sneiderman spoke out in favour of physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia and the decriminalization of marijuana, positions he voiced regularly in the pages of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and other Canadian newspapers.

Fineblit noted that Sneiderman was in great demand as a speaker at medical conferences. Last month, the University of Manitoba's faculty of medicine honoured Sneiderman for his contributions to medical ethics during the course of his career.

One of Sneiderman's other passions, Fineblit recalled, was military history and in particular history related to the rise of the Nazis and World War II. His most recent book, which is to be released soon, is a military history titled *Warriors Seven: Seven American Commanders, Seven Wars and the Irony of Battle*.

Fineblit described Sneiderman as culturally Jewish, but said he had a low opinion of organized religion.

"Other than for a family bar or bat mitzvah, the only time he would go to shul would be when he was asked to speak."

Sneiderman is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, and a sister.


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# Israel sends Iran a message via Hezbollah

While Iran's nuclear ambitions continue to make headlines, its support of the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terror group was recently in the news following a cross-border flare-up between Hezbollah and Israel.

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

An Associated Press report by Karen Laub, "Israel says Hezbollah positions destroyed," May 29, chronicled the fighting. Tensions began "after a senior official in the violent Palestinian group Islamic Jihad was killed in a car bomb in the southern Lebanese town of Sidon last week. Israel has denied involvement."

On May 27, "fighting began when Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanon at Israel's northern Galilee region, hitting an air force base, followed by attacks on Israeli outposts along the border.

"In response, Israel unleashed its fiercest artillery barrage since withdrawing from Lebanon in 2000."

Israeli commander Brig.-Gen. Gal Hirsch told AP that most of the dozens of Hezbollah outposts along the Israel-Lebanese border were destroyed.

These dozens of outposts, along with other Hezbollah military installations, operate in defiance of two UN Security Council resolutions: 425, which calls upon the Lebanese government to exercise its sovereign authority in the south, and 1559, which mandates the government to disarm all militias.

Egged on by Syria and its ally Iran, Lebanon allows Hezbollah to operate as a separate force against Israel in particular, even though Israel withdrew to a UN-certified border. Lebanon thus persists in refusing to comply with the world body.

AP reports that Hirsch "said he's seen a strong presence of Iranian Revolutionary Guards in southern Lebanon. 'Hezbollah is a wing of the Iranian effort to create a front line against the West,' he said, noting that the Iranians train and supply Hezbollah fighters."

In "Tel Aviv within range of new Iran-supplied Hezbollah rocket" (*Ha'aretz*, May 29), Ze'ev Schiff writes about Hezbollah's new, Iranian-supplied missiles that are "capable of hitting targets up to 200 kilometres away, putting all of Israel's major urban centres – including the southern city of Be'er Sheva – within striking distance."

Schiff explains that the rockets "have appeared under different names. One is Zelzal-2, and its earlier model is the Zelzal-1. Another Iranian name for the rocket is Nazeat."

They were "first seen in a military parade in Tehran in September 2005, the first such event following the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president. Six Shehab-3 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles were also on display.

"In response to slogans written on the Shehab-3 rockets, calling for 'Death to Israel' and 'Death to the U.S.,' the military attaches of France, Italy, Greece and Poland, invited to the event, left the VIP platform."

The Zelzal rockets are reportedly in Lebanon under the control of the Revolutionary Guards. They have not been used against Israel. But analysts warn that if Hezbollah, under Iranian supervision, were to fire these rockets, which unlike Katyushas have a clear "made-in-Iran" identification, that would amount to a declaration of war, a statement that Iran has become a front line state by proxy against Israel. At that point, the entire regional strategic equation would change.

To prevent this, among other steps, Israel had to send a clear message not only to Hezbollah, but also to Iran.

In "Israel changes the rules of the game" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, May 30), Samuel Segev argued that Israel's strikes were so precise and devastating that Hezbollah was forced to accept a ceasefire brokered by the Lebanese government, following the intervention of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

According to Segev, Hezbollah calculated, wrongly, that it could provoke Israel by firing missiles into the Galilee without incurring major retaliation, "[n]aively believing that Israel is powerless in the face of Iranian-supported Hezbollah."

Instead, Israel's military operation sent a "clear… message to Hezbollah, and to its Syrian and Iranian mentors that henceforth the rules of the game have been changed."

Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, continues to refuse to disarm, most recently at the request of some Lebanese leaders.

Despite Israel's strong military response, and Lebanon's brokered ceasefire, Hezbollah remains a threat, as Iran and Syria's proxy, not only to Israel, but also to Lebanon.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

# Dinner to honour Dr. Michael Baker

**Continued from page 20**

Still, he finds tremendous satisfaction in his administrative duties. "I get immense joy, almost a parental joy, in recruiting and encouraging young doctors."

Admittedly, Baker said, there are a lot of meetings, and a degree of aggravation.

"But that's the price you pay. Your decisions have an impact on people's welfare, their health, and their careers."

He said the medical shows so prevalent on television these days "amuse" him because of their dramatization of day-to-day life in hospitals.

"They underplay the sheer volume of the ordinary hard work it takes to care for sick people – the routine and unglamorous hard work. And they overplay the romance," he said.

Would he choose medicine as a career again? "With enthusiasm," he said, calling it exciting and fulfilling.

For more information about the dinner, call Weizmann Canada at 416-733-9220, or the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation at 416-340-4800, ext. 6895, or visit www.michaelbakertribute.ca.

# Neo-Nazi propaganda

**Continued from page 3**

artwork or the corresponding comments would serve.

"Angelo believes it is better for these issues to be out in the open and discussed by a group of people rather than pushed underground. In fact, the deviantART community has responded strongly to such artwork in the past and the overwhelming reaction has been that denying the Holocaust is an ignorant point of view.

"By showing how highly unpopular this viewpoint is in a public context like deviantART, the site and its members actually bolster the correct portrayal of the Holocaust."

"The Policy Violations team definitely keeps an eye on users who express these points of view and if they cross a line, they will be banned – as is the case with this user," Reynolds stated.

Michaels said despite her run-ins with deviantART's help desk, she still enjoys viewing the artwork available on the site. However, she has started an online petition at another Web address asking supporters to say "no to hate on deviantART.

"There are still a lot of other hateful parts that deviantART members have uploaded and they are all active," she said.

## On the Green 2006

An exciting and fun day on the green will send vital help to the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

On the Green 2006, Shaare Zedek's 16th Annual Golf Tournament, will be held June 15th at Caledon Woods Golf Club, a ClubLink Course.

Sponsored by The Home Game, 144 golfers will take to the links in support of the department of pediatric medicine at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

Golfers will enjoy 18 holes of golf, barbecue lunch and dinner catered by Zuchter Berk, as well as a raffle, silent auction and amazing prizes.

"This is guaranteed to be a great year" said committee co-chairs Jarrod Saltzman and Joel Solish. "We're both committed and excited to be carrying on this tradition and improving on it to help raise funds needed by the hospital."

In past years, On the Green has generated net proceeds upwards of $600,000 and this number is expected to increase. "We hope everyone will come out and make a difference" concluded Saltzman and Solish.

Shaare Zedek is known as the Hospital with a Heart for its century-long reputation for treating patients rather than just their illnesses, with an extra dimension of caring.

For more information contact Dara Newton, The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, 416-781-3584, www.hospitalwithaheart.ca.

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Attention: Steven Goldberg, Search Chairperson
or via e-mail to sgoldberg@sfgroup.ca

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Coast to Coast

# Film screening generates hostile reaction

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Shahina Siddiqui, a high-profile Winnipeg Muslim, filed a complaint with the Winnipeg Police Department ahead of the May 29 Canadian debut of the film *Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West*.

But if her goal was to warn people away from the documentary, all the media exposure generated by her opposition to it – as well as that of like-minded opponents of Israel, including some Jewish leftists – produced the opposite effect.

There was so much demand to see the film that the screening's sponsors – the Asper Foundation, the Winnipeg Zionist Initiative and Aish HaTorah – had to schedule a second showing for the next evening.

Siddiqui, the president of the Islamic Social Services Association of Canada, and her supporters watched the film in a private screening on May 26. They described the film as containing hate propaganda against Islam and Muslims.

Winnipeg Police spokesperson Sgt. Kelli Dennison said that, in response to Siddiqui's complaint, the police sent an officer to view the film, but he said no further action is being considered.

In introducing the film, Winnipeg Zionist Initiative chairman Jeremy Feuer said that the documentary was not anti-Muslim but rather anti-terror.

"*Obsession* shows how Islamic extremists are enemies of human rights," he said. "They abuse women and children and are opposed to freedom of speech and freedom of religion. And the people who are the principal victims are moderate Muslims."

*Obsession* was produced by Honestreporting.com, a media watchdog group that monitors what it sees as western media bias against Israel. The hour-long documentary shows scenes of graphic violence, including an Arab-language television show showing "Jews" supposedly slitting a Christian boy's throat to gather his blood for making matzah and bloodthirsty cartoons and TV shows from the Arab world featuring former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon drinking Arab blood.

Footage of the aftermath of terrorist attacks around the world is interspersed with comments from terror experts such as Daniel Pipes, Steven Emerson and John Loftus, as well as moderate Muslims such as Palestinian journalist Khaled Abu Toameh and Canadian professor and journalist Salim Mansur, and news clips from around the Muslim and western world of Muslim religious and political leaders calling for death to Jews, America, the West, and all non-Muslims.

There are also segments depicting indoctrination of children in the Arab world and pointing out the links between Arabs and Nazi Germany and the similarities between Nazi and Arab hate propaganda against Jews.

Following the May 29 screening of the film, Egyptian-born Nonie Darwish, founder of "Arabs for Israel," described her journey away from extremism to speaking out against Islamic extremists.

Darwish was born in Cairo and raised in Gaza, where, she recalls, she was taught to hate Jews. Her father was a high-ranking Egyptian military leader charged with sending fedayeen to attack Israel. He was assassinated by the Israel Defence Forces in 1956 when Nonie was eight years old.

"I remember being praised as the daughter of a *shahid* [martyr]," she said. "I just wanted my father back. My sisters and brothers and I were asked which of us was going to avenge our father's death by killing Jews when we grew up."

Darwish's awakening began after moving to the United States when she was 30. Many of the friends she made were Jewish, and she began learning about the other side of the story.

But the clincher for her came when her brother suffered a stroke in Gaza.

"The choice was between sending him to a hospital in Cairo of to Hadassah Hospital in Israel," she recalled. "All our Arab friends told us to send him to Hadassah Hospital if we wanted him to live. It showed that in a crisis situation, the Arabs trusted the Jews more than their fellow Arabs."

But Darwish was truly galvanized into action by the Sept. 11 attacks. Since then, she has been a frequent speaker on television and in public forums, warning about the dangers of Islamic extremism and calling on all people, including other Muslims, to stand up against it.

*Obsession* is scheduled to be shown June 22 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, with Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day introducing it.


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Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Jewish Family and Child Service

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Ezer Mizion

Coast to Coast

Camp Kawagama reunion attendees may remember fellow campers from this 1953 cabin. Middle row, second and third from left, are Susan Palter Halpern and Geraldine Sherman.

# *Camp alumni head back to their island for reunion*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

They may be in their 50s and 60s, but this summer Geraldine Sherman, Fran Cappe, Bruce Cole and Susan Palter are going back to camp, along with up to 250 of their peers.

Sherman, a Toronto writer who turns 65 this month, is co-chair of the Camp Kawagama reunion, being held Sept. 16 at the Haliburton site of the camp she attended as a youngster.

Kawagama, a Jewish camp that operated from 1945 to 1964, is now the site of Moorelands Camp, which serves needy inner city Toronto children.

For small-town Jews like Sherman, who grew up in Chatham, Ont., the camp played a "hugely important" role. "There was always a Shabbat ceremony, and [almost] everybody there was Jewish, which when you're the only Jewish child in your class is a revelation… You realize that Jewish kids come in all shapes and sizes. Some you like and some you don't, but being Jewish was just something taken for granted."

The reunion came about as the result of a CBC radio documentary by former Kawagamite Sam Levene, and a 2001 article by Sherman in *Toronto Life* magazine titled "The Girls of Summer."

Cappe, who attended the camp from 1956 to 1967, has organized her own mini-reunion for the September event, tracking down former cabinmates in Los Angeles, San Diego, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, New York and Vancouver. In all, 14 women, most of whom have had no contact for more than 40 years, will room together for the reunion. The four Torontonians in the group will meet the others at the airport and drive north together.

Despite some initial anxiety over whether they would still have anything in common, Cappe, a 57-year-old social worker and chair of the alumni committee, said that through e-mails and some phone calls, they have discovered that their connections "are still really strong… There is a huge excitement about [seeing] one another."

Several of the women have confessed to crying while reading each other's e-mails and many of them now compulsively check for each other's news, she wrote on the reunion website (www.kawagama2006.com).

Although many camps have reunions, Cappe said this one is particularly exciting because it is being held at the original site. "It's pretty special. It's on an island in beautiful Haliburton. It's absolutely isolated and private. The whole island is the camp. It's breathtakingly beautiful."

Cappe praised camp owners Elsie Palter, a psychologist, and her husband David for their "extraordinary understanding of what children needed... For many of us, it permanently shaped our values." Citing the camaraderie and spirit that pervaded the camp, she said she learned about the importance of friendships and relationships, and valuing "the way you do things" over winning or losing.

Susan Halpern, the Palters' daughter and a cabinmate of Sherman's, told *The CJN* from her home in Berkeley, Ca., that her parents, who had met at a B'nai Brith camp, were prompted by their love of children to "take this huge risk" of buying an island and asking parents to entrust them with the care of their children.

"What was really important to me [at camp] was the sense of community," said Halpern, a psychotherapist by training who met her husband at Kawagama. "The people in my cabin came back year after year."

Reunion activities will include entertainment featuring old show tunes performed at camp, a memorial tree planting ceremony, and a "passing of the torch" to Moorelands' executive director.

Organizers are also raising funds for a new cabin to be built for Moorelands campers.

Registration deadline is June 16. For further information, go to www.kawagama2006.com, or e-mail kawagama2006@moorelands.ca.

Donations for the new cabin can be made by calling 416-446-9987 ext. 308, or sending a cheque to Moorelands Community Services, Kawagama Reunion 2006, 250 Merton St., Suite 504, Toronto, Ontario M4S 1B1.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

To Miriam & Ivan Muller celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, mazel tov and best wishes from your loving children and grandchildren.

**Maria & Ronald Struminger**
along with big brother Jarod Ryan, proudly announce the birth of
*Phoebe Erin*
at 8:38pm on Friday, January 20th in New Jersey.
Phoebe weighed 7.79 lbs and was 19" long. Thrilled Grandparents are Betsy & Lou Fruitman and Leny Struminger. Excited Great-Grandparents are Mary & David Dale.

Happy 85th birthday to Albert Waisglass from your children & grandchildren. You're not getting older – you're getting better!

Mazel tov Sivanne & Jay on your engagement. Parents, Debbie Lenchner and Moshe Lenchner, Mirah & Howard Detsky. Grandparents, Sylvia Toporek, Marjorie Detsky, Miriam & John Webster.

Congratulations to Dr. Allen Aptekar on graduating from the College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan. You did it! Love, your whole family.

Happy birthday Flo. We love you. Gerry, Ruth, Lisa, David, Stacey, Andy, Shevi, Natalie, Jeremy and Allison Urbach.

Mazel tov Rebecca Elgrichi on your bat mitzvah. Your family and friends are proud of you. You did a wonderful job. We love you!

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!**

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: Monday, June 12, is the deadline for the June 22 issue and Monday, June 19, is the deadline for the June 29 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, June 8

### SCREAM FOR DARFUR

Adath Israel Young Business and Professionals Network hosts **Jonathan Laski**, of STAND Canada, talking about what individuals can do to stop the genocide in Darfur. 7:30 p.m. 416-635-5340

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada holds its annual gala concert, "Celebration of Life," 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Tickets, 905-695-0611 or 1-800-355-1648.

### MAKING SHABBAT EARLY

Nishma presents **Rabbi Aaron Selevan** on "Halachic Issues of Shabbat: Making Shabbat Early." 8 p.m. at the home of **Joel** and **Lisa Jakobovits**, 52 Theodore Pl. 416-630-0588

## Saturday, June 10

### PARSHAH DISCUSSION

**Morley Goldberg** on the weekly portion, Naso. 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

### VETERANS HONOURED

The Thornhill Community Shul hosts 10 disabled veterans of Israeli wars, in Toronto under the auspices of Beit Halochem Canada. The veterans will be honoured during Shabbat morning service followed by a community kiddush.

### EMUNAH SHABBAT

Emunah Women hold their 11th annual city-wide seudah shlishit program at six synagogues throughout the GTA. BAYT, with **Lori Grysman** at 5 p.m. B'Nai Torah Congregation with **Dr. Esther Libman** at 6:15 p.m. Beth Jacob V'anshe Drildz with **Ilana Ginz** at 5:30 p.m. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with **Rivka Sonenberg** at 6 p.m. Shaarei Tefillah with **Chashi Skobac** at 5:30 p.m. and **Laya Crust** at Yeshivat Or Chaim at 5:30 p.m. Couvert $18. Sponsorships $36 or $54. RSVP to 416-636-0036.

## Sunday, June 11

### RUMMAGE SALE

The Montessori Jewish Day School holds a large rummage sale 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-784-5071

### HUGE GARAGE SALE

Lodzer Centre Congregation holds a garage sale with tons of bargains. 9 a.m. 2 Heaton. 416-636-6665

### SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc. to hike the Humber Arboretum and the West Humber River Valley. Bring a picnic lunch. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum information gazebo, 205 Humber College Blvd. Register at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

### JEWISH MOSAIC FESTIVAL

Experience a unique Jewish international cultural event 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre featuring an interactive showcase of activities and displays representing different ethnic Jewish communities. 416-636-1880, ext. 296

### ARYEH BARAF BRUNCH

Aryeh Baraf Chesed Network for Jewish Singles hosts a brunch with a speaker from Zareinu. 10:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Congregation. $5. 416-221-0459

### STUDENTS' ART SHOW

Students from art classes at Earl Bales Park and Antibes Community Centres display their works at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Rd. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

### HADASSAH SALE

Hadassah-WIZO hosts a warehouse sale of new clothes, shoes, books, costume jewelry and bargains galore. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at 88 Konrad Ct. Cash only. 416-630-8373

**Continued on page 27**

Mom and Dad, it shouldn't be an 'option' to invest in your Jewish children's 'Futures'.

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What's New

**Continued from page 26**

**CHORALAIRS CONCERT**

The Choralairs of North York perform their 43rd closing concert of Broadway, pop, and folk songs, 2 p.m. at the Earl Bales Park, social hall. Free. 416-631-0029

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL**

The Zaglembier Society of Toronto dedicates a memorial to the members' families and friends who died in the Holocaust. 2:30 p.m at Bathurst Lawn Cemetery. 416-229- 2394

**HAMILTON JNF DINNER**

The Hamilton Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner honours **Anne** and **Mark Mandell**, at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Cocktails 5:30 p.m. Tickets, 905-527-5516 or 866-527-5516.

***SHTICK!***

Enjoy the talents of members of the First Narayever Congregation in a series of comedic scenes, *Shtick! A Celebration Of Jewish Playwrights*, directed by **Julie Tepperman** and **Aaron Willis**. 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at 187 Brunswick Ave. $15. To reserve, call 416-927-0546.

**KLEIN CHOIR REUNION**

If you sang in the Beth Emeth or Shaarei Shomayim choirs under the direction of **Harold Klein**, meet old friends and sing together again at a concert, presentation and dessert reception in honour of Chazzan Klein at the Village Shul. 7 p.m. Register at kleinchoirreunion.com.

**SALSA FUNDRAISER**

Join Ve'ahavta for its "Sizzilling Salsa Fundraiser," an hour-long dance lesson, dancing all night and dessert. 7 p.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave. Proceeds to support homeless programs. $20. 416-964-7698, ext 19

**JEWS 'N' SHMOOZE**

Join a new group for singles 40-55 for casual gatherings of conversation and make new friends. "Terrace Talk: A Rooftop Meeting of the Minds." 7:30 p.m. at the Village Shul. $10. Refreshments served. Reserve in advance, 905-764-1818.

## Monday, June 12

**COURTSHIP & MARRIAGE**

Oraynu Congregation completes a Jewish life-cycle series with **Rabbi Eva Goldfinger** on "Jewish Courtship and Marriage: From Ownership to Equality." North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. lower level. 7:30 p.m. Non-members $20. RSVP, 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org.

**YIDDISH SCHOOLS**

**Jordana De Bloeme**, an undergraduate at York University, presents her paper "The Ideologies Behind the Establishment of the Yiddish Secular School System in Interwar Poland" at a meeting of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation. 7:30 p.m. in the guest lounge, 2 Covington Rd.

## Tuesday, June 13

**DA VINCI CODE**

**Ella Rind** speaks about "The Rumour Around the Da Vinci Code" at the Dr. W. Filderman Lodge meeting. 6 p.m. 15 Hove St. For information, call **Neti Badulescu**, 416-733-1214, or **Felicia Lowy**, 416-631-0634.

## Wednesday, June 14

**HEALING CONFERENCE**

The Toronto Healing Project holds a one-day conference on "God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" with keynote speaker **Rabbi Dow Marmur**. For information, call 416-944-3359.

**JEWISH HISTORY**

Join **Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovitz** for the final lecture on Moments in Jewish History, "History of the Israel Defence Forces." 8 p.m. at Clanton Park Synagogue. 416-633-4193

## Other news

**ANIMATION CELEBRATION**

The Winchevsky Centre hosts a movie night "Jewish Animation Celebration" on Thursday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. Films to be screened include *Slide* (Canada), *Fallout* (Israel), *Your Name in Cellulite* (Canada) and *The Nuclear Physicist Gives His Son a Haircut* (United States). Members $4, guests $6. 416-789-5502

**REBUILDING MISSISSIPPI**

Hillel hosts the opening reception of "Re-constructing Mississippi: A Photo-documentary of Interfaith Relief Work," a photography exhibit that chronicles Jewish university students from the Toronto area helping citizens of Mississippi rebuild their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. All photographs will be sold to help the continued relief effort of Katrina's victims. Thursday, June 15, 8 p.m. at the Miles Nadal JCC.

**ZAREINU MOVEATHON**

Join the 9th annual Zareinu Moveathon and help children with physical and developmental disabilities. Sunday, June 18, at Earl Bales Park featuring 50K and 100K master bike rides, a 20K family ride, a 10K run and a 2K family fun loop. The Moveathon Fair takes place 11 a.m.-6 p.m. with carnival games and free live entertainment. For information or registration, call 416-661-1800 or visit www.moveathon.com.

**VENDORS NEEDED**

Na'amat Canada seeks vendors for its Craft and Gift Sale, Sunday, July 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden Centre. Call 416-636-5425 daytime, 905-881-8161 evenings.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. For information/registration, call **Diane**, 416-638-7800, ext. 246, or www.jfandcs.com.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. Tuesday, June 13, 9:30-1:30 a.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies to deal with a high-conflict situation and lessen the impact on their children. Tuesday, June 13, 6:30-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

Happiest Baby On the Block: A one-night workshop for parents of newborns and infants who wish to learn how to calm their baby based on the principles of **Dr. Harvey Karp**. Wednesday, June 14, from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Centre at the Promenade Mall.

Adolescents and Divorce: A workshop for parents of adolescents going through a separation or divorce. Wednesday, June 14, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Developing A Successful Parenting plan: A workshop for parents wanting to develop a businesslike relationship with their "ex" partners. Tuesday, June 20, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313.

Call to register for all programs.

## FOR SENIORS

**Temple Sinai Senior Club** presents "Food for Thought Lecture Series" Mondays 2-4 p.m. through June 26. Monday, June 12, **Prof. David Dewitt** on "Political Security Relations in the Middle East." Members $7, guests $10. 416-221-6375

**Association of Jewish Seniors** holds its 8th annual "To Our Good Health" luncheon, Thursday, June 22, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. Members free, guests $3. Register by June 15, 416-635-2860.

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, June 25; Casino Rama Wednesday, June 28; Casino Niagara, July 26. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 8, Beit Halochem concert. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**PAL Seniors Group at Earl Bales** go to Mohawk Casino and Raceway, Wednesday, June 28. For tickets, call 416-398-2424.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

"Secrets to Youthful Aging" with **Phil Fields**, Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. beginning June 12 for 10 weeks. Members $25, non-members $35.

Smile Theatre perform *Moonlight Serenade*, Tuesday, June 13, at 7 p.m. Non-members $5.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Aging with Purpose and Joy: If Not Now, When?" June 13, 10 a.m.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org

Annual Spring Concert MNJCC Women's Community Chorus, Sunday, June 11, 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 14, 8 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. $10, students/seniors/kids $7, families $20.

Golden Age Club: Seniors in the City attend the Jewish Mosaic Festival together Sunday, June 11, 1-3 p.m.

Jazz at the J presents **Theresa Tova**, Wednesday, June 21, 8 p.m. at the Al Green Theatre. $22 in advance, $28 on the day of the performance. 416-872-1212, 1-800-461-3333 or www.ticketing.com.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music presents "Opera Sundays," Sunday afternoons through June 18 in the Koffler Loggia, 1-5 p.m. Call ext. 228.

The Koffler concert band, Resa's Pieces, holds its annual concert Tuesday, June 13, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets, ext. 228.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Society is looking for volunteers for the Jewish Mosaic Festival on Sunday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact **Allison** at 416-630-6481.

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29***

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Polly Katz | May 18/06 | 2121 Bathurst St |
| Charles Macklin | May 19/06 | 10 Kenneth Av |
| Floyd Prager | May 19/06 | 304 Glenayr Rd |
| Sam Britt | May 20/06 | 130 Neptune Dr |
| Sofia (Utzitel) Kutikova | May 20/06 | 11 Goldfinch Ct |
| Esther Skovronek | May 22/06 | 25 Purdon Dr |
| Brahm Ostronoff | May 23/06 | 22 Kimbergate Wy |
| Israel Grodinsky | May 23/06 | 55 Ameer Av |
| Bernard Ostry | May 24/06 | 44 Charles St W |
| Jodi Ann Korman | May 24/06 | 111 Inverlochy Bl |
| Neil J. Orbst | May 26/06 | 31 Ollerton Rd |
| Marion Bockner | May 24/06 | 1199 N.E. 99th St |
| Carolyn Solomons | May 27/06 | 20 Simeon Ct |
| Ester Zembowski | May 27/06 | 601 Clark Av W |

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gottesman, Carol Pauline | May 19/06 | 238 Torresdale Av |
| Branicky, Samuel | May 19/06 | 170 Red Maple Rd |
| Bercovici, Cantor David | May 18/06 | 60 Macklin St |
| Laszlo, Franz | May 18/06 | Private |
| Orzy, Edith | May 18/06 | Private |
| Gould, Marilyn | May 22/06 | 51 Long Point Dr |
| Goldgrab, Leon | May 23/06 | 107 Collinson Bl |
| Eichler, Gabor Gary | May 25/06 | 3179 Bathurst St |
| Mervin, Edward | May 23/06 | 2075 Bayview Av |
| Lazebnik, Morris | May 25/06 | 41 Danby Av |
| Kardish, Belle | May 25/06 | 205 Cummer Av |
| Anhang, Eli Jason | May 24/06 | 255 Tansley Rd |
| Spiegel, Orna | May 25/06 | 150 Faywood Bl |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alexander Mandel | May 26/06 | 20 Sanderling Pl |
| George Jolson | May 25/06 | 15 Canyon Ave |
| Goldie Shore | May 28/06 | 351 Christie St |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**DR. SIDNEY TEPLITZ** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie
Adath Israel Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**SAMUEL GILBERT** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Pride of Israel Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**HELEN STEINFELD** ע"ה
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 10:30 a.m.**
**Lambton Hills Cemetery**
Royal York Rd between Eglinton & Dundas
Chmielniker Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**SADYE WASSER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 2:00 p.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Sunnyside Section 3
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**TERRY KATES** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Beth Emeth Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**RUTH STEIN** ע"ה
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Dawes Road Cemetery**
(enter via Herton Ave., 1 block east of entrance)
Beth David Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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**NAFTALI KANNER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, June 11th, 1:00 p.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Clanton Park Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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Obituary

# Ostry was a prominent civil servant

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Bernard Ostry, a former high-ranking and influential federal and provincial civil servant in the areas of culture and broadcasting who was known for his accomplishments in Canadian public service, died of cancer at his home in Toronto on May 24. He was 78.

**Bernard Ostry**

He was born in the rural farming community of Wadena, Sask., where his father ran a general store. He was sent to live in a Jewish orphanage in Winnipeg for several years so he could learn to read the Torah for his bar mitzvah.

He attended public school in Winnipeg and high school in Flin Flon, Man. He graduated from the University of Manitoba and went to England to teach international history at the University of London.

In England, he became reacquainted with his future wife, Sylvia Knelman, who had attended public school with him in Winnipeg. She held a teaching position at Oxford University and went on to become an internationally known economist.

He returned to Canada from England in the 1960s and subsequently held positions in Ottawa with the Research Council of Canada and deputy ministerial positions in both the federal and the Ontario provincial governments, where he was responsible for citizenship programs and communications, and later, industry and tourism.

His love of art and culture drew him to associations with the Royal Ontario Museum, the McMichael Canadian Collection and the Art Gallery of Ontario. He also served as secretary general of the National Museum of Canada.

He collected Art Deco art and furniture and the Royal Ontario Museum published a book on his Art Deco furniture. He donated a collection of 17th-and 18th-century furniture to Government House in Ottawa and he has made significant donations to museums and art galleries.

In 1985, he became chair and chief executive officer of TVOntario, retiring in 1992.

With his long record of public service, he was named to the Order of Canada.

He has been involved with publishing, and assisted with the publication of *The Sterling Public Servant: A Global Tribute to Sylvia Ostry; At the Global Crossroads: The Sylvia Ostry Foundation Lectures* (six lectures given annually which explore the global economy); and *Visions of Canada, The Alan Plaunt Memorial Lectures 1958-1992*, co-edited by him.

The Ostrys have supported many Jewish causes, including ORT, for which they served as honorary presidents.

He is survived by his wife Sylvia, his sons Adam and Jonathan, two grandsons Daniel and Joshua and his brother George.

On Campus

# Israeli doctoral student wins peace fellowship

An Israeli law student at the University of Toronto is the recipient of Canadian Friends of Peace Now's (CFPN) first annual Peace Fellowship.

Meital Pinto is writing her doctoral thesis on an Israeli legal framework for the advancement of minority language rights.

She received the award, which includes a sum of $2,000, at a recent luncheon in her honour at the University of Toronto Faculty Club, attended by CFPN board members as well as several prominent academics and senior officials of the New Israel Fund and the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy.

"We had several excellent applicants from across Canada," said Sheldon Gordon, CFPN board member, "but the panel that adjudicated the competition was unanimous in choosing Meital Pinto.

"Anyone who has read her impressive resume and her research proposal would certainly understand why they came to that conclusion."

Pinto earned her bachelor of law degree, magna cum laude, from the Interdisciplinary Centre in Herzliya, Israel, where she was research assistant to Amnon Rubenstein, dean of law and former education minister.

She clerked for a justice of the Israeli Supreme Court and then earned her master of law degree from the University of Toronto.

Her doctoral research is aimed at the development of a legal framework which would guarantee Arabic-language rights in Israel in order to improve the status of Israel's Arab minority through greater recognition of their cultural identity.

The judges were Derek Penslar, professor of history and director of the Jewish studies department at University of Toronto; Mira Sucharov, assistant professor of political science at Carleton University; and Fred Zemans, professor emeritus of law at York University.

CFPN offers the fellowship to a deserving doctoral student at any Canadian university whose research is consistent with the mission, goals and values of Peace Now, in particular with its advocacy of a Palestinian-Israeli peace based upon mutual recognition, a secure, viable state for the Palestinians and a secure, Jewish state for the Israelis.

**SINGLES EVENTS**

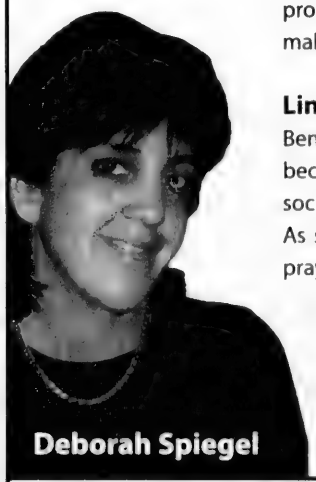
*DEADLINE:* Wednesday 4 p.m. 8 days preceding issue date

For rates or to place an ad call 416-391-1836

Adath Israel Young Business & Professionals Network urges you to help stop the Genocide! 'Scream for Darfur' discover what you can do with Jonathan Laski, STAND Canada's Director, Media & External Communications Thurs., June 8, 7:30 p.m. 37 Southbourne Avenue 416-635-5340. Free admission


# We are proud to introduce two new faces, inspiring minds and music at Holy Blossom

**Deborah Spiegel** is our new Director of Education. Under her leadership, our Religious School has been renewed. It is a vibrant centre of learning and fun for students and parents. In addition to her experience at The Leo Baeck Day School and as the supervisor of Holy Blossom's Hebrew and Senior schools, Debbie brings a wealth of knowledge of informal education — having been the Assistant Director of Camp Ramah and a leader of Toronto's March of the Living program. Her combination of skill-based and experiential education is what makes our School a dynamic learning environment for children and teens.



Deborah Spiegel

**Lindi Rivers** is our new part-time Cantorial Soloist. Lindi substituted for Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner during his recent sabbatical. In that short time, Lindi became a beloved member of our synagogue community. With a background in social work, she offers support to our families in times of need and celebration. As she continues her studies with Cantor Maissner, Lindi's voice inspires our prayer services and fills our sanctuary with the sounds of tradition.

Lindi Rivers

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For more information on Holy Blossom schools, contact Debbie Speigel at (416) 789-3291 ext. 239 or *dspiegel@holyblossom.org*.
For more information on membership, contact Shannon Tramer at (416) 789-3291 ext. 227 or *stramer@holyblossom.org*.

1856 to 2006: Celebrating 150 years as a congregation

# Jewish CUPE members upset at union resolution

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Four years ago at its regional convention, the Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) adopted a last-minute, emergency resolution that critics argued was biased against Israel.

Many of CUPE's Jewish members – including those employed by five Jewish agencies in the Toronto area – were incensed at the one-sided nature of the resolution, which in part claimed Israel "invaded" territories in 1967, ignoring the aggression of Israel's Arab neighbours.

Around the same time, a CUPE official was seen carrying a CUPE flag at a rally protesting a speaking engagement of former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Carolyn Roberts, president of CUPE local 2137, which represents 170 workers at Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Toronto, recalls being "blindsided" by the 2002 vote, and she feels that with the recent resolution attacking Israel that was adopted two weeks ago at CUPE Ontario's regional convention, it's pretty much a case of déjà vu all over again.

The resolution is part of an international effort to boycott Israeli products and divest assets from Israel. The resolution criticizes Israel for failing to recognize a Palestinian right to self-determination and slams Israel's "apartheid wall," the barrier Israel is constructing to prevent terrorist attacks that originate in the West Bank.

Katharine Nastovski, chair of CUPE Ontario's international solidarity committee, said boycotts worked against South Africa and should be used to force Israel to permit "the right of [Palestinian] refugees to return to their homes and property."

Roberts believes that leaving CUPE would be going too far, but she is upset that the regional wing of CUPE is making international statements, leaving people like her to field angry calls from members who want to know why their union is dabbling in Middle Eastern politics.

Local 2137 is a member of CUPE National, not the Ontario division, but the union's members feel they have been implicated in the Ontario vote, she said.

"I'm embarrassed to have to speak to my members about this issue," Roberts said. "I think it's embarrassing to CUPE National."

Four years ago, many CUPE members expressed dissatisfaction with the vote, and it was made clear to CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan that employees at the Toronto Jewish agencies were angry as well, Roberts said. Given that CUPE touts solidarity among members as a key value and proclaims "an injury to one is an injury to all," she wondered why CUPE Ontario is adopting resolutions that so many members find offensive.

Lil Nobel, president of CUPE Local 2063, which represents workers from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services Toronto, said, "We are ashamed to be a members of this union. Despite what Mr. Ryan says, the resolution is an affront to the Jewish people, because it singles out Israel among all the countries in the world.

"There are many urgent issues affecting workers in this province. Israel's policies are not one of them. We don't understand why this outrageous, unreasonable and unbalanced resolution is taking precedence."

Local 2063 pulled out of CUPE Ontario following its vote on Israel four years ago, joining CUPE National, Nobel added.

CUPE National weighed into the fray with a news release stating it would not urge local unions to join a boycott of Israel.

"CUPE National has a policy that was adopted at our 2003 national convention. That policy states that we 'demand that the Israeli Government immediately withdraw from the occupied territories and abide by UN Resolution 242 and 338; call for and actively work towards an end to all acts of violence that take the lives of innocent people, whether they be Palestinian or Israeli; and, help develop a peace process based on equality between Israelis and Palestinians and based on the implementation of UN resolutions and international law.'"

CUPE National concluded by suggesting, "Debates focused on the Middle East should respect the legitimate aspirations of both the Palestinian and Israeli people."

Ryan told *The CJN* the resolution was not aimed at Jews but at the policies of Israel. It was adopted in a unanimous vote at the CUPE convention and was submitted in accordance with union protocols, leaving ample opportunity for opponents to raise their concerns.

He defended the apartheid references, saying "it's clear to anybody with any degree of common sense that there are clear parallels with what is happening in Palestine to South Africa."

As to the issue of Palestinian self-determination, he dismissed suggestions Israeli leaders had already acknowledged that, saying "I come out of Ireland and know about the right to self-determination. You can't have self-determination without a viable state.

"It's no different than Northern Ireland. You had acts of terrorism in Northern Ireland. Does that mean you put down the entire population because of the actions of a few?"

When *The CJN* suggested to Ryan the separation barrier had led to a dramatic reduction in terrorist attacks, Ryan shot back, "Maybe if the occupation wasn't taking place, the bombings wouldn't be taking place."

Steven Shulman, director of Canadian Jewish Congress's Ontario region, said Congress and the Canada-Israel Committee had received numerous complaints about the CUPE resolution. Not only are many of CUPE's Jewish members upset, but many calls and e-mails are coming from non-Jews equally concerned about the resolution. An e-mail "action alert" by Congress called on Canadians to denounce the resolution to CUPE Ontario's leadership and it urged CUPE Ontario members to voice their disapproval of the resolution to their local union leaders. The mailing questions why CUPE Ontario would pass a resolution after Israel withdrew from Gaza and parts of the West Bank and had announced it would continue to pull out of more territory.

"Why would CUPE Ontario call for a boycott that will punish Israelis just as these important steps are being taken?" the mailing asks.

Ryan said CUPE Ontario plans to follow the resolution with an action plan that will include educating members about the situation, work with the Canadian Labour Congress to adopt a similar position, lobby against the "apartheid-like practices of the state of Israel," and examine appropriate areas of boycott and divestment of CUPE assets. Most major Muslim and Arab groups strongly endorsed the CUPE Ontario resolution, including the Canadian Islamic Congress, the Canadian Arab Federation, the Muslim Canadian Congress and the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations.

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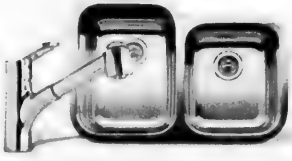

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# Golden Gate diet offers new ways to lose weight successfully

By NORENE GILLETZ

Summer is almost here and warmer weather also means more time outdoors. We can no longer cover up those extra pounds with heavy, bulky clothing to hide the damage of winter's hibernation. Many of my readers are always looking for the perfect diet to lose weight. They're also concerned with finding a healthy way to accomplish their goal.

Recently, I've received several books for review offering dieting advice, some with excellent suggestions, others that make it seem much too complicated.

One of the most interesting books that appeared on my desk is *The Golden Gate Diet* (Midsummer Press) by Dr. Adam Brook, a Harvard-educated surgeon and weight loss authority. The diet Brook has developed is easy to follow and doesn't call for extreme measures. It is a way to lose weight and a way to eat healthy, based on his clinical experiences with his patients and his extensive knowledge of the scientific literature relating to weight issues.

You can check out his website at www.goldengatediet.com for some excerpts from the book. You'll learn about Sleep-Wake and Hunger-Satiety Rhythms, Popular Diets that Don't Work, and a sample meal plan.

Brook told me: "The Golden Gate diet is the natural way to lose weight. It is based on the latest research from the leading centres and my experiences with my patients. People on the Golden Gate Diet will lose weight and reduce their risk of heart disease, cancer and diabetes."

His experience treating people with weight problems has shown that it's best to keep things as simple as possible. He offers the following advice to his patients trying to lose weight, yet stay healthy while doing it:

- If you eat foods with a low caloric density, you will lose weight; if you eat foods with a high caloric density, you will gain weight.
- Eat solid food with caloric densities less than 2. It's okay to eat solid food with caloric densities between 2 and 3, but go easy.
- Don't eat solid food with caloric densities greater than 3.
- Don't drink liquids with caloric densities greater than 0.4.
- Use common sense.

So what is caloric density?

It is the number of calories in the food divided by the weight of the food. For example, chocolate pudding has a caloric density of 1.3. (1/3 cup contains 150 calories and weighs 113 grams). An apple has a caloric density of 0.6. (1 apple contains 81 calories and weighs 142 grams).

Don't panic – you don't need to do the math! Brook has done it for you in the comprehensive charts that appear in his book.

It's easy to get the hang of the Golden Gate Diet. Vegetables, fruits, fish, skinless chicken all have low caloric density. Candy and snack foods have a high caloric density. The higher the number, the more fattening the food is.

The Golden Gate Diet provides you with delicious and healthy meal plans developed by Alise Arato, a young chef and food stylist from California. Alise is the daughter of Rona (Ronnie) Arato, an author of children's books who lives in Toronto.

There is a 1,200 calorie a day plan for losing weight and a 2,000 calorie plan for maintaining a low weight. Here are some of the wonderful menu offerings:

For breakfast, you can have egg white scramble with cream cheese, cream of wheat, berries, bananas, an apricot-pineapple smoothie, oatmeal, raisin bran, muesli cereal, french toast, waffles or pancakes (low-fat, of course)!

For lunch, you can have a turkey burner, pizza with nonfat mozzarella, tuna with mayo stuffed into tomato halves, curried chicken salad, a roast beef or turkey sandwich with arugula, roasted peppers and pesto mayo. You can enjoy spaghetti with chunky tomato sauce and cubed chicken, salmon salad with cucumber and herbs, a grilled portobello mushroom sandwich with roasted peppers, baby spinach and pesto. Try turkey and black bean chili or Moroccan sliced chicken breast salad with olives, figs and orange slices… yummy!

For dinner, you can have a braised veal chop, seared halibut kebabs, skinless barbecued chicken breast, zucchini lasagna with nonfat mozzarella, poached salmon with cucumber dill sauce, chicken vegetable stir-fry, low-fat turkey meatloaf or grilled turkey breast with roasted tomato salsa, even honey orange glazed salmon.

**Poached salmon as seen in *The Hadassah Jewish Holiday Cookbook* by Publishers Group West.**

For dessert, you can have a piece of blueberry, cherry or lemon meringue pie, mixed berries with frozen yogurt, a red wine poached pear, grilled fruit kebab with honeyed yogurt, apple cinnamon crumble, roasted plums, pineapple grilled with lemon and honey, chocolate, vanilla or rice pudding, or angel food cake with half a sliced peach sprinkled with cinnamon.

My only complaint is that the Golden Gate Diet does not include recipes, which could always be added in a future edition. So I've included a couple of my own quick, delicious and healthy recipes from my book *Healthy Helpings* (Whitecap Books). *Healthy Helpings* replaces *MealLeaniYumm!* (no longer in print). I hope they help you in your quest for healthy recipes and help you lose weight in the process. Enjoy these simply delicious dishes that are perfect fare for summertime – or anytime!

### CAJUN CHICKEN BREASTS

Source: *Healthy Helpings* by Norene Gilletz

Add a little spice to your life. Simply fantastic and so versatile!

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1/2 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. lemon juice
salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
1/2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. cayenne
1/2 tsp. dried basil
2 cloves garlic crushed

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Trim off excess fat. Combine oil, lemon juice, seasonings and garlic in a mixing bowl. Add chicken and marinate for an hour at room temperature, or up to 24 hours covered in the refrigerator.

Preheat oven to 400. Remove chicken from marinade and arrange in a single layer on a foil-lined baking sheet. Pour marinade over and around chicken. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes, turning chicken pieces over at half time. Baste occasionally with pan juices. When done, chicken will be springy when lightly touched. If overcooked, chicken will be tough. Yield: 4 servings.

**Fowl Play!** Marinate a batch of chicken breasts, then freeze in meal-sized packages for up to a month. (Never do this with chicken that was previously frozen, then defrosted.) When needed, thaw chicken overnight in the refrigerator (or in the microwave), then cook as directed.

**Grilled Cajun Chicken Breasts:** Preheat barbecue or broiler. Marinate chicken as directed. Remove from marinade and pat dry. Grill or broil over medium to medium-high heat about 5 to 7 minutes on each side. Baste chicken frequently with marinade; don't overcook. Cooking time on the barbecue will be shorter than under the broiler because of the higher, direct heat. Cook chicken over heat, not flame, to prevent flare-ups!

### MICROPOACHED SALMON FILLETS

Source: *Healthy Helpings* by Norene Gilletz

Other fish fillets (sole, roughy, snapper) can be used. Salmon is very high in Omega-3 fatty acids, which help fight heart disease. This recipe is so quick and scrumptious, it's no problem to cook fish two or three times a week.

iceberg or Romaine lettuce leaves
4 salmon fillets, skinned (1 1/2 lbs.)
salt and pepper, to taste
1 tbsp. fresh lemon or lime juice
1 tbsp. fresh dill, minced (or 1 tsp. dried)
additional dill and lemon slices, to garnish

Wash lettuce and shake off excess water. Arrange a layer of lettuce leaves in the bottom of a glass pie plate. Arrange fish in a single layer, with thicker edges of fish towards the outside edge of the dish. Season with salt, pepper and lemon juice; top with dill. Cover with another layer of lettuce.

Microwave fish on HIGH for 3 minutes. Rotate the plate 1/4 turn and cook fish 3 minutes longer. Fish should be even in colour. Let fish stand for 3 to 4 minutes. It should flake when lightly pressed. If undercooked, microwave 1 or 2 minutes more. Discard lettuce. Garnish salmon with fresh dill and thinly sliced lemon. Delicious hot or cold. Yield: 4 servings. Leftovers keep 2 or 3 days, or can be frozen.

**Note:** Instead of dill, vary the herbs used to season the fish (e.g., tarragon, parsley, basil, thyme or oregano). If using dried herbs, use 1/3 of the amount.

*Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.*

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# Iran's Jews live dual lives

By RACHEL SILVERMAN
*JTA*

**NEW YORK** — Iran wouldn't appear to be a likely candidate to house the largest Jewish community in the Muslim world.

After all, Iran is run by a fundamentalist Islamic regime whose president has threatened to destroy Israel and who regularly denies the Holocaust.

But President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Iran currently is home to an estimated 25,000 Jews.

What is life – and Jewish life – like for these Iranian Jews? How do they reconcile their dual identities? And why do they choose to stay in a land that, at least from an outsider's perspective, appears increasingly inhospitable?

History, in part, holds the answer to these questions.

Iranian Jews have lived in the region for more than 2,700 years. During that time, they've survived waves of forced conversion, anti-Semitic propaganda, derogatory dress codes and economic, legal and social persecution.

But there have also been times when they flourished, as they did under the pro-western regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who ruled until the Islamists took over in the late 1970s.

Indeed, some 100,000 Jews lived in Iran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution prompted an exodus.

Through these ebbs and flows, Iranian Jews have learned that oppressors, no matter how tyrannical, are only temporary masters.

For this reason, as George Haroonian, a community activist in Los Angeles put it, Iranian Jews tend to think of the current anti-Semitic, anti-Israel climate as only "a temporary disruption in the long centuries of the relationship between Jews and Iranians."

"These people know this government will vanish, but Israel will stay and Iran will stay," Haroonian, who runs a magazine for Iranian Jewish émigrés, said. "We have to think of it in those terms."

For many Iranian Jews, that means making their peace and carrying on.

"Right now, the situation is like a calm before a storm," said Frank Nikbakht, the former public affairs director of the Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations. "The problem is as long as the situation seems to be normal, it's very difficult to ask somebody to pack up and leave a country they've lived in for hundreds of generations."

But there have been occasional anti-Semitic outbursts during the past decade or so.

In 1999, 13 Iranian Jews were accused of spying for Israel, and 10 were imprisoned. Though all were released by 2002, the incident sent shock waves throughout Iran's Jewish community.

During that period, reports also rose about 11 others who went missing between 1994 and 1997. Haroonian said that Iranian American Jews are "very much still following the issue," since "the Iranian government has not given straight answers of what happened to these people."

In other ways, too, the situation for Iranian Jews is difficult.

Anti-Semitic propaganda is pervasive, say those interviewed for this article, and Jewish citizens have been stripped of many rights, such as their ability to provide testimony in court or hold a position superior to that of a Muslim.

Things have gotten so bad that several weeks ago, reports that Iran would be enacting a law mandating a Nazi-like uniform for Jews was widely believed in the West. That report, however, proved to be false.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

To cope with their lack of freedoms, Jews in Iran have mastered the art of separating their private lives from their public ones.

Outwardly, Iranian Jews do their best to blend in and stay quiet.

"In order to be as safe as possible, you must hide most of your feelings," Nikbakht said. "You keep a low profile and agree to the government position, whatever it is."

Haroonian concurred. "Many Jews have sort of accepted, internalized the idea of being inferior to the majority Muslims. It's the relationship of, 'You do your thing and I'll do my thing and we don't step over the lines.'"

Iranian Jews, at least publicly, often mask their affiliations with both Judaism and Zionism.

When an Iranian Jewish dance troupe travelled to Russia recently, several members refused to eat pieces of cake decorated with the Israeli flag.

And members of the community keep mezuzot on the inside of their doors instead of the outside.

What happens inside those houses is another story, however.

In recent years, Jewish practice may have strengthened in Iran.

"Jews in Iran have become more religious since the revolution," confirmed Pooya Dayanim, president of the U.S.-based Iranian Jewish Public Affairs Committee. "As their numbers have dwindled, solidarity and action among them has increased."

He cited 13 active synagogues in the country, as well as a Jewish hospital and slew of Jewish day schools.

Nikbakht attributed this upswing to waning public entertainment, as well as a general trend toward religious extremism in the country.

"When you see the environment is doing something, you tend to do the same in order to say it's not only you who are close to God, it's us, too," he said.

Still, practising Judaism under the current regime has proved difficult.

State law forces Jewish schools to remain open on the Sabbath, and specifies that Hebrew lessons are not permitted outside prayer time.

Schools are required to have Muslim principals, since Jews must occupy subordinate positions at all times, and prayer books are printed in Farsi instead of Hebrew, as a means of controlling what is studied.

These obstacles, perhaps, also account for the slow trickle of Jews out of Iran.

The Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) holds a contract with the U.S. State Department to operate an immigration center in Vienna, where Iranian Jews are detained until they can enter the U.S. Refugee Program and emigrate. Statistics provided by the organization show that about 200 Iranian Jews were resettled in 2004, and about 300 in 2005.

Haroonian reported that relatives in the United States are "giving messages to their families saying, 'Think about your future, the future of your young kids.' "

Many Jews in Iran are dismissive, he said.

"When they hear about assimilation and divorce rates here, and security issues in Israel, so many choose to stay," Haroonian said. "They think it's not very rosy here, either."

But Sam Kermanian, secretary-general of the Los Angeles-based Iranian Jewish Federation, pointed to other, more pragmatic reasons for staying put: Many are too old or too sick to leave.

"Those who remain to a large extent would have a more difficult time adjusting to life in a different country," he said.

He added that others may not have the financial means to leave.

But unless Iranian Jews speak up, agencies in a position to help them will continue to receive mixed messages.

"We certainly have noted with concern the flow of new stories of problems and statements by the government," Gideon Aronoff, president and CEO of HIAS, said. "But we really do leave it to the people on the ground to assess their own circumstances."

Nikbakht reiterated this claim.

"Most of the Jewish organizations outside the country have made it clear to relatives or co-reglionists in Iran that whenever they want to leave, the Jews outside the country are ready to help them," he said. "Beyond that, there is no large-scale, organized effort to get them out. All we're doing is telling them, if you want to get out, we're ready to help you."

## *The traditions of Iranian Jews*

**NEW YORK** — Iranian Jews have long practised a unique brand of Judaism.

Because Jews in Iran have lived in relative isolation for hundreds of years, their Jewish practice doesn't fall into traditional categories such as Reform or Sephardi. Despite popular misconceptions, Iranian Jews neither speak the Arabic language nor identify with its culture.

In Iranian Jewish tradition, Shabbat dinners and holiday gatherings are large affairs, a practice that originated inside ghetto walls where everyone knew one another, and therefore all had to be invited. They are often celebrated with traditional Persian dishes such as rice-based stews, fresh fruits and a chicken soup called *gondi*.

Purim is a major landmark on the Iranian Jewish calendar because the story is said to have taken place in ancient Persia, which is today Iran. Celebrations include a 24-hour fast, megillah readings and desserts called halvah, made of flour or rice, sugar, oil and saffron.

Weddings are also large, elaborate processes. At one party, the groom asks the bride's family for permission to marry. In another, sweets are exchanged as a symbol of happiness. Other celebrations include a bathing ritual for bride and groom, a wedding shower for the bride, and a get-to-know-you session for extended family members.

But in Iranian Jewish practice, outwardly visible customs, such as wearing masks during Purim, take a back seat to more inwardly focused customs, such as family-centred events in the home. Because of fear of persecution, Jews in Iran traditionally do not give their children Hebrew names, nor do they pay membership dues to a synagogue.

– **R.S.** *(JTA)*

# 'A very moving personal experience'

*The following are excerpts from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's remarks at his joint press conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on June 4.*

We held a fruitful discussion on the main issues on the agenda, mainly ways to advance negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA].

I see you, Mr. President, as a true partner in the effort to bring peace to our region. I intend to closely consult and work with you in order to advance the peace process. Your contribution is as vital as it was during the successful implementation of the Disengagement Plan.

I am very pleased by the co-operation between our countries in the struggle against global terrorism – a plague that strikes at innocent civilians. We have agreed to enhance co-operation and coordination between us and between our countries on this issue…

Israel is committed to the Road Map [peace plan] and to advancing the bilateral channel with Mahmoud Abbas, the elected chairman of the PA. My aspiration is to exhaust all avenues in order to advance this channel. I intend to meet with PA Chairman Abbas in order to encourage the process that will enable us to achieve progress in accordance with the Road Map [peace plan]. I discussed this of course with President Mubarak, who is the most experienced statesman in our region and is certainly the most experienced in contacts that could lead to peace agreements. I very much hope that the Palestinian partners will utilize this opportunity to implement all of their commitments in order to make it possible to move forward in accordance with the Road Map.

Of course, Israel expects that the Palestinian government will fully implement the demands of the Quartet [the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations] and the international community and thus make it possible to hold negotiations on the basis of the Road Map. We have not hidden our view that if this does not occur and that if we reach the conclusion that it will not occur, we will have no alternative but to look for other ways in order to move the situation in the Middle East and in order to prevent stalemate from taking over the reality in the Middle East.

We also discussed the humanitarian situation in the PA areas and we will take all measures in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis…

We also appreciate the humanitarian assistance that Egypt is providing to the Palestinians, which includes many trucks laden with food and medicines…

And lastly, permit me to take this opportunity to add something personal that is not in the written statement. Mr. President, this was a very moving personal experience for me to sit with you now for approximately 1.5 hours, to hold talks and to listen to one of the most experienced and important leaders that I have had the opportunity of meeting with.

Bilateral relations between Israel and Egypt are very fundamental and very important to our worldview and to the network of relations that we want to build in the region, and the leadership of Hosni Mubarak is an important key to the success of this process…

# CanWest loses JPost ownership claim

*Jerusalem Post*

**NEW YORK** — Canadian media group CanWest Global Communications Corp. has lost a legal battle to acquire 50 per cent ownership of the *Jerusalem Post*.

At the end of a protracted process, a New York-based arbitrator on June 1 denied all CanWest claims to ownership in the *Post* and further ordered CanWest to pay costs, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred by the Israeli owners of the *Post*, Mirkaei Tikshoret, during the legal dispute.

The arbitrator ruled that Mirkaei Tikshoret Limited, the Mirkaei Tikshoret Group (MTG) and its owner Eli Azur were the "prevailing parties in this arbitration" and denied "all of the claims" submitted by CanWest.

When the sale of the *Post* by previous owners Hollinger was announced in late 2004, it was stated that CanWest and Mirkaei Tikshoret would jointly own the *Post* and pay $13.2 million for it.

But Geoffrey Elliot, vice president of corporate affairs at CanWest, said June 1 that after MTG acquired the paper, talks between it and CanWest failed to complete what would have been the second phase of the deal under which CanWest would have bought half of the *Post*. The case then went to arbitration at the International Center for Dispute Resolution in New York, Elliot said in a statement.

CanWest asserted that Azur breached his obligations under a deal to jointly acquire the *Post* and related media businesses. Azur argued in defense that the parties had never reached a binding agreement.

CanWest announced over the weekend that it was reviewing the arbitrator's decision and considering its options.

Leonard Asper, president and CEO of CanWest, said he was "extremely disappointed" at the arbitrator's decision.

"We find it very difficult to reconcile the apparent inconsistency in the arbitrator's findings," Asper said.

"On the one hand, the arbitrator found that MTG refused to accept the fundamental tenet of the agreement which provided for the parties to each own an equal interest in the newspaper, but somehow concluded that this did not constitute a breach of the agreement to negotiate with us in good faith," he added.

Mirkaei Tikshoret had no official comment.


**CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY**

**Notice of Annual and Special General Meeting**

**Notice is hereby given that an Annual and Special General Meeting of the Canadian Technion Society will be held at the Canadian Technion Society office 970 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 206 In Toronto on the 25th day of June 2006 at 10:00 a.m. (est) by order of the Officers**

The purpose of the Special General Meeting is to consider and, if deemed advisable, to adopt new By Laws for the Society in replacement of the current By-Law no. 2

**Telephone conference available to members. For further information call 1-800-935-8864 or your local Canadian Technion Society office**

## Israel Briefs

***Hezbollah warned***

Lebanon and Hezbollah will pay a "heavy price," senior Israeli army officers warned last week, if the Iranian-funded group fails to learn its lesson from Israel's massive retaliatory raids last month and launches additional attacks against northern Israel. "We hope the message from our response was understood correctly by the other side [Hezbollah]," Galilee commander Brig.-Gen. Gal Hirsch told reporters as a tense quiet prevailed in the north after rockets flew over both sides of the border. "If… violence recurs, we will know how to retaliate even stronger," he added. "We are ready for another day of fighting if it comes to that."

***Jerusalem City Hall fined***

The Jerusalem District Court has ordered the Jerusalem Municipality to pay the city's Gay and Lesbian Center NIS 350,000 for "cultural and social activities" held by the organization over the last three years. The decision came in the wake of a petition submitted by the centre against the city, which, since 2003, had stopped allocating funds to the group out of its small cultural activities budget. "Even if municipal officials have a hard time accepting the gay community, and believe this [community] is an unwanted phenomenon, the municipality cannot swerve from fundamental principles and ignore this community," Judge Yehudit Tzur wrote in her ruling, accepting the petitioners' argument the city was discriminating against them.

***Israel, NATO ties upgraded***

A desire to improve the ability of countries to work together against terrorism and in efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear power prompted NATO to upgrade Israel's status in the military alliance and to invite the Israeli Navy to participate, for the first time, in a joint exercise, a high-ranking Israeli Navy officer told the *Jerusalem Post*. Israelis have taken part in NATO exercises as observers, but not on a tactical level. Eight NATO warships docked in Haifa last week. The goal was to familiarize Israel with NATO capabilities and discuss the "Co-operation Mako" exercise to take place this month in the Black Sea, said Brig.-Gen. Yohai Ben-Yosef, commander of the Haifa naval base.

***Israel backs U.S. on Iran***

Israel endorsed a direct overture by the United States to Iran on ending the nuclear standoff. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a major policy shift, said the United States would be willing to join European powers in negotiating with Iran if it abandons its uranium enrichment program. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said Rice told her about the initiative beforehand. "Israel appreciates the steps and measures by the United States in continuing to lead the international coalition and in taking all necessary steps to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear capability," Livni said in a statement. "Israel supports the efforts of the United States on this matter."

***Ecosystem found in cave***

A prehistoric ecosystem was discovered in an Israeli cave. Hebrew University scientists announced the discovery of eight previously unknown species of animal life in a cave uncovered by accident during a quarry dig near Ramle. The cave is believed to have been sealed off from the outside world for millions of years. The animals, crustaceans and invertebrates similar to scorpions, had no eyes, which scientists attributed to their evolution in a dark environment.

***Outposts coming down***

The Defence Ministry is drafting plans to evacuate the 24 outposts Israel has promised the United States it will remove. A ministry source told the *Jerusalem Post* the evacuation plan had yet to be completed or formally approved, and that no date had been set for the removal of the unauthorized outposts, constructed after former prime minister Ariel Sharon took office in March 2001. Talks with the settlers about the outposts' fate are ongoing.

*- JTA and Jerusalem Post*

# British Jews voice outrage at academic boycott vote

By VANESSA BULKACZ
*JTA*

**LONDON** — British Jewish leaders and students are blasting a decision by a British teachers union to recommend a boycott of Israeli academics.

The May 29 vote by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which forces Israeli academics to "publicly declare their political views and subject them to the scrutiny of British academics, is especially pernicious," the Board of Deputies of British Jews said in a statement.

The boycott applies to Israeli lecturers and academic institutions that don't publicly declare their opposition to Israel's presence in the West Bank.

The boycott has sparked international outrage among pro-Israel scholars and Jewish groups for being both one-sided and counterproductive, even though its practical ramifications seem limited.

The resolution is being seen as largely symbolic, since it only "invites members to consider their responsibility" instead of enforcing a boycott.

Trevor Phillips, press spokesperson for the association, told JTA, "The resolution is not a union boycott. It is a matter for personal consideration. It was meant only to open up a debate about this topic and encourage members to think about their own responsibility in the issue."

Further, the vote could soon be moot, since the association is set to merge with the Association of University Teachers, which voted to boycott Israeli academics last year because of Israeli policy toward the Palestinians, but rescinded the decision in the face of international criticism.

After the merger of the two unions, which will form the largest higher education union in the world, the resolution would need to be re-approved to become effective.

The Association of University Teachers responded to the May 29 vote by issuing a statement saying it does not endorse the policy and as "strongly advising members not to implement it."

Nonetheless, opponents of the boycott resolution were outraged at its passage and expressed hope that it would be rescinded.

The chief executive of the Board of Deputies, Jon Benjamin, decried the motion as "a policy that no one in academia should countenance."

Ronnie Fraser, an association delegate and the chairman of Academic Friends of Israel, an organization formed in 2002 to fight the academic boycott of Israel, said he is "not happy at all" with this outcome.

Fraser said that academics at 30 of Britain's 100 universities work with Israeli colleagues.

The vote occurred amid a flurry of protest from academics both in Britain and abroad, as well as lawmakers in the Israeli Knesset who convened an emergency meeting to discuss the proposed boycott, which they described as a "witch hunt."

Israel's education minister, Yuli Tamir, unsuccessfully called on the British government to intervene before the vote.

A campaign against the boycott was also waged in the media.

The *Guardian* printed a letter issued by Engage, an academic group that was formed last year to fight the boycott, signed by approximately 600 academics around the world who oppose the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

The letter opposed "the inconsistency of blacklisting Israelis" while "adopting a different attitude to academics in the long list of other states that are responsible for equal or worse human rights abuses."

Engage's printed appeal was one of numerous public counters to the association's boycott.

Before the vote, more than 4,700 international academics also signed an online petition, organized by the Israeli-led International Advisory Board for Academic Freedom.

The petition states: "Academic boycott actions are antithetical not only to principles of academic freedom but also to the quest for peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

After the vote, the chairman of the advisory board, Yosef Yeshurun, provost of Bar-Ilan University, said it was "unfortunate" that the British group "decided to adopt a negative approach, seeking to burn bridges instead of building them."

The British resolution called on the 69,000-member association "to consider the appropriateness of a boycott of those that do not publicly dissociate themselves" from "Israeli apartheid policies."

This part of the resolution passed narrowly, with just 53.5 per cent of the vote.

Two other paragraphs of the same motion, including those that criticize "Israeli apartheid policies, including construction of the exclusion wall, and discriminatory educational practices" and "invite members to consider their own responsibility for ensuring equity and non-discrimination in contacts with Israeli educational institutions or individuals" passed more easily by a show of hands.

The resolution was supported by the Federation of Unions of Palestinian University Professors and Employees, who lauded the boycott as a "courageous initiative."

The British Committee for Universities of Palestine, which was set up "in response to a Palestinian call for a boycott," welcomed the vote, stating that the motion's passage "proves that many academics in the U.K. and beyond do not buy the disingenuous claim that boycott of Israeli academic institutions conflicts with 'academic freedom' or inadvertently promotes anti-Semitism in any way."

Jewish student groups in Britain, meanwhile, expressed concern about the ramifications on campus. Mitch Simmons, campaign director of the Union of Jewish Students of Britain, said, "Israeli and Jewish students cannot be made to feel victimized or excluded due to their nationality or political beliefs."

"This boycott will only help to cement divisions on campus," he said.

# *Birthright israel hits a magic number*

By CHANAN TIGAY
*JTA*

**NEW YORK** — Birthright israel could do a heck of a lot worse than Stephanie Lowenthal as the 100,000th participant on the group's free, 10-day, identity-building trips to Israel.

The 26-year-old New Yorker is attractive, eloquent and poised – and, as was evident during a news conference last week, she'll do well as birthright's public face when the organization celebrates this milestone this week in Israel.

"Planning a trip to Israel has been something I've wanted to do my whole life, but it has not been feasible until now," said Lowenthal, who works in communications for the NASDAQ Stock Market.

She didn't grow up particularly observant, though she had a bat mitzvah and her family is "pretty Conservative," she said. Lowenthal hasn't served as a leader in any Jewish group and, significantly, she's never been to Israel.

All of this, birthright officials say, means Lowenthal's background is a fairly accurate representation of many of the program participants.

Had Lowenthal waited any longer to sign up, she would not have been able to secure a spot on a birthright trip at all. That's because the trip is for Jews aged 18 to 26 – and Lowenthal just makes the cutoff.

And while she did end up finding a place on this month's trip – and an auspicious place to boot – thousands of other young Jewish adults today find themselves on birthright's growing waiting list.

The waiting list, which birthright officials say numbers around 30,000 people, is a testament to the program's popularity and success. But it's also indicative of the group's struggle to find sufficient funding for everyone who wants to go before it's too late.

Stephanie Lowenthal

"We have to get a lot bigger quicker if we hope to stem the tide" of declining Jewish identity in the Diaspora, said Michael Steinhardt, a founder and funder of the six-year-old program.

According to a 2004 study by independent researchers at Brandeis University, birthright, launched late in 1999 as a five-year pilot project, makes a profound impact on participants' Jewish identities. Many become active in their schools' Hillels when they return to campus. Some go into Jewish prpfessional life and between 4,000 and 5,000 of the participants from around the world now live in Israel, officials say.

Last year, in an effort to ensure its sustainability, broaden its base of financial support and accommodate the explosion in the number of Jewish young adults interested in taking part, birthright founded the birthright israel Foundation.

About 14 months later, birthright officials say that the foundation has made some significant strides – and still has a long way to go.

This is "not a time to pat ourselves on the shoulder," Steinhardt said.

The foundation changed the way birthright raised money. In its first five years, the program relied on a relatively small number of donors making large gifts. Now the foundation has made an effort to draw in many more donors at lower levels, in addition to big gifts.

Between January and April of this year, the number of gifts to birthright under $50,000 (all figures are US) was four times the number from the same period the previous year, adding up to somewhere in the mid-six figures, the foundation's president, Jay Golan, told JTA.

"I see a very strong broadening out of the support base of this," he said. "I'm really pleased. People do seem to be very enthusiastic about the opportunity to give to birthright. Many people just simply didn't know."

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# A multilingual revelation

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

When Yakov Yavno takes to the stage and performs his captivating one-man show, *Revelation*, he artfully embodies the Jewish Diaspora experience.

Singing tunes in as many as a half dozen languages, Yavno's musical program explores the richness of Jewish culture and traditions and the common bond that unites all Jews.

"There are Jewish people living all over this world in different countries speaking different languages," Yavno related in a recent interview with *The CJN* from his New York home.

"I sing in many of these languages and the idea is to show that it doesn't matter what language we use – we can all understand each other… We can find common ground."

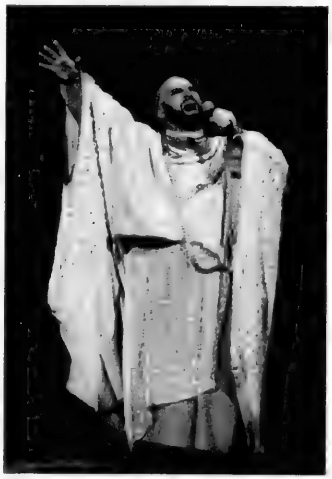
Yavno's powerful bass-baritone will be showcased in Toronto on June 28, when the revered singer and actor performs his solo show at Leah Posluns Theatre.

The concert will feature Yavno's new versions of classics in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

"With many Jewish songs, I have my own version, which is my way to find and bring something new and fresh to old songs," he explained.

"When you hear my presentation of these songs, you will understand completely that I am an artist from Russia who at the same time is open to the world."

Born in Minsk, Belarus, Yavno was raised in a musical family and received formal training at the highly regarded Gnesin Academy of Music.



Yakov Yavno

The singer is also an acclaimed actor, honing the craft of performance arts at the Jewish Musical Chamber Theatre in Moscow.

He garnered fame in the Soviet Union, winning a prestigious government award for his portrayal of Tevya, the main character from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Following the fall of communism, Yavno, like many other Jews from the former Soviet Union, emigrated to the United States in 1990.

He spent several years training to be a cantor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, but decided being a chazzan was not the right path.

"I made the decision to stop and it was a very hard time for me," he recalled.

Eventually, Yavno met his wife Irene who helped him clarify his artistic vision.

"Irene helped me understand the world," he enthused.

Along his journey, Yavno has recorded three albums and has appeared in productions with such stars as Vanessa Redgrave, Raul Julia and the late Christopher Reeve.

He's also performed on world renowned stages, including Carnegie Hall, the National Opera House in Tel Aviv and the Bolshoi Theatre.

The upcoming concert to Toronto is part of a North American tour.

"This will be the first time I'm in Toronto where I'll speak with the audience in English," he said.

"I'm looking forward to going to Canada and sharing with the audience, not just my voice, but my experience."

For tickets and additional information about *Revelation*, visit www.showoneproductions.com or phone 416-737-6785

**Natalie Portman, centre, with Hiam Abbass, left, and Hanna Laslo.**

# A dull and pretentious film from Amos Gitai

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Film festival programmers often turn to Amos Gitai as their Israeli director of choice, probably because his movies are serious, generally topical and imbued with a left-of-centre perspective and sensibility.

Gitai's latest movie, *Free Zone*, which surfaced at last year's Toronto International Film Festival, is currently playing at Canada Square.

Shot in Israel and Jordan, *Free Zone* is broadly about self-identity and Israel's perennial conflict with the Arabs, themes that Gitai has touched upon in films ranging from *In Search of Identity* and *Wadi* to *Kippur* and *Kedma*.

In *Free Zone*, starring the actresses Natalie Portman and Hanna Laslo, two women drive from Israel to Jordan for a meeting with a mysterious man known as the American.

Rebecca (Portman) is crying to the rhythms of a famous Hebrew folk song, while Hanna (Laslo) resolutely keeps her eyes on the road.

Although they intend to spend less than a day in Jordan, they are carrying far too many suitcases for so short a visit. Strangely enough, their baggage does not arouse the suspicion of the Jordanian border guard, who lets them through without any fuss.

As they drive deeper into Jordan, toward a free trade area where Israelis and Arabs can rub shoulders, Rebecca and Hanna reflect on their lives.

Rebecca, an American of half Jewish descent who speaks in a mixture of English and Hebrew, feels detached from everything. But her alienation goes unexplained.

Hanna, an Israeli, talks about her husband, who once cultivated flowers in the Negev Desert and in Yamit, a settlement in the Sinai Peninsula Israel gave up after its 1979 peace treaty with Egypt. Later, she explains that her husband has prospered in the armoured car manufacturing business because war is the only "constant" in Israel.

These references to contemporary Israel are complemented by allusions to the Palestinian refugee problem.

When the two women stop for gas in Jerash, they chat with a man whose family lived in Jaffa until the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Two-thirds of the way into the film, a viewer learns the purpose of Hanna's mission: to collect a $30,000 debt from the American.

At this point, a third woman, a Palestinian named Leila (Hiam Abbas), enters the picture. Leila, too, has a connection with the American, but it remains murky, like *Free Zone* itself.

To put it generously, this is not Gitai's finest moment as a filmmaker. *Free Zone* is dull, deadly and pretentious and, in some instances, seemingly pointless.

Portman and Laslo deliver fairly credible performances, but they alone cannot save this misbegotten film.

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Arts & Travel

# *Play portrays Golda Meir as living in perpetual conflict*

By **SHIRA SCHWARTZ**
*Special to The CJN*

**Valerie Harper**

Sometimes matzah ball soup just isn't enough, even for a Jewish mother. In *Golda's Balcony*, Golda Meir declares that she will neither be locked up in a kitchen to make matzah balls nor will her entire life be a bargain for two chicken bones.

In this one-woman show written by William Gibson and directed by Scott Schwartz (it was on at the Elgin Theatre until May 28), Valerie Harper, famous for her role as Rhoda Morgenstern on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* in the 1970s, plays Golda Meir during the Yom Kippur War, as well as an impressive 44 other roles including various family members, political figures and other important members of the Israeli government.

Harper's characters include her version of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, and King Abdullah of Jordan (both are quite visually and vocally entertaining); however the most engaging is Golda Meir herself: as a woman, wife and mother.

While the story of the Yom Kippur War is indeed compelling, it is not one audiences haven't heard before. Golda's political struggle as prime minister, no matter how animated or theatrical the performance, pales in comparison to her personal struggle as a woman trying to simultaneously embrace and escape from her domestic life.

Golda lives in perpetual conflict, torn between her family and political lives, which continually seem to stand in opposition to each other. Never satisfied with either, she continues throughout her life to deny one life in pursuit of the other, and grows increasingly frustrated as she realizes that both are equally important to her and yet cannot be harmonized.

As acting prime minister, she neglects her family, and for this is left miserable and dissatisfied. As a mother and housewife, she neglects her country, and for this is left miserable and dissatisfied. It is the unveiling of this paradox that illuminates the audience's understanding of Golda and her sense of "duty." Near the end of the play, Golda compares herself to one of Pavlov's dogs: you say "duty" and Golda salivates. This clever formulation points precisely to the play's driving question: duty toward what? Her country? Her family? Or herself?

While Gibson should be applauded for raising these questions and for presenting this dichotomy, I suspect that this may be an over-analysis to some degree and that Golda's inner struggle was not necessarily meant to be the focus of the play. This leads to the play's major flaw: lack of clarity of conflict. It is unclear what the real "meat" is in such a cholent of a play – is it Golda Meir's life story? The hidden complexities of the Israeli government? The Yom Kippur War?

A number of theatrical techniques that point to male-female/ social-political dichotomies and that may indicate that the play is about Golda's war against herself are used. For example, the use of shadows emphasize Golda's double personality, stacks of documents set beside a tea kettle centre-stage emphasize Golda's contrasting duties as prime minister and mother, and the recurring ticking sound is the female "biological clock."

It is not convincing, however, that these are not all merely side dishes to the play's main course, the nature of which is unclear. It also doesn't help that Harper's performance, though in many ways impressive, shows very little vocal and emotional range. Because there is so little variation of tone, her emotional commitment almost goes to waste, because nothing advances or transforms her emotion, leaving it static throughout the play.

In spite of this, *Golda's Balcony* raises relevant issues regarding the pursuit of political, social and personal freedom and independence, led by an example of one strong and relentless woman who swore she would never disappear behind kitchen doors as a subservient housewife. Golda Meir never did beg for bones, not even two chicken bones. One only wonders who made her children chicken soup when they were sick.


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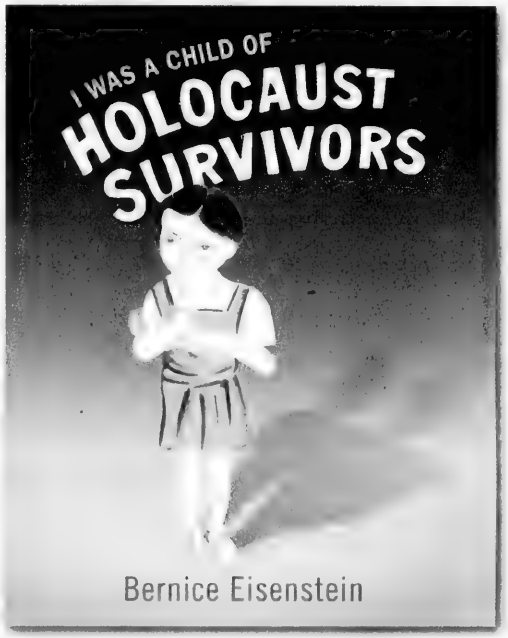


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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## WILLIAM SHATNER LAUNCHES ISRAELI CHARITY

Montreal-born actor **William Shatner** of *Star Trek* fame beamed down to Israel last week to help launch a new Jewish National Fund-sponsored program that helps children with disabilities through horseback riding.

Shatner, best known for his portrayal of Captain Kirk in *Star Trek* and later for his roles in *The Practice* and *Boston Legal*, met with Israeli tourism minister **Isaac Herzog** in Jerusalem to publicize the consortium. He hopes to raise US $10 million to establish nearly 30 riding programs across the country.

The actor has been involved with Ahead With Horses, a Los Angeles charity that also works with physically and developmentally disabled children through horseback riding. "We know that the use of a horse in their therapy takes them beyond their handicapped body, their injured body, and into another area of health."

* * *

**Truth and Reconciliation:** **Manfred Becker** wasn't happy that his 13-year-old son was taunted at school because of his German parenthood. The Toronto-based filmmaker said he found a supreme irony in the fact that "my son is called a Nazi because of what my father's generation did."

The incident propelled him on a journey back to Germany, where he found his country torn between denial, reckoning and reconciliation. His documentary, *Fatherland*, is a personal quest to understand his own father, his young son and himself – "three generations caught on the wrong side of history."

*Fatherland* was featured in the recent Hot Docs festival. It airs on History Television, June 17, 7 p.m. and June 23, 9 p.m.

**Manfred Becker**

* * *

**Names in the News:** Invited to give a sermon last Easter in the famed medieval Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris, 85-year-old French poet **Claude Vigée** became the first Jew ever to have done so, he afterwards asserted. Vigée spoke to the throng of 2,000 churchgoers on the topic of Joseph and the children of Israel in Egypt, and later claimed to be the first ever to recite Biblical passages in Hebrew in a sermon there.

Born in the Alsace region, Vigée taught at American universities after the war, then lived with his family in Israel for 40 years. Five years ago, he moved back to France because his wife needed specialized medical treatment. In a recent interview in the *London Jewish Chronicle*, he expressed regret at leaving Israel, but said it had been necessary. "As Solomon wrote in his proverbs, 'A live dog is worth more than a dead lion,'" he quipped.

A prolific writer well known in the French-speaking world, Vigée's recent books include *La Lutte avec L'Ange* and *Danser vers L'abime*.

* * *

**Jewish Animation Celebration:** The Winchevsky Centre and Toronto Image Society jointly host the Jewish Animation Celebration, offering the best of local, national and international works created by Jewish animators or with Jewish themes. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $6; $4 for members; includes popcorn and drinks. Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

* * *

**Spring Concert:** The Nadal JCC community choir, a 60-member downtown choir with a wide-ranging repertoire, is led by **Harriet Wichin**. Its women's chorus presents its annual spring concert. Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre. Adults $10, family $20, $7 students, seniors and children. Sunday, June 11, 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 14, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

* * *

**Theresa Tova in Concert:** High-octane jazz and Yiddish singer **Theresa Tova** presents her first Toronto concert in two years, with pianist **Matt Herskowitz** and a Toronto band. Tova performs songs by **Berlin**, **Brel**, **Ellington** and **Sondheim** as well as Yiddish folk, theatre and jazz tunes.

Al Green Theatre, Nadal JCC. $22 in advance, $28 on day of performance. June 21, 8 p.m. Tickets 416-872-1212 or in person at Nadal JCC (reception). Note: the date was given incorrectly in last week's column.

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Arts & Travel

# On an Island with Paul Gellman

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Paul Gellman has been creating music for 30 years, and has been a musician even longer.

On May 31, the 53-year-old performed at downtown club Hugh'sroom, playing songs from his debut studio album *On This Island*, released in June last year.

Gellman's career took off at the age of 21, when he joined the Perth County Conspiracy, a well-known folk-rock band of the 1970s from Stratford.

"We played Massey Hall and nice concert halls throughout the country," said Gellman, who dropped out of the University of Toronto at 18 to pursue music full time. "We did tours all over Ontario and the West Coast. We went to Europe once. We recorded [an album] in Germany. To me, that was university – I call it the university of Perth County."

This makes sense for someone who has been playing music for most of his life. Gellman studied piano and violin at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto from the age of six until he was 15. Growing up, he was also active in Beth Tzedek's Junior Congregation's cantor club.

By the time Gellman joined Perth County Conspiracy, where he was a fiddler and keyboardist, he had already played in several bands, mostly in British Columbia, where he lived for a time.

Gellman's claim to fame with Perth County Conspiracy came by chance, after a friend suggested the avid fan approach Perth County Conspiracy guitarist and vocalist Richard Keelan, to express his appreciation.

"[Keelan] was really my favourite guy and my main inspiration. He had an unusual musical style – more the spiritual feeling to his music – and it was really interesting," Gellman said. "The next time I went to visit Toronto, I went up to Stratford, I found him and said, 'Richard, you have really inspired me forever and I'd like nothing better than to jam with you.' And we jammed together, and I actually played the fiddle."

Gellman quit Perth County Conspiracy a year later.

"I had my own vision [of] what I wanted to do with my own music and I didn't have as much opportunity to do it there, because I was the side man and was supporting everyone else," he said. "I didn't have real opportunity to explore my own music."

At that time, Gellman went back to live in British Columbia, taking with him bassist David Woodhead and drummer Jerome Jarvis, and they formed the band Island.

"We all played a lot of different instruments. We had that band for about three years. We developed a nice little following, but not as well as Perth County Conspiracy."

Gellman describes Island's music as "funk with overtones of jazz and rock," and political.

In December 1976, Gellman met met the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, at the World Symposium on Humanity in Vancouver, an event that featured a diversity of spiritual leaders. Rabbi Carlebach performed his music before the crowd of several thousands.

"He delivered a performance which was so inspirational to me. He got everyone crying and hugging and jumping up and down. The event wasn't just for Jewish people, it was for everybody. He brought people together. He broke down all the walls. I was so impressed with that. He used music to do it, so I could obviously relate to that," Gellman said. "He came from a long line of rabbis from Germany, so he had a real legacy. At the same time, he wanted to reach out to people who weren't Orthodox. He didn't need you to be Orthodox, he wanted you to love being Jewish. He wanted to express his love of Judaism through music, stories and Torah to everybody."

Gellman developed a friendship with Rabbi Carlebach, who helped him reconnect with his Judaism.

"I wasn't really connected to being Jewish, so I was dabbling with Hindu and Buddhist stuff, like many of my generation. We looked East, because we missed out in the Jewish upbringing. We felt there wasn't as much of a mystical experience [there]," he said.

"I was experiencing mystical things through meditation, yoga and more eastern philosophy. [When] I met Rabbi Carlebach, he made me realize that there was just as much mysticism in Judaism."

Gellman helped Rabbi Carlebach promote his concerts.

As Gellman's exposure to Judaism broadened, he began adding Jewish songs to his repertoire. He is now part of a klezmer and Hebrew band called The Nigunatics, which he formed with other congregants of the Reconstructionist synagogue, Darchei Noam.

"We have one member who is a virtuoso recorder player," he said. "He has about seven different recorders that he plays and he knows all of the klezmer stuff. He has books of klezmer music and would teach us the klezmer tunes. I'd play the piano or the fiddle."

Gellman recently wrote a song about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict called *Judea*.

"It's about how Palestinians and Israelis are cousins and there is a wall between them," he said. "And when are we going to break down that wall? When are we going to be together?"

For more information on Gellman, his events and his debut CD, visit his website at www.paulgellman.com.

# Jazz singer relaunches career after 15-year hiatus

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

June Garber is a mature, vivacious, animated silver-blond and a talented, sought-after jazz singer who doesn't let age stand in her way.

"I can continue fulfilling my dreams even though I am not 18 years old," she says.

Garber, whose single *Someone* made it to the Top 10 of the Canadian RPM charts, took a hiatus from singing in 1988 and returned to the music scene in 2003. Recently, she released her debut CD, *Smile*.

Certainly, she now has a great deal to smile about. The CD and her recent live performances have received rave reviews.

This past year, she has performed 83 times, with big bands and jazz ensembles, at clubs and festivals throughout Ontario.

This summer, Garber sings at Toronto's Distillery District, the Beaches International Jazz Festival, the Markham Jazz Festival and the Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival at Nathan Phillips Square.

"I am delighted that I feel young and vital and this summer is packed with jazz festivals and concerts," she says.

June Garber

Garber says that since childhood she dreamed of becoming a jazz singer, "but life always got in my way, such as a discouraging parent, marriage and a divorce."

Garber was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1949. Her father was considered one of the country's best jazz drummers.

"He was killed in a commercial plane crash when I was three years old. I know he would have encouraged me with my music, but my mother insisted that I become a teacher," she says.

At university, she studied drama and had a number of roles in productions, but she was persuaded to dismiss her acting aspirations. She taught for several years and married her best friend, she says. She also began singing in the evenings and on school holidays.

**Continued on page 45**

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Books & Authors

# Historian plumbs depths of Islamic imperialist ambitions

***Islamic Imperialism: A History* by Ephraim Karsh, Yale University Press.**

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

Ephraim Karsh, a University of London professor specializing in Mediterranean studies, claims in *Islamic Imperialism: A History* that the quest for universal mastery lies at the heart of Islam, the world's fastest growing religion.

"Islam envisages a global political order in which all humankind will live under Muslim rule as either believers or subject communities," he writes in this bold, new book, published by Yale University Press.

In a sweeping survey in which he charts Muslim conquests from central Asia to Europe, Karsh ends his narrative on a sober note.

Arab terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, he writes, were motivated by Islamic imperialist aspirations rather than by rage over Washington's foreign policy in the Mideast.

Karsh's thesis, which will be hotly disputed, holds that the co-ordinated attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were in fact a reaction to the United States' preeminent position as a power capable of blocking Arab/Islamic expansion.

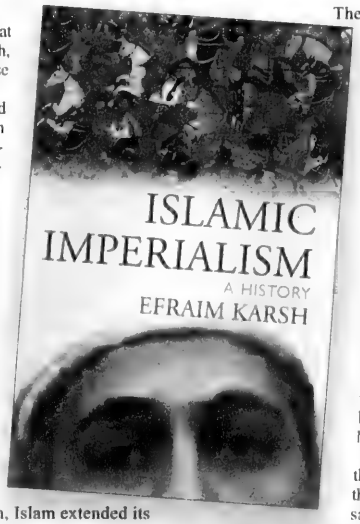
As he puts it in this intriguing though controversial volume, "Osama bin Laden and other Islamists' war is not against America per se but is rather the most recent manifestation of the millenarian jihad for [an] Islamic empire."

In general, Karsh makes a compelling case for his claim that the story of Islam has been the story of empires won and lost. Indeed, he quotes chapter and verse to prove it. Yet a discerning reader may question his tendency to minimize historical Muslim grievances over western encroachments into the Middle East. Despite this weakness, *Islamic Imperialism* is a fairly strong book.

If you're wary of Karsh's argument that Islam's raison d'etre is spreading the faith, by force or by demography, consider these telling quotations.

In a homily, the Prophet Muhammad observed, "I was ordered to fight all men until they say, 'There is no god but Allah.'" Saladin, the legendary Kurdish-fighter, declared, "I shall cross this sea … until there remains no one on the face of the earth who does not acknowledge Allah." Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the godfather of Iran's Islamic revolution, said, "We will export our revolution… until the calls 'there is no god but Allah'… are echoed all over the world." Bin Laden, the founder of Al Qaeda, said, "I was ordered to fight the people until they say there is no god but Allah."

Karsh contends that the Prophet Muhammad transformed Islam from a purely Arab creed into a universal religion unbound by territorial or national boundaries.




Burning with religious messianism, Islam extended its domain into central Asia and much of the Indian subcontinent by the eighth century.

"Whether the conquests were an opportunistic magnified offshoot of small raiding parties or a product of a preconceived expansionist plan is immaterial," he writes. "Empires are born by chance as well as design."

Claiming that an Arab military caste forged an Islamic empire for the benefit of themselves, Karsh says that its imperial centre of gravity shifted to Baghdad under the Abbasid dynasty.

The Abbasids occupied Egypt and pushed into the Fertile Crescent, capturing Palestine and Syria and then the Arabian cities of Mecca and Medina.

Karsh's analysis of the Arab occupation of Spain – which ushered in an age of political, economic and cultural greatness where Jews flourished – is quite interesting. In the Middle East and north Africa, the vast majority of the subject peoples converted to Islam, but in Spain, they usually remained loyal to Christianity. This, of course, sowed the seeds of the Christian reconquest of Spain.

No book about Islam's imperial impulse would be complete without a discussion of the relatively short-lived Crusader states in the Middle East.

Karsh deals with this topic in thorough fashion, reminding us that the Mamluks destroyed the last Crusader stronghold in 1291. But his suggestion that these Frankish principalties were largely alienated from their European roots and thus no longer at the service of Christian imperialism is debatable.

In a fascinating chapter, Karsh cites the Ottoman Empire as an exemplar of Islamic expansionism. The Ottomans, having captured Sofia and Constantinople in the 14th and 15th centuries, established an empire stretching from the Black Sea to the gates of Vienna. But no sooner had the Ottomans reached their apogee than they went into a prolonged and steady decline.

Karsh ascribes their participation in World War I as Germany's ally to their desire to redress these setbacks. But having bet on the wrong horse, the Ottomans lost their grip on what remained of their Middle East outposts.

A constellation of Arab states, from Syria, Iraq and Jordan, emerged after the Ottomans' downfall in 1918. But even during this unsettled period, dreams of empire consumed Arab leaders, Karsh says.

The Jewish national movement, commonly known as Zionism, was regarded by the Arabs as a dire threat. But the Arab invasion of Israel in 1948, proclaimed as a stellar example of pan-Arab solidarity, was actually "a wholesale scramble for Palestine in the classic imperialist tradition."

According to Karsh, Arab states would have divided up Palestine among themselves had they defeated Israel in the war. "Arab regimes [did not] view the Palestinians as a distinct nation and most of them had their own designs on this territory."

In a harsh indictment of pan-Arabism, Karsh claims that it has been a euphemism for "the imperialist ambitions of successive Arab dynasties and rulers." He says that Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's supreme leader from 1954 to '70, was a true imperialist whose 1958 union with Syria was little more than "a stepping-stone" toward Egyptian domination of the Middle East.

Nasser's legacy did not last long. His underestimated successor, Anwar Sadat, excoriated his predecessor for having made Egypt subservient to the Soviet Union.

Karsh also takes aim at the current breed of Islamic fundamentalists who, he notes, model themselves after Islam's earliest conquerors.

He argues that Hamas has subordinated its goal of eliminating Israel to the wider objective of creating a pan-Arabic or pan-Islamic state.

This is open to dispute. There are Hamas figures who may conform to this model, but most are deeply preoccupied with building an Islamic-oriented Palestinian state.

Karsh is a sound historian, but sometimes he finds himself out on a limb.

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**Q.** It seems there are now so many different claims on packages saying "trans fat free." Do they all mean the same thing?

**A.** Many of the claims are misleading. I have written in previous articles about the importance of reading the ingredient labels to determine the presence of hydrogenated fats, shortening and palm and coconut oil. Manufacturers can manipulate the serving size on the nutrition information panel to reflect that the item has less than 0.5 grams of trans fat per serving. This allows for a trans-fat-free claim, even though several servings are likely to be eaten.

Also, remember to watch saturated fat content. Many companies are reducing or removing trans fat but increasing saturated fat or sugar for flavour. Also, remember that ingredients are listed in the order of volume in the food, so when a fat or sugar or salt is high up on the list, you may want to reconsider.

The bottom line – don't assume that food that claims to be zero trans fat is heart healthy. You still need to read the back or side of the box. The good news is that many companies have responsibly made their products healthier. I applaud those manufacturers for taking the high road to our better health.

**Q.** I would like to start taking a multivitamin and have no idea what to look for in one. I am a 41-year-old woman. Can you help? I notice that many vitamins say they are for women, men, seniors, etc. Is this just a way to get us to buy more or is it really necessary?

**A.** There are very good reasons for making separate vitamins for men and women and for people over 50. For example, premenopausal women require some iron in their multi-vitamin, while men and postmenopausal women do not.

When choosing a multi-vitamin, remember that too much of a vitamin can be far worse than too little. Mega-doses of vitamins can be harmful or toxic. Watch out for hefty doses of vitamins. Limit vitamin A to a maximum of 4000 IU and limit vitamin E to a maximum of 100 IU.

A multi-vitamin with about 15 milligrams of iron, about 0.6 milligrams of folic acid and magnesium (which helps absorb calcium) is recommended for premenopausal women. Look for one with 50 to 100 milligrams of magnesium. You also need vitamin B12 (6 milligrams), as well as minerals such as chromium, copper, selenium and zinc. You do not require more than 60 milligrams of vitamin C, the maximum the body can absorb.

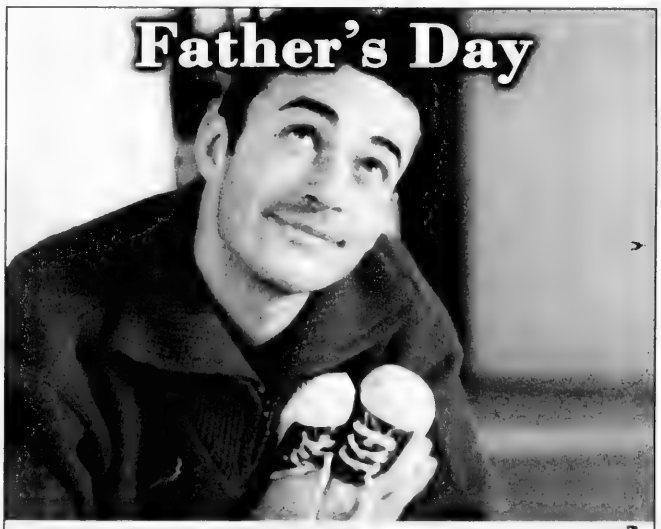
Consider the strength of the tablet and how many you need to take in one day. Most people prefer one a day because it's easy to remember to take, but it's fine to skip a day, too. No-name brands or store brands of multi-vitamins are as good if not better, and cheaper, than name brands.

Remember that vitamins do not replace a healthy diet. It is good to include them to give you whatever may be lacking in your diet. However, you still need to eat a wide variety of healthy foods including lean protein, brightly coloured fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes and dairy (three servings a day) to achieve optimal nutrition.

Also, if your physician has prescribed a calcium or iron supplement or any other for you, you cannot likely get that from a multi-vitamin alone. If you need a separate supplement, ask your doctor or a pharmacist about combining the supplement with a multi-vitamin to avoid overdosing on vitamins.

*Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to* The CJN.

**SPRING FLINGERS: Tzipporah and Ed Kogut enjoy the music of Jayco Productions at the the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living's "Spring Fling" concert. More than 130 people attended the May 3 event. [Kerry White photo]**

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495 TILING
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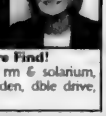

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## Arts & Travel

# Husband has been ardent supporter

**Continued from page 39**

In 1975, Garber and her husband moved to Toronto. She formed an eight-piece band and toured Canada and the United States, from Las Vegas to Atlantic City, for eight years. In Toronto, she performed at the Constellation Hotel.

"It was a time of bad news and good news," she says.

Along with having a single on the charts, she was getting favourable press. "Garber sets the stage on fire," one reviewer said. The "bad news" was that her marriage came to an end in 1980.

But "it was also the beginning of a Cinderella love affair that began at a midnight performance at the hotel and has lasted for 26 years of marriage," she says.

For 10 years after her second marriage, she successfully pursued a career in theatre, but then she changed direction. "Travelling and loneliness led me to the decision to remain home and join Bob in his graduation-ring business," she says.

But encouraged by her husband, Garber came back to singing and began working with medium-size ensembles and jazz orchestras.

"Bob has been a guiding force in my life and my most ardent supporter," she says. "When I was young, I was driven. Now I am pursuing and enjoying my passion."

Garber's voice reflects her maturity, seasoned as it is by her life experience. She sings with passion, capturing the pains and joys of life on each song, both live and on CD.

*Smile* includes 14 tunes by some of the greatest songwriters, among them Alan Lerner, Ira and George Gershwin, Lorenz Hart and Richard Rogers, and Duke Ellington. She covers *Cry Me a River, Stormy Weather, Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered, On the Street Where You Live, Old Devil Moon* and the upbeat *I Got Rhythm.*

*Smile* was produced and arranged by two-time National Jazz Awards winner for producer of the year, pianist Bill King. The CD includes King on piano, Pat La Barbera on saxophone, Reg Schwager on guitar, Duncan Hopkins on bass and Davide DiRenzo on drums.

For more information about June Garber, visit www.junegarber.com.

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# Golf book will put a smile on your face

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

It never ceases to amaze my non-golfing friends that an entire television station is devoted exclusively to the sport. They scrunch their faces in disbelief that anyone could watch an entire round of golf on TV, let alone show after show on the sport.

Their wonderment deepens when they learn there is no end to books about golf, magazines about golf, golf stores, golf courses, mini-golf, golf vacations, and on and on and on. All that for a sport whose object is to knock a little ball into a hole.

Many golfers, and the media that cater to them, do take the sport rather seriously – the rules and etiquette of golf would give a Talmudic scholar pause – so it's nice to see a light-hearted book aimed at the golfing shlepers among us.

I.J. Schecter understands the game of golf as a duffer might understand it. In *Slices: Observations from the Wrong Side of the Fairway*, (Wiley Canada), he has written a how-to book for anyone who wants to learn how to enjoy the sport and not take it too seriously.

Unlike instructional golf magazines that aim to help golfers shave a few strokes off their score to bring them into the 70s, Schecter offers advice for "people like me who have the quest to break 100 – the holy grail."

An award-winning author who writes for golf publications and corporate clients, he believe "it's important for people to laugh at themselves." *Slices* amply succeeds at that, and at times I found myself laughing out loud at Schecter's observations, gleaned from many years on the course.

At 34, he's been playing golf since he was a teenager, when he started with his father's "old partial lefty set." It was one of the sports he and his friends took up "to channel our hormones in a legally acceptable way."

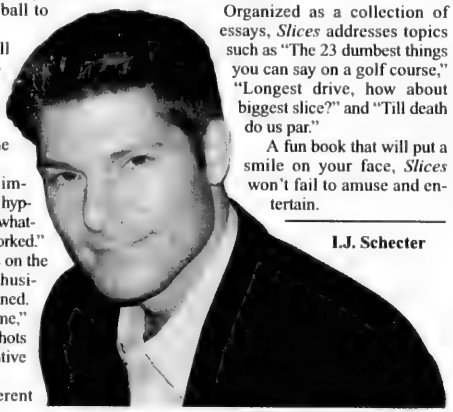
He's been flailing away for years, and he admits he still can't master the sport. An accomplished softball player – he was on two Canadian teams at the Maccabiah Games in Israel – he said he just can't fully make the adjustment from baseball to golf.

"When I see the ball sitting there… it turns into a fastball" and he takes a mighty swing that, all too often, ends up sending the ball on an adventure off the fairway and into the trees.

He's tried lessons (the improvement was "marginal"), hypnosis, aligning his chakras (whatever that is), but "nothing worked."

Despite his many scores on the wrong side of 100, his enthusiasm for the game hasn't waned. "I feel compelled by the game," he said. "If I have 100 bad shots but one good one, the incentive is to come back."

That's part of the "inherent optimism" in the sport – despite bad rounds, many golfers feel they'll do better the next time out, he said.



I.J. Schecter

Organized as a collection of essays, *Slices* addresses topics such as "The 23 dumbest things you can say on a golf course," "Longest drive, how about biggest slice?" and "Till death do us par."

A fun book that will put a smile on your face, *Slices* won't fail to amuse and entertain.

# Tee up, bear down, focus, then… relax

Years ago, *The CJN* employed a fellow who, by his own admission, was a pretty good golfer. He was a low handicapper, and the way he told his story, on one memorable occasion, he was in range of attaining a lifelong dream: scoring par over 18 holes.

Everything was going right for him that day. He was playing a course of reasonable difficulty yet was hitting every shot solidly and his touch did not elude him on the greens.

By the last few holes, he realized a par 72 was within reach – if only he didn't screw up.

Teeing up at the 18th, he was even with the course and needed just one more par to finish with a 72.

Although it's been a few years since I've heard this story, I believe it was his second shot that did him in.

Facing a large body of water between him and the green, our usually capable fellow mis-hit the ball, flubbing it into the drink. It was one of his only poor shots of the day and angry with the result, his club quickly chased the ball into the water. Not content to punish the one club alone, he flung his entire bag with all his clubs into the soup.

Yes, he was plenty angry. So near, and yet so far.

Too bad he didn't know about the calming effects of yoga.

Golf is a strange sport in many ways. To be a truly fine golfer, you must find the proper combination of intensity and relaxation, mental toughness and calmness – not to mention flexibility, with ample doses of strength and skill.

No wonder it's so hard to score 4s and 5s on a consistent basis.

Manufacturers have come up with no end of golf gizmos and equipment to aid in attaining golfing nirvana, but in recent years, in keeping with the times and current trends, a different approach has emerged to help golfers succeed on the course.

Yoga for golf has become increasingly popular as golfers, among many others in all walks of life, catch on to the physical and mental benefits of the ancient discipline.

Lynn Weinfeld is a yoga practitioner, an instructor who touts "the mind/body approach to golf fitness."

Lynn Weinfeld

She offers workshops and classes for golfers to help them better their scores and, more importantly, to play the game without the doubts that can plague even good golfers.

As she explains it, yoga, if practised properly, "begins to affect all other parts of your life."

Like some other exercises, yoga tones the body, increases flexibility and range of movement, enhances balance and coordination – all improvements that should pay off on the course.

As part of her class in hatha yoga, exercises are practised that increase flexibility in the shoulders and hips while lengthening and strengthening muscles, particularly those in the stomach, she said.

Postures are chosen to provide the strength and flexibility needed by golfers, although all athletes can benefit, she said.

Yoga does more than enhance physical flexibility, she continued. It gets the mind flexible, too.

"Everything in yoga includes becoming aware. You have to be in the moment… With yoga you have an inner mirror."

In practical terms, that means a golfer is better able to focus on the elements that make a good shot while not being distracted by nagging doubts.

Part of every class includes a focus on breathing techniques to calm and relax the body," Weinfeld said. "Then you can focus.

"It's about being mindful, being in the moment, without thinking about anything else."

Weinfeld, a certified yoga instructor who also works in marketing research, acknowledges that for some guys, "yoga is still hocus pocus."

But it is receiving mainstream attention, she said. You can find yoga instruction on the Golf Channel and popular golf magazines carry articles on adapting yoga for golf.

Weinfeld believes that "the proper mental state enhances the ability to control and direct the motivating potential of the emotions. Dealing with such feelings as fear and anger on the golf course is a major challenge for even the best tournament players and a well-conceived yoga practice aids in learning to maintain a balanced emotional state."

Now if our old *CJN* colleague can just retrieve his clubs from the water, maybe he, too, can get on the road to a more balanced emotional state and his long sought-after par. —PL

# Matisyahu more than a passing fad

ARTS IN FOCUS
By Oren Shefa

When Matthew Miller began rapping at open-mike competitions in Oregon as a teenager, far from his White Plains, N.Y., home, no one really paid him much mind. Being white and bearing the initials M and M apparently didn't have the same kind of effect the second time around.

But when Miller returned home, assembled a band, immersed himself in Jewish Orthodoxy and changed his name to Matisyahu, heads began to turn. And just when it seemed that this beat-boxing Chabadnic's 15 minutes were ticking down towards their final tock, Matisyahu went out and earned himself some respect.

In 2004, following the release of his debut album *Shake off the Dust... Arise*, Matisyahu's appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* served as the musician's coming-out party. A two-minute set that began with a tantalizing display of beat-boxing prowess was all that the world got to see, but it turned out to be more than enough. A video clip of that performance quickly made its way through online chat rooms, message boards and personal e-mails.

Here was this young man in conservative black garb, with brimmed hat, glasses and full beard, spitting, clicking, heaving and singing into a microphone. It was, at the time, impossible to know what to make of this chassidic dancehall-style reggae artist.

Surely this had to be some kind of joke, and yet, contrary to expectations, the punch line never came. Matisyahu wasn't some kid looking for an angle by playing dress-up. This wasn't the same as 2 Live Jews (whose music was a riff on that of another rapper) all over again. (Thank God!)

Even so, watching Matisyahu perform, one could not help but wonder how long the spectacle would last. Yes, he had talent, but could he maintain a following once the novelty of a religious Jew "dropping bombs" on stage began to wear off?

Two years and three albums later, it seems the answer is a resounding Yes! The 2005 live recording *Live at Stubb's* proved to be the catalyst. The album highlighted an intensity in Matisyahu brought out by the deep connection he has with his audiences. His sophomore release *Youth* received good but cautious reviews from critics, mostly related to the album's more polished and therefore less edgy offerings thanks to the contributions of producer Bill Laswell. That said, *Youth* still managed to burst out of the gate and peak at No. 4 on the Billboard charts. Both *Stubb's* and *Youth* have since reached gold status, selling over 500,000 copies each.

Last year, Matisyahu's aggressive touring schedule covered North America, Europe and Israel. He shared the stage with such prominent names as Sting, Trey Anastasio (former Phish frontman) and Dave Matthews Band. He'll be visiting Toronto with DMB June 13 at Molson Amphitheatre.

Despite his success, Miller has had to endure some rough patches along the way. In March he parted ways with JDub his management company over questionable handling of his finances, and he is currently embroiled in legal battles over a broken contract. Trying to balance his Orthodox lifestyle with his emerging celebrity status has also proven to be difficult at times when his travelling schedule conflicts with keeping Shabbat or when he has to reject the occasional female fan jumping onstage in the hope of stealing an embrace.

It's been a whirlwind couple of years for Matisyahu, one in which his faith, endurance and resolve have all been tested. Through it all, his passion for music and his determination to deliver his message have kept him focused and grounded. He's proven that he is no flash in the pan, and though he's still finding his rhythm, he can feel confident that his fans will give him all the time he needs to work out the kinks.


# Fresh Vegetable Pita Pizza

1 lb. fresh ripe tomatoes
4 pita breads
1 tblsps. olive oil
2 tblsps. grated parmesan cheese
1 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning, divided
2 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese, divided
1 med. (2 cups) zucchini cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced
1/2 lg. (1 cup) green bell pepper, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced
1/4 cup sweet red onion, thinly sliced

Preheat oven to 425°F. Core and slice tomatoes; cut each slice in half. Place pitas on 2 baking sheets, brush with oil. Arrange tomato slices on each pita, dividing evenly. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and half of seasoning. Bake 10 minutes. Sprinkle tomatoes with half of the mozzarella cheese. Top with zucchini, green pepper and onion. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella and seasoning. Bake until cheese is melted and vegetables are crisp-tender, about 10 minutes.

Sprinkle with parmesan cheese, if desired.

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## FIRST FRUITS

**Students at the Toronto Heschel School's elementary campus celebrated Shavuot by bringing *bikurim*, the first or best fruits of the season, to the sanctuary of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue for a celebration with tfillah and singing. The fruits were donated to a local shelter after the ceremony. Pictured are, from left, Danya Tugg, Noah Koven, Noah Philipp-Muller, Yoni Newman, Maya Koven, Aaron Philipp-Muller, Jesse Muller and Anna Muller.**

# Baby Noah: a 10-pound gift

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

A few weeks ago, I wrote that Miriam and I had received a heavenly gift of a seven-pound 12-ounce little boy. His name is Noah River, and he was born with a full head of hair and an immediate curiosity for life.

Our little guy is now six weeks and a day old. I would count the hours but am not exactly sure when *The CJN* goes to press.

With Noah in our world, our lives have changed more than I could possibly describe. Things feel differently, nothing seems to smell the same and the world has just generally taken on a new look.

Whereas my days used to be filled with my responsibilities at Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, writing, family, friends and other sundry ventures – most of my waking (and sleeping) energy is now geared toward Noah. I make sure he has burped after his last feeding, and hope he is limiting his projectile vomiting, a nasty habit he has, requiring never-ending laundry runs.

Upon arrival home, after seeing the intense day Miriam has spent with our 10-pound bundle of pleasure and watchfulness, I do my best to change the next few diapers, walk him in the stroller and bathe him before he goes to sleep, or so we hope.

I learned to swaddle baby Noah at Mount Sinai Hospital. Generally, however, within a few minutes after I lay him in his bassinet, the blankets are loose and the little one is usually able to kick them off. Miriam, however, is an excellent swaddler. Adeptly, she folds one side over, wraps it under Noah, flips up the bottom portion of the blanket leaving enough room for the baby to move his feet around, and then folds the opposite side over, ultimately wrapping it around Noah's back. He then appears to look like a little human snow cone.

Changing diapers is not as daunting a duty as I had heard. I took a survey of a number of my pals prior to delivery, asking them if they had changed diapers. Basically, my results showed: most men over 50 rarely, if ever, change diapers; from 30 to 50, they do so when their wives are at wit's end; under 30 – well, the role of men is clearly changing and it seems that in this age range, husbands dive right into this sometimes grimy task.

But you know, strangely, just as I love bathing Noah, I also quite like changing his diapers. I do because this is when I feel most attached to his physical needs.

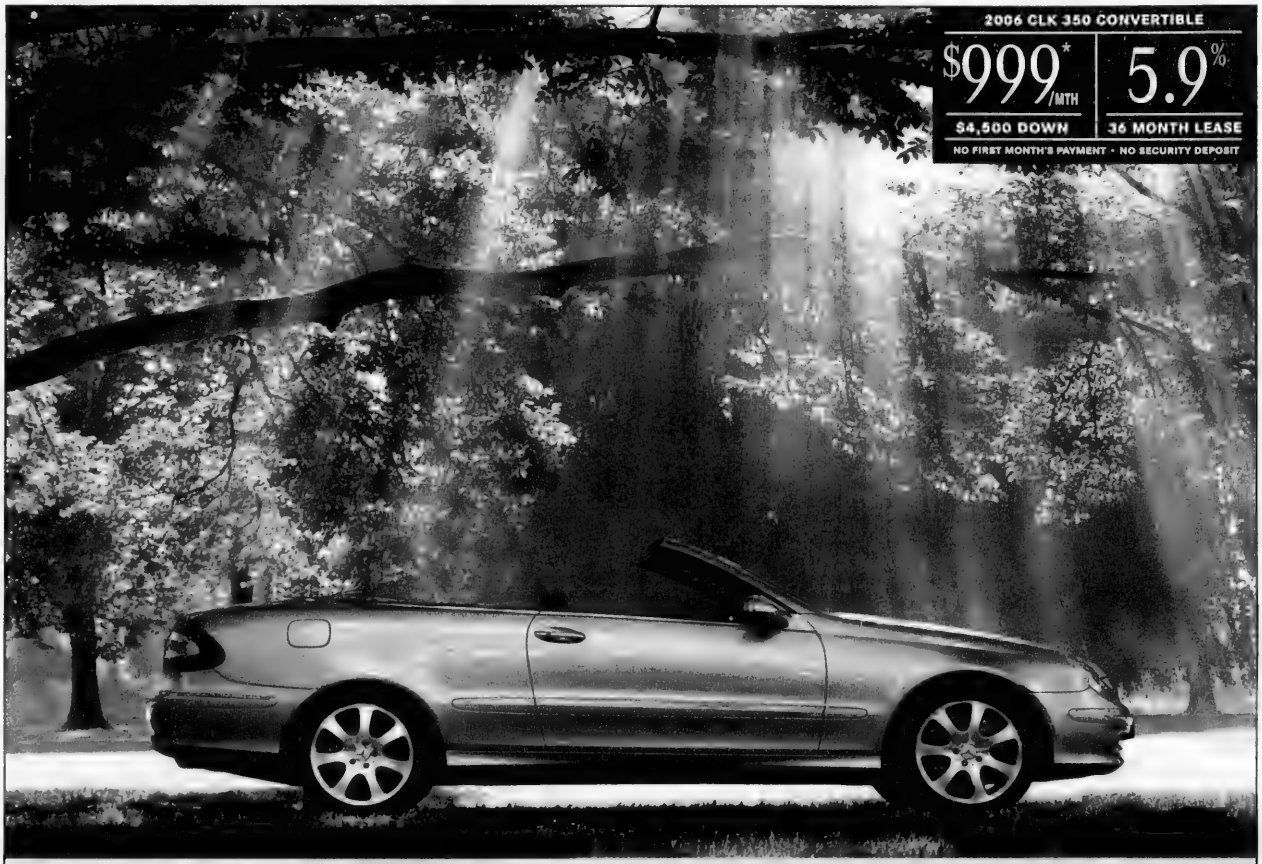
I know breastfeeding can be very demanding for any mother, but I am envious of Miriam, knowing she is sustaining our little boy through her milk. She is giving him life directly from her life. Of course, changing diapers doesn't come close to that level of intimacy, but it is my chance to help take care of Noah, to sustain him, in a way that he needs me. There is something very beautiful about being needed by a baby.

I'm 46 years old and a new father. I see the sense in having children earlier on – it's far easier on the back – but in truth this is exactly the right time for Noah to come into our lives, to come into the world.

I watch him and then watch him again – intrigued by his amusing bubbling noises, fascinated by the strength in those little legs and overwhelmed by the angelic look on his tiny face as he sleeps in his mother's arms, contently snuggling into her shoulder.

I am a father, a bit freaked out, but blessed and infatuated with our 10-pound gift.

*Avrum@veahavta.org SUDAN?*

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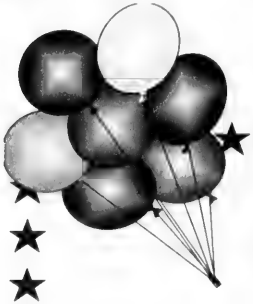
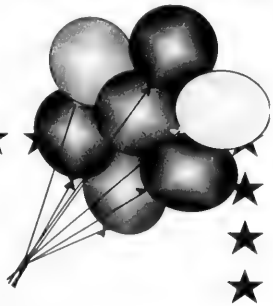
Original photo courtesy of Carol Cameron, Ottawa

# PARTY PLANNER





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# Advice from the wedding-planning trenches

Riva Turner walks down the aisle, flanked by her parents, after months of planning.

**By RIVA TURNER**
*Special to The CJN*

The question has been "popped" and a beautiful new diamond is sitting proudly on your ring finger. Now your cellphone won't stop ringing. Mazel tov! You're engaged. Welcome to the next stage of your life.

I remember that moment in terms of emotions. They were: surprise, followed by a split second of disbelief, happiness and then came the tears. I'm pretty sure I said yes.

The first thing we did was relax and take some time to let the engagement sink in. We didn't delve into wedding planning right away, because we wanted to enjoy every minute of the moment. Once all the excitement died down to a dull roar, we had to start the long and arduous task of planning a wedding. I'm not being dramatic. Just ask anyone who has had to plan a simchah. It's a challenge, but it's not impossible if you plan.

Weddings are time-consuming, there are a million details, you often have to deal with 18 different people at once, you have to try and stay sane, and to some degree you have to please your fiancé, yourself and two families (if you're lucky – sometimes there are three, or more).

Luckily for me, there were only two sides to please. I also had one year to plan, but adding up all the time I spent on the wedding, it could have all been done in six months. A one-year time frame is standard for most weddings, due largely to the fact that most halls or event venues are booked 12 months in advance.

As a publicist, I've done my share of planning, but I have to tell you that my own wedding was my toughest event yet. Here are some helpful hints I picked up along the way.

**Continued on page B5**

# It's always best to have a budget

**Continued from page B4**

**What Do I Do?** Naturally you want to have your dream wedding, but don't bite off more than you can chew. I conducted an informal survey of average people – my girlfriends and myself – and found that the average person spends between one to 15 hours looking for the "perfect" gown. This estimated total time did not include the proverbial "looking through magazines." Just imagine the amount of time it will take to get everything in place. Start by writing down everything you think you will need to do for the wedding, then talk to friends and family, and think about hiring a wedding planner.

**Timelines and Deadlines:** Once I had thought about the wedding, I created a checklist of all the things I needed to do and how soon they needed to be completed. The list helped to keep me on track. You will find that most wedding websites have downloadable checklists and timelines. Try to finalize as many items right away to avoid last-minute scrambling and stress.

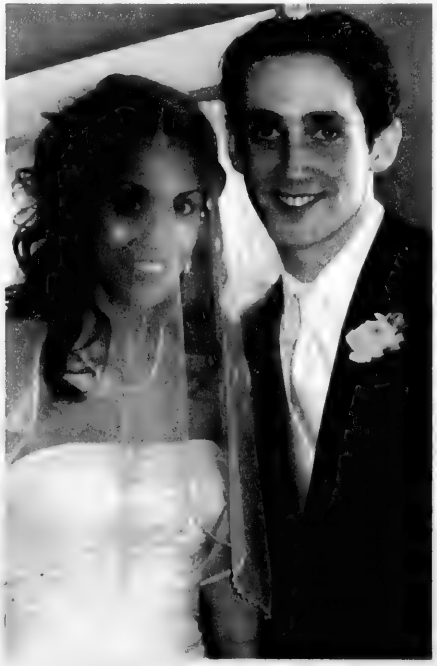
**Budget, Budget, Budget:** Even if you are covered in terms of finances, it's still best to create a budget. My husband and I figured out how much we were willing to spend on certain items and adjusted our budget accordingly. Again, check wedding websites for downloadable templates. Follow your budget, because odds and ends tend to add up quickly, and before you know it, your dream wedding could become a money pit.

**Magazine Heaven:** Back to the surveyed girlfriends, the average person buys between five and 40 bridal magazines during their engagement. And approximately 99.9 per cent of newly engaged women go out the next day and come home with one of these magazines. They are full of wedding trends, wedding gowns and great ideas and advice on planning. My future sister-in-law and I would often sit with a pile of magazines and rip out pages we liked.

**Wheeling and Dealing:** When it comes to caterers, photographers, videographers, florists, etc., negotiation is the word of the day. Think of your wedding as a really expensive pair of shoes. Why pay full price when you can get them at a discount? However, there is a fine line between less expensive and downright cheap. Try taking a friend along for a second opinion.

Most importantly, don't stress out: no matter what happens, have fun. A wise friend said to my husband and me upon hearing the news of our engagement: "More marriage, less wedding!" In other words, a wedding is a wonderful thing, but it has absolutely no bearing on your marriage. Concentrate on being a good partner. Remember: it's a simchah, so celebrate! All it takes is a little planning.

*Riva Turner got married this past April.*



**Riva with her husband Jonathan Turner.**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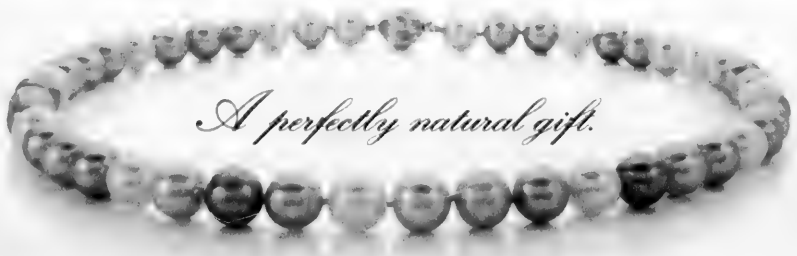


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# Videos preserve the memory of a special event

By JEN THOMPSON
*Special to The CJN*

The best way to preserve the memory of your special event is to hire a professional videographer. Lisa Productions (905-764-1033) and Rafael Studios (416-667-9999) are two videographers who will ensure you have a beautiful keepsake of your event.

Lisa Feinstein has been videotaping events for more than 25 years. When you speak with her, it quickly becomes clear that this is not just a job for her but a labour of love. She creates valuable family heirlooms that will be cherished for generations to come by her clients.

One of the reasons that Feinstein, who is a mother of five teenagers, is so successful as a videographer is that she understands the needs of children and adults.

She has a solid reputation in the community, with many of her clients coming to her through word of mouth. She is now being asked to video bar mitzvahs by parents whose own bar mitzvahs she videotaped 20 years earlier.

Feinstein says it is important for her to be surrounded with good people when she works. "You are only as good as the people you work with," she says.

Her son, Matt, has joined the family business. "Sixteen-year-old Matt has become such a fabulous asset to the party industry," says Feinstein. He works as an assistant, and clients have come to not only appreciate his skills but also request that he work their event, she adds.

Feinstein produces videos that are fun to watch and a true remembrance of your event.

Matt and Lisa Feinstein

For Feinstein, videotaping your simchah is an honour. She has a personal attachment to all her clients, and it is this warmth that is conveyed in your video. She uses professional camera and lighting equipment and can produce a finished video within a week following an event.

Rafael Studios has been providing professional videography and photography services for 17 years. Andy Koltai founded Rafael Studios in 1989 and his two sons, Tamas and Gabor, joined the business in 2001.

The creators of beautiful video memories for their clients, the Koltais are well respected in the industry. They produce clean-looking videos that tell the story of an event through the footage.

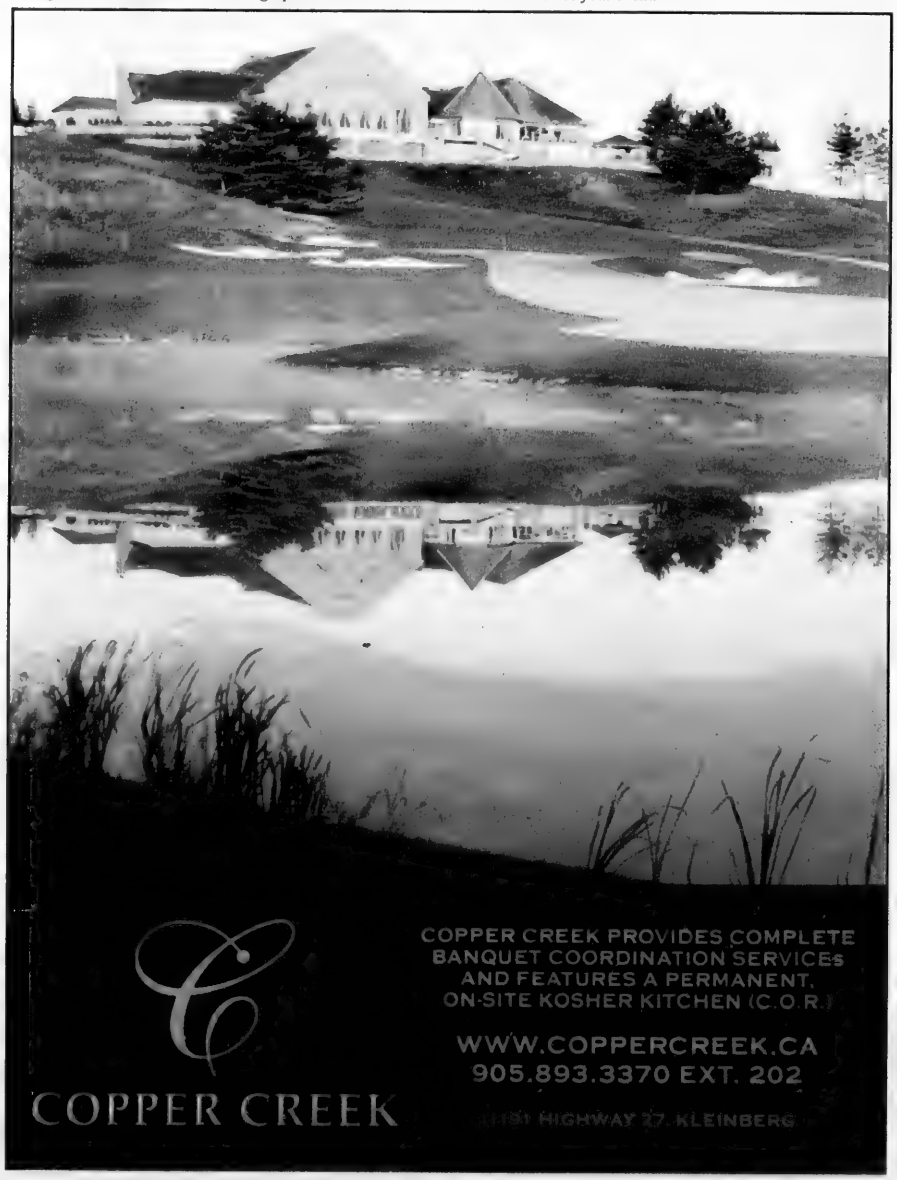
Rafael Studios do all their editing in-house and use professional broadcast quality equipment to videotape an event. Lighting is low key and all filming is done unobtrusively so as to not interfere with your event. Clients get to preview their videos before completion, which allows for any changes to be made in the editing process. The final edited version is ready approximately eight weeks after an event.

*Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: D.M.S. Video Productions, 905-470-4040; Northern Memory Productions, 905-881-0608; Redstone Pictures, 416-256-4666; Twins Photo & Video, 905-707-2385; Video Affairs, 905-889-0909; Video Excellence, 905-731-4355; Video Productions by Josh, 905-709-9277.*

Andy Koltai, centre, flanked by his two sons.

**ON THE COVER**

**The cover for this supplement was designed by Britta Montgomery. The original photo was taken by Gord Cameron of Ottawa.**



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PARTY PLANNER

# Remembering the less fortunate at your simchah

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Simchahs are a time to revel in joy and happiness, but in the heat of these happy moments, it's also important to realize one's good fortune in being able to celebrate.

In that spirit of blending revelry with reflection, Mazon Canada (416-783-7554; www.mazoncanada.ca) offers a special program for party hosts, in which they donate a portion of the money they spend on food for their function to charitable causes that benefit those battling hunger.

"We want people to remember that at the time of your simchah, there are those who are not so fortunate and it's nice to help them out," says Shira Lester-Cohen, Mazon Canada's executive director.

"So we ask people to donate three per cent of their food costs to Mazon and we allocate funds, non-denominationally, to organizations fighting hunger on the front lines across Canada."

In recognition of donors' generosity, Mazon provides place-card services.

"The personalized cards are done professionally by a printer, with the name of the guest and a line for what table they're sitting at. And on the inside, there's a little bit of information about Mazon and a message noting the guest's presence is being honoured with a donation," says Lester-Cohen.

While the place cards are a courtesy, she points out they are also practical and appreciated by donors.

"Place cards are something everybody is going to need for a wedding," she says.

"And with those place cards, you may be giving breakfast to a group of kids for a week."

The beneficiaries of Mazon's charitable efforts are diverse, ranging from breakfast programs for inner-city kids in Toronto schools to biweekly meal services for native youths in northern British Columbia.

In addition to wedding place cards, Mazon also caters to parents holding birthday parties for their children.

The party host donates a certain sum of money for each kid who attends the party and these kids get a special certificate when they leave the party.

"If parents want to attach candy to the certificate, they can," says Lester-Cohen.

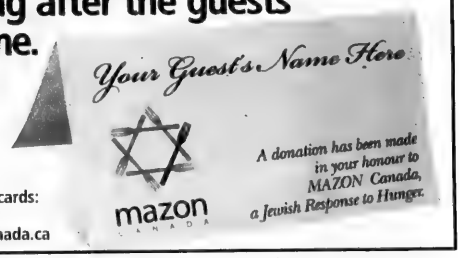
"Instead of just giving out a loot bag, with this certificate, you've helped another little kid have a snack. And it's a nice educational tool of what it means to help somebody else."

She adds that the kids are particularly happy when the certificate is personalized with their name on it.

Starting up in 1986, the organization is active in both Canada and the United States. Canadian offices are in Toronto and Montreal.

Mazon is now actively trying to get more rabbis involved in the charity by having them spread the word about Mazon to kids going through the bar/bat mitzvah program, as well couples who are taking marriage classes, so that they may eventually choose to make donations for their special events.


Let the joy of your simcha last long after the guests go home.

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PARTY PLANNER

# About Life

**Dear Ella,**

My in-laws have been making a huge production for their daughter's upcoming wedding. There have been numerous showers and an engagement party that was as elaborate as any wedding. I actually bought a beautiful new outfit to wear to the engagement party, and it was more than I could afford at the time.

The wedding is just around the corner, and our finances are tight at the moment. I would love to buy a new dress for the wedding, but that would make our financial situation more difficult. My husband says I should wear the dress I wore to the engagement party, because he is wearing the same suit, but I feel weird doing that. All of the same people will be at the wedding.

Do you think it's OK to wear the same outfit to two affairs if the same people will be there?

**Tight for a Dress**

**Dear Tight for a Dress**

What matters is what you think, or, more importantly, how you feel. You have to be comfortable at the wedding. Are you going to be self-conscious? Are you going to have fun, or will you be thinking all night about what others may be saying about your dress?

Men are lucky when it comes to formal parties. I don't think I could tell if a guy is wearing a suit he wore before. They all look alike, and a new shirt and a tie are all it takes to freshen the look.

It's only natural to want to look your best. But you can change your look without blowing the budget. Accessorize! Add a shawl, a brooch or a belt. Do something different with your hair and makeup. There are many ways to change your look and take the focus off the dress and put it onto you as a whole.

I can't imagine people standing around whispering, "Can you believe she wore the same dress?" Once you say your hellos and see that everyone is in good spirits and having fun, you'll stop thinking about what you're wearing and just enjoy yourself. Only you can decide if you can get through this comfortably. I think you can keep your financial priorities intact and still have a good time.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN, email: eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

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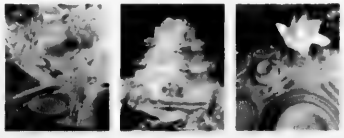

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# Still photography at its finest

By JENNA ROSMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Distinguished photographer Al Gilbert of Gilbert and Associates, is donating 4,000 photographs of Jewish figures to the Jewish Historical Society.

"These are files that the Jewish Historical Society wants to make sure are preserved for all time," said Gilbert, who has been a photographer since 1945 and was named a member of the Order of Canada in 1990. They have agreed to take the 4,000 files now, he added, but they don't have the finances or the place to keep the additional 16,000 files Gilbert has available.

Files include the photographs and negatives of presidents of Toronto synagogues and community leaders, along with their biographies.

"The Gilbert family, starting with my father, has recorded a generation of Jewry. We've started to go through the files, to pick up names that were instrumental in the Jewish community over the years," said veteran photographer Al Gilbert, who has photographed all of the Israeli Prime Ministers.

"That image of Golda Meir holding her cigarette is one of the mainstays of my portfolio," he said.

Gilbert's portfolio is filled with faces of notable people.

He has lectured about photography all over the world, including in the United States, Mexico, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Austria, Norway, China, Russia and the Philippines.

He said the advent of digital photography has influenced and changed the direction of photography.

"Everyone [today] is shooting as fast as they can shoot – that's what they are getting. No one is looking at the people," he said.

"There were techniques that I learned through trial and error, because there were no schools teaching what they call classical portraiture. I developed my own style."

Gilbert said he was able to achieve a three-dimensional look by creating "a foreground that was out of focus, crystal clear subject matter and an out-of-focus, turbulent background. What I'm trying to say is that when digital hit, all those techniques that took me years to develop, you could now do with software."

More than 160 of Gilbert's images of the Jewish community are already on permanent display at Baycrest.

"You've got weddings, you've got athletes of the Jewish community and Jewish war heroes. There are also pictures of famous photographers who were doing the sports themes at the time," he said. "Every single one of these images [on display] is part of the history of this community."

Gilbert described his style of photography as "a dying art – newsworthy, classical and with classical lines and lighting."

He said it's fundamental for the photo subject to be "married" to his or her environment, in order to secure a mood.

Before doing a project, Gilbert chats with the subjects in his office, analyzing their body language and getting a sense of who they are.

"I'll watch, maybe, your hands, what you do with your hands. That's what I look for," he said.

To contact Al Gilbert of Gilbert and Associates call 416-923-1995.

**All images by Gilbert and Associates.**

*Other photographers advertising in this supplement are: Paula Feig Photography, 416-636-9466; Horvath Studio of Photography, 905-707-5770; Platinum Studios, 905-709-7754; Signature.Studios, 416-784-4488; Snapp Photography, 416-938-2489; Special Event Photography, 416-221-3773.*

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PARTY PLANNER

Cheryl Render and Dana Collin of Great Gifts and Giveaways.

# Find unique, inexpensive gifts and giveaways

By JEN THOMPSON
*Special to The CJN*

The perfect way to end a simchah is to send your guests home with something to remember your event. But finding affordable, creative, unique party favours can often be a time consuming and expensive experience.

Cheryl Render and Dana Collin have found a solution to this problem by creating Great Gifts and Giveaways. www.greatgg.com. Phone: Cheryl Render (416-452-8022) Dana Collin (416-716-2905).

Opened in September 2005, Great Gifts and Giveaways is a home-based business located in Thornhill, Ont. The giveaway business has become an important aspect of many events, and prizes are often expensive and extravagant. Being mothers themselves, Render and Collin saw a need for fun, practical and affordable gifts and giveaways. Their business allows customers to provide special mementos for their party guests without breaking the bank. Because they are home based, they are able to pass on the savings to their clients.

Party planners can find something for everyone at Great Gifts and Giveaways. Shop by appointment for no-pressure, personal attention, or just come to browse. Young children, teenagers and adults, male and female, can enjoy practical and unusual gifts and gadgets. Popular items include tranquillity fountains, mini-digital cameras, MP3 players and poker sets.

One of the things that make Render and Collin's company different is that they offer value items that make great giveaways without charging expensive prices. Great Gift and Giveaway items range in price from as little as $1 to approximately $30.

The two women understand the needs of their clientele. Often, people spend a fortune simply to have one grand prize at an event. However, by shopping at Great Gifts and Giveaways you can purchase an array of prizes that everyone will love. A Caller ID phone for $12 is just one example of an item that gives consumers more value for their money. Instead of only one child leaving your party with a gift, many children can leave with a practical and fun keepsake of the event.

In addition to gifts for bar and bat mitzvahs, Render and Collin also have giveaways for corporate events and fundraisers, as well as gifts for hostesses and teachers. Their showroom offers such products as beautiful, 46-piece candle sets for only $7. These are unbelievable prices that you just cannot find in a store.

Loot bags are also popular at Great Gifts and Giveaways. Girls and boys of all ages will be happy with their gifts. Lip gloss, sporting key chains, feather socks, flying monkeys and bubble bath all sell for $3 dollars or less.

With new items arriving monthly, Great Gifts and Giveaways keeps up with the latest and greatest gadgets and toys for all age levels of children.

"It is the kids that dictate the items for sale in our showroom," Dana says.

The Great Gifts and Giveaways showroom is a non-intimidating, clean, well laid out environment where shoppers can browse or shop freely without being pressured or having to deal with lineups or crowds.

Render says one of the best things about their store is the "wow" factor. Children of all ages love the environment and truly enjoy exploring the unique product lines.

Great Gifts and Giveaways offers you fun, practical, affordable gifts. So, when planning your next simchah, you may want to check out this destination for incredible value and new ideas.

*Other party favour places advertising in this supplement are: Eventworks, 416-482-3984; Great Gifts & Giveaways, 905-886-4984.*

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# Try a country club setting for your big day

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

While there are many facets in making your party an unforgettable event, the venue is definitely one of the top considerations.

If the place is grooving, chances are your guests will too.

And these days, a popular destination is the storied country club.

"Bringing your guests to a club creates a private [ambience]," says Lino Ferreira, food and beverage director at the Richmond Hill Country Club (RHCC). "Unlike at other venues, they have the entire floor to themselves."

In addition to the privacy element, a country club also offers benefits in terms of décor and scenery.

"The ballroom leads out to a beautiful balcony overlooking the swimming pool and tennis courts," Ferreira says of the RHCC. "The grounds are great for taking pictures."

When selecting a venue, ensure that the party room's dance floor accommodates the number of guests you have and that the acoustics are suitable for the music.

On the customer service side of things, Ferreira, a former

30-year plus employee of the Four Seasons chain, advises that the person directing the venue must be dedicated, not only in the planning process, but during the actual event.

"I never leave until the final course is served," Ferreira says. "We make that commitment here and it's always delivered."

Ferreira adds that it is crucial for the country club to work in tandem with vendors, giving them enough time to set up and organize music equipment, flowers, video materials and whatever else is needed to put the show on the road.

"We always make ourselves available and clients can bring in whoever they want," Ferreira says. "We'll block the whole room at a certain time so that the vendors can set up and there won't be a rush."

As for trends, Ferreira says the traditional sweet table at the end of the night is not as common today, with a growing number of hosts opting to either combine desserts with the meal or serve at special, sinful food stations.

"Chocolate fountain and crepe stations are common," Ferreira says. "And some people are serving cold cuts at the end of the night, which is [sometimes] a preference, especially following an afternoon of drinking."

The RHCC has standards in place designating how many servers should wait on tables, based on the number of people seated there.

The club also provides food sampling for party hosts so that they know what the cuisine is like from first-hand experience.

In addition to its opulent ballroom, which seats about 250 people with a dance floor and up to 350 people without dancing, the RHCC boasts other party rooms. One seats about 200 people and is frequently used for receptions. Another smaller room seats about 80 people and is available on Saturdays and Sundays.

To learn more about the Richmond Hill Country Club, log onto their website at www.richmondhillcountryclub.com or dial 905-731-2800.

**The club provides food sampling for party hosts.**

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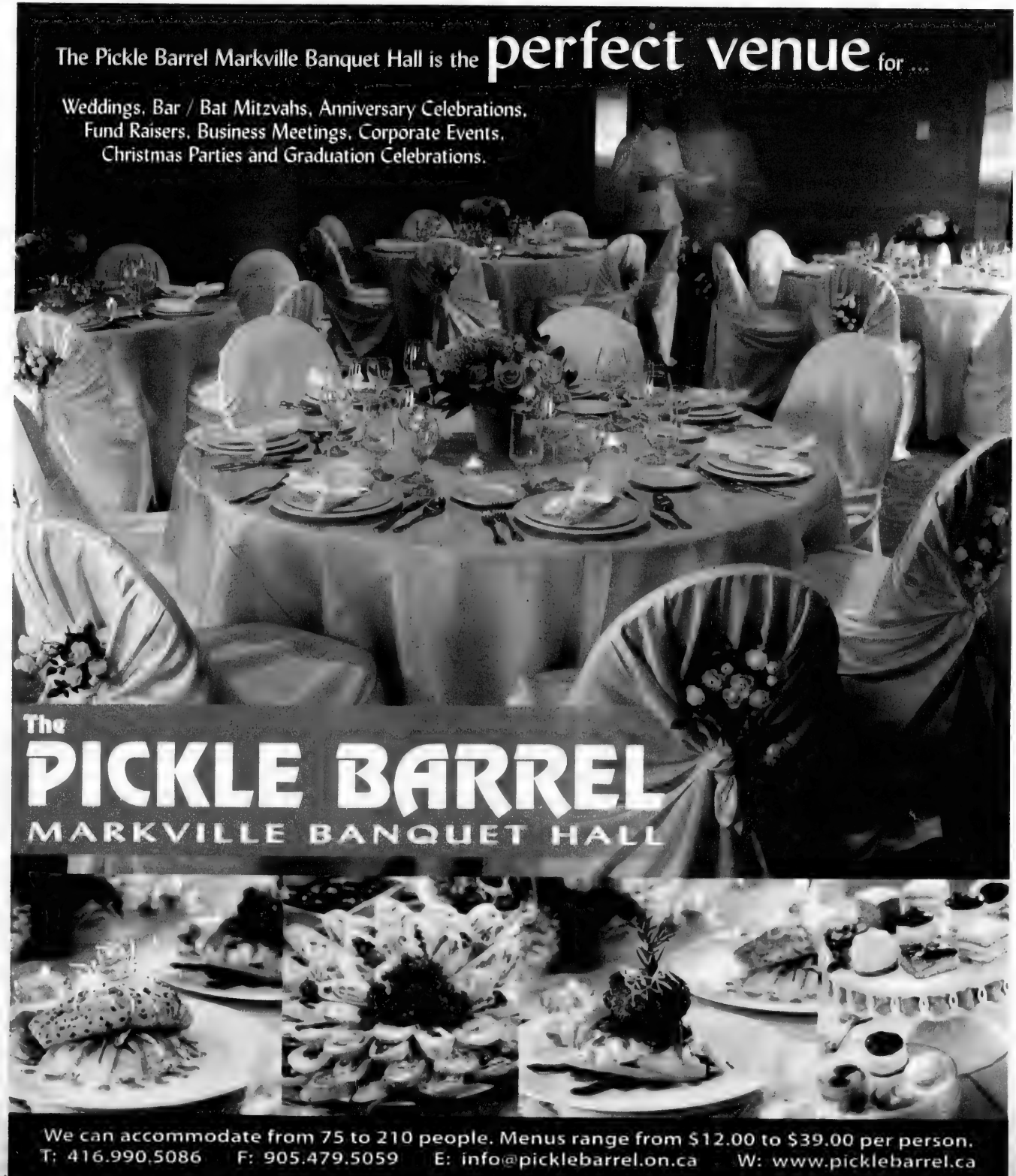
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# Designer clothing at a fraction of the price

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

While shopping is one of the simple pleasures in life, finding the perfect outfit can be nearly impossible and may cost a pretty penny.

This season, choosing a dress could be easier than you think. At Déjà Vu (905-472-9566), a boutique specializing in women's resale clothing, you'll find a large selection of affordable classic dresses. The store, located at 5990 16th Ave. at Markham Road, has been selling the best in resale to loyal customers for 13 years.

**Theresa Lobraico, left, and her friend show that top quality clothes can be bought for a fraction of the price.**

Offering an extensive collection of women's clothing, Déjà Vu sells everything from evening wear to denim and accessories. Sorting through the many items brought to her by clients, Theresa Lobraico, the store's owner, chooses only the best quality garments for resale.

Lobraico, who was an avid consignment shopper herself, opened the business based on her instinctive knowledge of fashion and style. "I just know it when I see it – I'm very selective with what I take in. It has to look like new," she says. Déjà Vu clothing must be current within two years and in excellent condition.

Once dry-cleaned, the like-new pieces are ready for sale. "People don't even know that the garments are resale items," she says. Lobraico splits the profits 50/50 with the original owner of a garment after it is sold.

Dreaming about Versace gowns? They can be all yours at a fraction of the price! The store boasts a collection of upscale brands such as Sigrid Olsen and Hugo Boss. "We'd carry a Boss suit for approximately $300, when it'd regularly be retailed at $1,000 or higher," Labraico says.

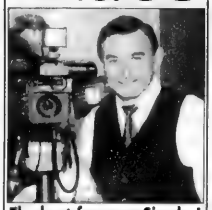
Since all garments are current within two years, any look you want can be achieved. "Style is timeless," Lobraico says.

Lobraico also offers wardrobe consultations for her clients. She will come to your home and sort through your wardrobe to develop cohesive looks. Coordinating the items in your wardrobe with new purchases will smarten and freshen up your look.

While perusing the selection of gorgeous and timeless fashions at Déjà Vu, you'll be amazed at the quality offered. And it doesn't stop there. Since the items have been resold, they are guaranteed to be unique. And don't forget to bring in your clothing as well; what you don't want may be another woman's treasure.

Be sure to book an appointment with Lobraico for best service. You'll be amazed at what the fashionable eye sees.


Video



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- Style Magazine, December 2005, "Fresh Faces of Canadian Fashion"

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# Live music in demand at today's parties

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Quality entertainment is fundamental when planning a special event such as a bar or bat mitzvah party.

Times Square Entertainment (905- 881-6400, rick@torontopartyguide.com, www.torontopartyguide.com/timessquare) is one company that's able to deliver the goods.

"Times Square Entertainment is a top-quality, first-class entertainment company that provides DJ services, dances, interactive MCs and live bands," said owner Rick Levine, who has been involved in the entertainment industry for more than 10 years.

Levine is also the lead singer of The Good Vibrations Band of Times Square Entertainment, which specializes in music of the 1960s.

"Times Square is much more than a DJ company. It started out in 1994 as a company that was producing an American-style, interactive DJ style for bar mitzvahs in Canada, which meant lots of style, lots of personality, the latest in music and lighting," says Levine. "We were the first company in Canada to use a DJ booth, which was very impressive in the overall look."

Times Square Entertainment offers professional event planning services. "People planning a function need not worry about anything. They just leave it up to us," he said. "They just give us their input and we give them feedback with what needs to be done, and how to accomplish what they want to accomplish."

Levine says that Times Square Entertainment consists of professional DJs and MCs who know how to keep both children as well as adults interested.

He said that while most MCs today focus solely on the younger audience, disregarding the needs of the adults, Times Square Entertainment satisfies all partygoers.

"We keep everyone all interested by setting a rhythm where at times during an event we'll gear our music and entertainment towards kids with interactive games and contests, and other times we'll switch modes and entertain the adults with entertainment such as professional vocalists who sing live to backtracks of some of their [the partygoers' favourite songs from their era," he said. Levine says that current entertainment trends include a diversity of entertainment with a greater demand for live acts.

"It's refreshing to see live music and live musicians and talented artists as a break to what they've been seeing time and time again at bar or bat mitvahs," he said.

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Rick Levine and The Good Vibrations Band.

PARTY PLANNER

# Flowers add 'wow' factor to party

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Flowers can add a 'wow' factor to any party venue, says Renee Birnbaum of An Affair to Remember (905-881-6686).

The owner of a complete decor company, Birnbaum says she has been concentrating on flowers because "that's the way it's going. [Hosts] are getting tired of themes. They're taking a different road."

While flowers have always been front and centre at weddings, Birnbaum says, they are now being used more and more at bar and bat mitzvahs as well.

"Flowers can set the tone and the mood of the party. If you're looking for a romantic tone, add some candlelight, and use roses, peonies or orchids in pastel colours.

"If you want upbeat and bright, use flowers in primary colours. They'll brighten up the room."

Flowers don't have to break your budget, she stresses.

"I've used vases with petals and floating candles, and then added a backdrop to the head table. We can also add some greenery around the room. It's not expensive, but it sets the mood of the party."

A recent wedding at Adath Israel Congregation was so impressive "that the calls have not stopped," she says.

"Our colour theme was black and white, and for the centrepieces, we used black table liners on which we placed white hydrangeas, calla lilies, or roses inside clear vases. In the vases we inserted black stones and crystals.

"The white on white backdrop behind the head table was floor-to-ceiling, and on black pillars, we placed more white flowers inside black glass vases."

The effect was "stunning. It was elegant, and yet not extravagant. Guests felt like they were walking into a four-star hotel. I always tell my clients that only our look is expensive."

She can work on a short deadline, she says, but suggests calling about six months in advance so she can plan ahead.

"I have all kinds of ways to set the tone of your party."

*Other florists advertising in this supplement are An Affair to Remember, 905-881-6686; Fran Sackler Floral Designs, 905-884-5848*

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# Gladstone's offers service, ambience and kashrut in midtown

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Finding a venue for a simchah is enough of a challenge these days, but a new glatt kosher wine bar and grill has made the choice much easier with its great location, delicious fare and sophisticated atmosphere.

Gladstone's (www.gladstones.ca) midtown location is one of its greatest draws for those looking to throw a simchah to remember. Situated on Eglinton Avenue one block west of Avenue Road, Gladstone's has been the scene of many weddings, engagements and bar mitzvah parties since it first opened its doors in January 2005.

"We have a very versatile space, with a mezzanine level as well as a private upstairs dining room," says general manager Gino Falcitelli. "Our most popular occasions are weddings, and we have held on-site wedding ceremonies in the space."

The venue has two spacious floors and has hosted occasions with guest lists ranging from 20 to 300 people. "We've also held corporate events at Gladstone's. Our private dining room has the option of hooking up a laptop to our plasma screen for business presentations for up to 35 people."

However, the main reason for Gladstone's popularity with those throwing simchahs in Toronto is its menu.

"We offer a whole array of menu items, ranging from prime rib to duck to pasta to sushi," says Falcitelli.

A new sushi chef has recently joined Gladstone's and has expanded the options for appetizers at functions.

"Clients now have the option to have the cocktail hour with the sushi chef," Falcitelli says.

Hosts have the option of having up to 200 guests for a sit-down occasion or more than 300 for cocktails, but Falcitelli says Gladstone's service and ambience are never compromised.

"We never sacrifice quality or service, regardless of the size of the function."

Gladstone's is located at 398 Eglinton Avenue W. To book, call 416-487-9500.

**Gladstone's Wine Bar and Grill has been the scene of many weddings, engagements and bar mitzvahs. It is glatt kosher under COR.**

PARTY PLANNER

# Find all you need to plan your next simchah

Kosher 'N Natural provides tasty goodies – and they're kosher too.

By JEN THOMPSON
*Special to The CJN*

Planning a party is often time-consuming, stressful and difficult, but it doesn't need to be. One-stop party shops allow consumers to find everything they need under one roof.

A party should be an enjoyable experience and that includes planning it. Kosher 'N Natural (416-789-7173) and Loots (416-787-5668) are two places that can serve a variety of party needs.

Known as the "Candy Man," Jack Schnoll established Kosher 'N Natural 24 years ago at 3413 Bathurst St. Kosher 'N Natural is an all-kosher candy store with the largest selection of kosher candy in Toronto. Its popularity has continued to grow over the years, as Schnoll and his staff provide friendly, welcoming service in a truly "sweet" environment.

In addition to its selection, Kosher 'N Natural provides many other delectable services. Candy floss, popcorn and pretzel machines are all available to rent for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and any other event where fun is a priority. Chocolate fountains and sweet tables are also very popular items available to rent.

Kosher N' Natural can provide balloons, loot bags filled with toys and candy of all flavours, and unique gift baskets for your event.

Schnoll will also create all-kosher gift baskets that can be filled with such items as fresh fruit, baked goods, bottled water and nuts that make perfect gifts for hostesses or out-of-town guests who will be attending your simchah.

Loots also offers party facilities called Club Loots – for fun birthday or bar and bat mitzvah parties.

Established in 1992 by Terri and David Leese, Loots has grown over the years to include a complete range of services including the widest and coolest selection of loot bags in the city. It's a one-stop shop in person or by phone and they deliver everywhere. One visit to the Loots website (www.loots.com) tells you that Loots is all about fun for kids.

Club Loots offers an amazing party environment for kids. "Club Loots throws a party like none other that your kids will never forget," say Loots creators Terri and David Leese. "For boys, it's video arcade and interactive tournament play, and for girls, it's dance games, glamour and karaoke."

Loots also offers one of the most unique party experiences available: its two party buses, designed for fun, will bring the party directly to you. Parents can choose either a video game bus or a disco party bus for kids.

Loots can also supply the perfect cake for any event, and it can be customized for your occasion.

The philosophy of Loots is incredibly friendly and welcoming for both children and adults. Say Terri and David: "Our Club Loots party facility and our party buses are packed with things for kids to do. We have a complete video games area, sound system, special lighting effects, props, loot bags and much more. So whether you visit us at Club Loots, or we come to you with one of our party buses, your kids will have fun, and you can have piece of mind knowing professionals are running the show."

*Other one-stop party shops advertising in this supplement are: Dynamite Parties, 905-669-7620; Incredible Novelties Inc., 905-881-9900*

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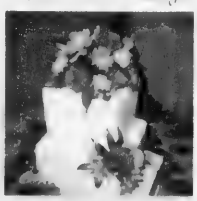
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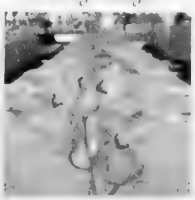
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# Granite Club's world-class team elevates cuisine to an art form

Most culinary cognoscenti agree that, more than any single factor (style of preparation, primary ingredients, or seasoning), *freshness* is the key to exquisite taste.

Nowhere is this more axiomatic than at the Granite Club, where the preoccupation with freshness borders on the obsessive. If there's one rule etched in Granite, says Executive Chef Nigel Didcock, it's the "dew date"; i.e. if the morning dew's not on the produce, then it's past due.

*(L to R) Pastry Chef Renato Del Sol, Sous-Chef Ian Rodger and Executive Chef Nigel Didcock: for a few hours at least, your own personal European chefs*

## Field-to-table freshness is *de rigueur*

This is hyperbole, of course, but anyone who's spent time on a farm knows whereof he speaks: the inimitable taste of field-to-table freshness that no amount of seasoning can mimic. "Mother Nature is the real head chef here," he winks. "We're just sous-chefs". Belying his modesty is an impeccable pedigree that includes a three-year tenure at the Connaught Hotel in London, England, as well as lengthy stints at the world-famous Troisgros Bothers Restaurant in France and, locally, the Sutton Place Hotel.

At the Granite Club, no expense is spared to ensure that Nature's bounty arrives via the express lane. Fresh produce is whisked to the Granite's kitchen several times daily, fresh fish flown in from Europe three times a week.

In keeping with this philosophy, says Didcock, "Menu choices should always be guided by what's in season. It's our job — our *passion* — to work with the finest fresh ingredients and bring out their full flavour."

Having satisfied this first principle, however, Didcock's culinary creations know no geographic or stylistic boundaries. Innovation? Many of the culinary trends showcased in Toronto's most avant-garde dining establishments originate in the Granite Club's kitchen. Didcock and his culinary team of some 150 people are united in pursuit of a singular goal: to ensure that each and every serving resonates with your palate. In his line of work, he says, "you're only as good as your last plate."

On that note, every single dish created at the Granite Club is photographed for the record. (How's *that* for job pressure?)

Most customers make menu requests or suggestions ranging from the vague to the highly specific. Didcock welcomes their input, often taking it in a captivating new direction. "If we can't do a concept justice, we won't," he says. "But we never impose our own ideas here, nor do we act like we have nothing to learn. When we're doing a function for a customer, they are part of our team, and we'll do everything short of giving them an apron to make them feel at home".

A line wisely drawn. We daresay that our Bubie would have donned that apron — with or without an invitation.

Didcock and his team are not only talented, they're closely-knit; he and his Sous-Chef, Ian Rodger, have worked together for 12 years. And how many event venues boast a full-time Pastry Chef? The Granite Club does. Here, Having Your Cake And Eating It Too takes on

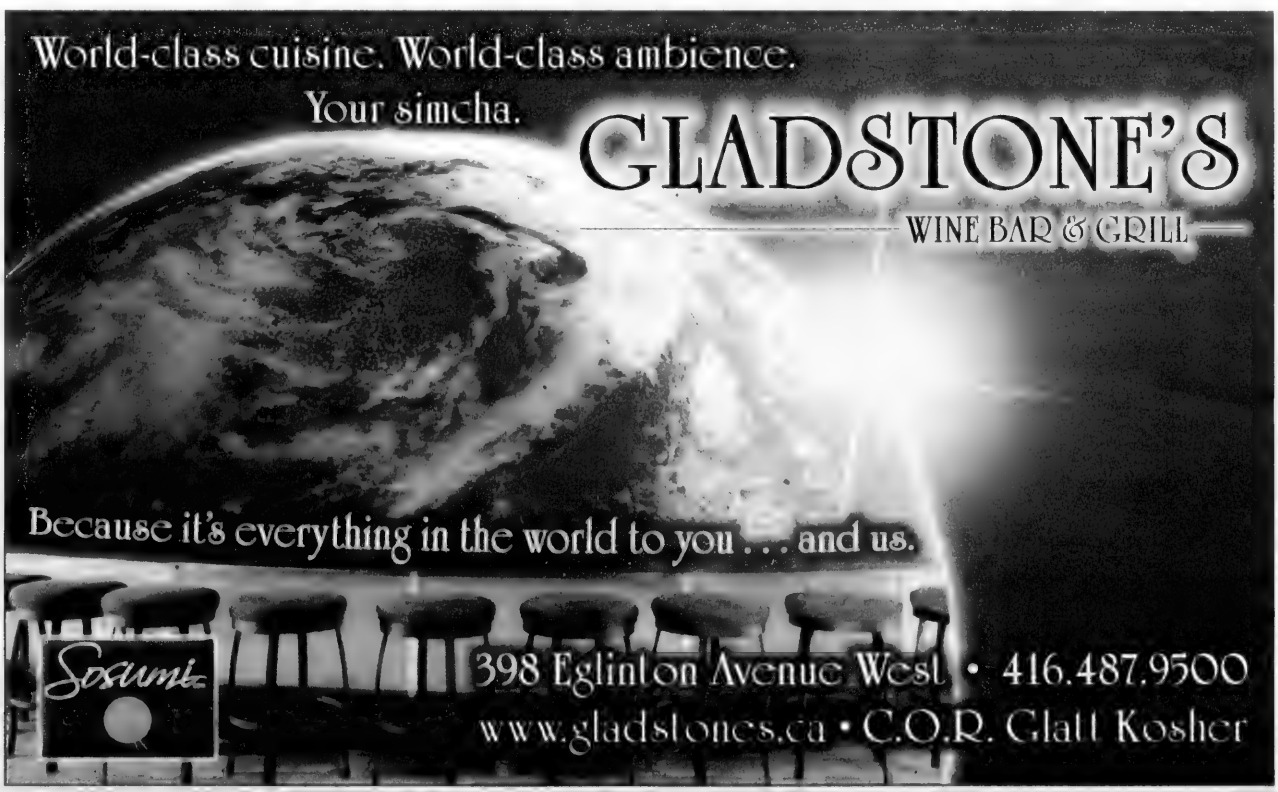
## Your own personal European chefs

a whole new meaning. For Renato Del Sol, no cake is too elaborate, no pastry too fanciful; wedding cakes are the tip of the iceberg. Your dessert enjoys the same lofty status as your appetizers and entrées, giving your meal the fitting finale it deserves.

Traditionally private, for special events the Granite Club welcomes the community and members alike. From its exquisitely landscaped grounds (certified as conservation land by the American Audubon Society) to its lavishly-appointed dining rooms, the Granite Club is truly spectacular both inside and out. However elevated the resulting culinary expectations, the Granite Club invariably exceeds them.

Ever dreamed of having your own personal European chefs? At the Granite Club, for a few glorious hours, you do.

Visit their website at www.graniteclub.com.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PARTY PLANNER

# A perfect gown for a perfect wedding

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Your wedding is the most special day of your life. For such a special day, everything should be perfect, including your dress.

To ensure that your dress is perfection, head to one of these retailers. They truly understand the importance of your special day.

Ritché (416-789-4378) has been offering the best in wedding gowns for the past 54 years. A family-run business, Ritché offers personalized and friendly service.

Carrying brands such as Alfred Sung, Maggie and Marissa Bridal, the boutique specializes but is not exclusive to bridal wear. As well as bridal gowns, the store offers everything for the bridal party, including dresses for bridesmaids, mother of the bride and even dresses for bat mitzvahs. Ritché also has a wide array of stunning evening wear, dresses that can be translated to other special occasions as well.

**Agnes gowns are completely customized.**

Gowns range from $800 to $3,000, and custom work is offered. With more than 750 gown samples to choose from, the store boasts one of the biggest selections in the city. Once dresses are ordered, alterations can all be done on the premises.

Offering a specialized service for brides, Ritché has five private rooms for gown viewing. While in these showrooms, you can sit back and relax. An expert consultant will help you peruse through the looks that you want to see and to try on gowns. Once a gown is chosen, it will take approximately four to five months for delivery, so allow for this period by planning ahead.

With such a long history in the bridal business, the confidence that comes with purchasing from Ritché is incomparable. "We've been around so long that people know that we will be here whenever they need us," says Vivian Prussky, the store's owner. "When the customer purchases a dress from us, they are really buying a year's worth of service, from choosing the design to altering."

When asked about trends, Prussky cites both minimalist and princess looks, which are the most popular among brides at the moment. "The one extreme is the extremely fitted strapless gown with a mermaid bottom. The other is a full A-line ball gown with plenty of embellishment and crystals," she says.

Whichever way you decide to go, you can rest assured that Ritché will give you any look you want to achieve. With so many samples to choose from as well as the personalized and warm service, the joy of your wedding will heighten by the minute.

**Ritché offers top designer brands.**

Another option for bridal wear is Agnes Bridal Boutique (416-223-9993). For three years, the boutique has been carrying the European brand exclusively in Canada. For 18 years, the Polish brand has been making its name as a leading force in bridal wear in Europe.

Agnes gowns are completely customized. During an appointment, you peruse the various looks in the catalogue with the guidance of an expert consultant and you can see fabric samples. The cut, fit and design is also completely up to you. "We are always looking for ways to make the gowns more beautiful," says Eva Mulik of Agnes Bridal.

Whether it's crystal, ribbon or lace, Agnes Bridal can produce absolutely anything you dream up. Each step is approved by the bride to ensure a beautiful result. With every step factored in, the creation of the dress takes approximately six months.

Catering to the Orthodox community as well, many of Agnes Bridal's gowns are designed in modest styles, with optional pieces or trimmings. "We cater to both the modern and traditional bride," says Mulik. "It is not a problem to make a gown more modest."

Impeccably created, Agnes dresses are made of European fabric. And because of the customized nature of the dresses, you can be sure that your dress will never be duplicated. The simple elegance of these gowns and the European craftsmanship is something to marvel.

Finding the perfect dress can be quite daunting. But just like falling in love, you'll just know when it's a perfect fit. Just like your mate, the right dress will never cease to make you happy.

*Another bridal fashion place advertising in this supplement is: Tricia Cochran Bridal Studio, 416-964-9220.*

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# Travel in Israel where there's something for everyone

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Have you ever wanted to take a vacation where you can snowboard in the morning and swim in the ocean that afternoon? Or perhaps scale mountain cliffs and visit the lowest point on earth on the same day? To find the ultimate travel destination, look no further than the Holy Land.

"In Israel, there are endless opportunities for travel," says Avie Esakov, manager of Heritage Tours at Go Israel Travel (www.goisraeltravel.com). "One can virtually do anything there.

"For example, Israel is world-renowned for hang gliding, and there is unparalleled bird watching in March and October. We like to say that the birds speak Hebrew, Russian and Amharic because they visit Israel, Russia and Ethiopia," he says. "Israel also has the opportunity for scuba diving in the Red Sea, and you can see some of finest coral in the world."

Go Israel Travel offers many types of tours. "We have one tour that focuses on world-famous sites. Masada, the Jewish fortress in the desert, is a UNESCO heritage site. The newly renovated Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust museum, is difficult to describe because it's so incredible.

"We can also visit really substantial archeological sites that are being excavated as we speak, like Meggido, which is the inspiration of James Michener's book *The Source*. Also, the city of Caesarea has wonderful Roman ruins and was the largest port city in King Herod's time," Esakov says.

"There are the excavated cities of Hazor in Galilee, and Dan, the city of Lachish for the more adventuresome. These sites have a significant biblical connection."

If you go to the Negev desert with a Bible in hand, you can see how the desert has blossomed, he suggests. Then you can read in the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah about how water will come to the desert.

Visitors to Israel also have the opportunity to do something spiritually searching. "Israel is the source of faith, and you can visit the four holy cities of the Jewish tradition: Jerusalem, Tiberias, Safed and Hebron."

In addition to historical marvels, the Jewish state offers some of the finest dining in the world. "Israel can compete with any restaurant around the world," Esakov says. "One tends to think of fine dining as something not to be found in a kosher kitchen, but we can prove that wrong in Israel."

With Go Israel travel, any visitor to Israel is in the hands of experts. "With our network of connections, we will ensure that a person has an incredible experience. Bar mitzvah tours have been the same old story for 30 years, so we've put together Family Adventure Bar Mitzvah tours that are different and fresh because they address children's needs," Esakov said.

"Our tours give kids the opportunity to experience Israel with water and hands-on activities like eating in Bedouin tents and riding camels. These experiences are all included in the family adventure."

The best time of year to travel to Israel is in March because everything is in full bloom, he says, but "summer vacation and winter break are great time to take kids as well."

The cheapest times to visit is the end of October and into November, as well as January through February, but Esakov advises trying to visit during a Jewish holiday.

"To be in Israel during a Jewish holiday is an unbelievable experience," he said. "If you go to the supermarket, the whole place is kosher for Passover."

To book your Go Israel adventure, call 416-840-0855, extension 2099.

# Hiring a party planner no longer a luxury

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

"A wedding should be the bride and groom's big day," says party planner Sharon Goodman (905-731-7786).

"It should be their time with family and friends. They should be guests at their own wedding."

This basic idea is central to a one of the event industry's fastest-growing areas – wedding planning. Goodman, who's been organizing weddings for 18 years, says more party planners pop up all the time, but she's not upset. "There's plenty of work out there for everybody," she adds.

The reason why more people are getting into the party-planning business, says Goodman, is that it is no longer a luxury to hire someone to take care of your big day, as it once was.

"It's a necessity," she says. "You spend a year of your life planning a phenomenal affair and the evening unfolds and you need to take care of it. You should get someone else to worry about the night and enjoy your evening."

Besides making sure the bride, groom and their parents don't have to stress over the wedding day, a wedding planner's job is to guide the couple through the entire wedding process, which can take a full year.

"I organize right from the beginning, usually when a couple gets engaged," says Lynn Cohen (905-889-1007), a party planner who's been in the business for 30 years. "If they need assistance booking professionals like the band, the photographer, the décor – I'm at their disposal."

While the pre-wedding planning is a lot of work, both Goodman and Cohen have their hands full on the actual day of the event.

"I'm the ringleader, so everyone follows what I do that day," says Goodman. "Everyone gets an itinerary that I make for them, so we're all on the same page."

Cohen says she's there "from the time the bride gets dressed for pictures." She also hands out itineraries to the families and the venue staff. "I want to make sure everything runs smoothly. Almost every minute of the day is planned."

All this organizing might sound stressful, but says Cohen, the wedding day is the easiest part of planning a wedding.

That is unless something goes wrong. During the May long weekend, a bride called Cohen at 8:30 in the morning in a panic.

"Her hairdresser didn't show up. I called around and got somebody." While the day's schedule was off by just a few minutes, the wedding went off without a hitch. Glitches like this one is precisely why it's important to hire a wedding planner.

**Sharon Goodman and a happy client.**

"Sometimes there's not enough tablecloths or the wrong colour for something arrives," says Goodman. "But these are fixable. I take a folder with me with all the numbers in the industry, so if I have to, I can speak with people during the day. If something does go wrong, if I can, I avoid telling the bride and groom. I'll take care of any little thing."

Since Goodman and Cohen have been in the industry for decades, they've seen trends come and go. They both point out that weddings haven't deviated too much from the standard setup, but what has changed is who's planning the affair.

"Weddings are being planned more and more by the kids," says Goodman. "When I got married, I didn't say a word. A lot of the brides and grooms that I speak to, they're professionals, they have their own ideas."

Cohen adds that "brides and grooms are definitely older. Years ago they were much younger and it was the parents who planned the whole wedding."

Another trend both planners are seeing is a move toward more lavish events.

"They've gone back to bigger parties," says Cohen. "In the early '90s, when the economy wasn't as good, people who could afford a big party still tended to downsize. Now, the economy is better and maybe people are saying, 'Let's celebrate on happy occasions.'"

While Goodman's main business is Jewish weddings, she'll plan non-Jewish affairs, too. Surprisingly, planning a non-Jewish event is different from organizing a Jewish one.

"The bride stands on the left in non-Jewish weddings, in Jewish ones they stand on the right," she says.

It's not that it's hard to plan, but you want to make sure you know what you're doing, so I research. When I go into a wedding, I'm very prepared."

Jewish or non-Jewish, Goodman says engagements usually last a year, but that's not always the case.

"We can plan a wedding in six months if you wanted to. I've planned a wedding in three months."

Although Goodman and Cohen are experts in wedding planning, it's not all they do. Both are hired to plan bar and bat mitzvahs and corporate events. Cohen also puts on three bridal shows a year.

"A lot of my customers come out to these shows," she says. "The photographers, the bands, everybody's out there."

For someone who organizes weddings for a living, Cohen must really enjoy her job if she's putting on events about weddings.

"I love what I do," she says. "It's a happy time, it's a joyful time and I love to make people's dreams come true."

Goodman's also passionate about her work.

"After 18 years I truly love what I do. When that day unfolds for me, it's fantastic."

*Other consultants advertising in this supplement are: Bliss Events, 416-323-3353; The Event Boutique, 416-607-5586; Heidi Gruenspan, 905-738-5030; Judy Stein Consulting & Associates, 905-764-2728; Gayle Kertzman, 416-484-4467; Tamara Temes, Bridal and Party Consultant, 905-770-7977; Up & Coming Events, 416-665-6100*

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# Leaving LEGO, and childhood, behind

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

With my youngest son's bar mitzvah just a few days away, I am trying to take stock of this important rite of passage. As my baby crosses that spiritual threshold to adulthood, I am on the lookout for significant signs of maturity.

Physically, there's no question that my son is growing older. He's taller, his voice has dropped an octave or two, and there's an inkling of a moustache lurking on his upper lip.

But the emotional milestones of puberty are more nebulous and much more difficult to detect. This has been the case for all three of my sons.

What's different this time? At first glance, very little. The sibling bickering is neverending. And prying my son(s) away from the television, the computer and the Xbox continues to be the No. 1 domestic challenge in my house.

But there is one subtle shift in behaviour I have only recently, and belatedly, begun to notice. It is perhaps the most telling sign that my son is growing up. He doesn't play with his LEGO any more.

His upcoming bar mitzvah heralds the end of the LEGO years in my home – and for me the end of an age of innocence.

As most people probably know, LEGO, the interlocking brick building toy, has long been a popular plaything, particularly for boys. LEGO sets – many have hundreds of tiny moulded plastic pieces – come in an infinite number of themes from Stars Wars to Harry Potter to medieval castle and rocketships.

We raised three LEGO enthusiasts, and our house became inundated with LEGO. Between birthdays and Chanukah, there was not a LEGO set that we didn't own.

Yet, LEGO was the bane of my existence. The little pieces would get everywhere.

My husband used to joke that he had permanent grooves in the bottom of his feet from stepping on the boys' LEGO.

You couldn't sit down on a chair or a couch or walk across a room without disrupting some sort of LEGO military campaign that one of the boys had launched.

No matter what set they came from, little miniature men – soccer players, astronauts, cowboys and medieval knights – would be conscripted into a ragtag army engaged in battles on every flat surface in the house.

That led to constant squabbling between my sons over which piece belonged to whom. We had battalions of these little men, and somehow my guys would be fighting over the same little piece. It would drive me crazy.

**Pictured in 1999, from left, Matthew Silverstein, 7, and his brothers Leigh, 12, and Evan, 10, in their prime LEGO years.**
**[Barbara Silverstein photo]**

That and the mess. I often threatened to get rid of the LEGO, but none of it ever made it to Goodwill. The truth is, I had too much money tied up in it to give it away. If I had invested as much in real estate as I did in LEGO, I'd probably be a rich woman today.

But the LEGO construction boom in my household eventually subsided. The older boys, now 16 and 18, lost interest in LEGO some years back, much to the great delight of my youngest son.

All the LEGO was his. Baskets and bins overflowing with the little plastic moulded bits filled every shelf in his room. Most of the stuff was usually on the floor. He would rush home from school to build a fort or town or castle in his bedroom. LEGO was his passion.

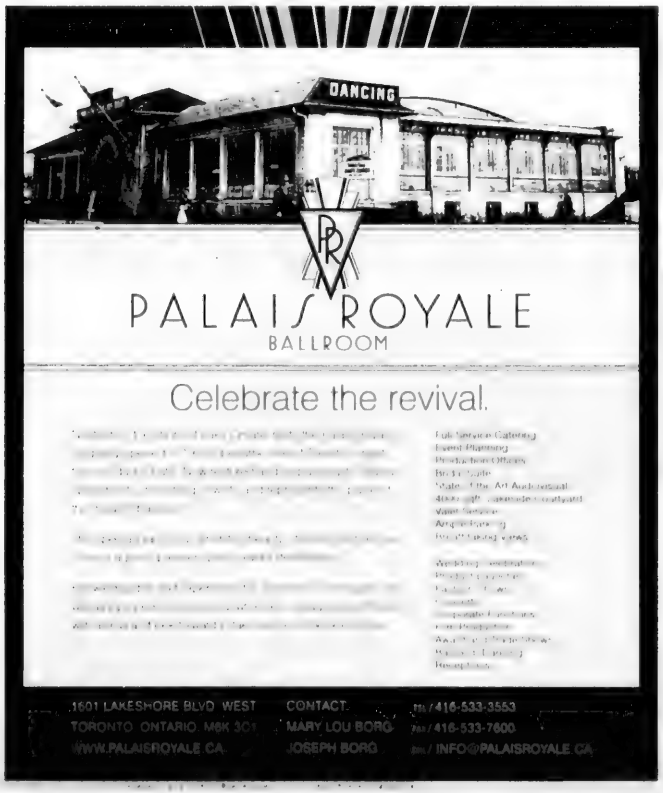
But in recent years, his LEGO time had become very much a closet activity, because most of his friends had already packed up their LEGO or passed it on to younger siblings.

But now that I think about it, I haven't seen my son play with his LEGO for quite some time. I'm constantly picking up after him, but it's been months since I picked up a LEGO man off his floor or stubbed my toe on a LEGO truck, plane or battleship.

I think the signs have all been there for awhile, but I've been slow to notice that my son's interest in LEGO has waned.

With all my complaining about the LEGO mess, I must confess those years were actually very special times. But now I must "leggo" of the LEGO era, which means recognizing that my youngest son – my baby – is growing up.

And with his bar mitzvah just days away, I suppose it's time.

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PARTY PLANNER

# Quality linens make a great gift

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Wouldn't it be easier to buy the bride and groom the ultimate gift if you knew exactly what they wanted?

That is precisely what gift registries are all about.

By setting up a list of items they need for their new home, a couple can map out a shopping list for their guests. In turn, the guests have an easier time making a selection and gain peace of mind knowing the gift they buy is actually what the bride and groom want.

One of the most common types of products couples register for is linens, such as towels, bed coverings and table accessories.

Deblins has been selling quality linens since 1977 and offers clients bridal registry services.

Party guests are able to purchase items off the registry at any store location.

They have the choice of either taking items with them as soon as they buy them or storing them until a later date.

Or, a party guest can purchase a gift card that can be applied to the registry.

**Deblins has been selling quality linens since 1977.**

"We have a massive selection of contemporary brands," says Ellis Chitiz, president of Deblins.

Chitiz notes that a popular trend in table linens today is choosing bolder colours, rather than the standard, traditional white.

"Green, purple, orange ... people aren't scared of colours anymore," he says.

"And we offer a special fabric that won't absorb stains."

Another fabric that Chitiz says clients are gravitating to is mesh, the same fabric used to make outdoor furniture.

"It's great for parties because you just wipe it clean," he says.

At David's Fine Linens, you'll find high-end linens from the top producers in Italy and the Middle East.

"We are into luxurious lines, the top brands in the world," says David Saini, owner of David's Fine Linens, adding that his company has been in business for more than two decades.

"We carry bedding, table coverings, washroom linens, kitchen linens and much more. It's all fine quality."

If you're shopping for household linens or linens that you'll be using at a party, Chitiz encourages you to take measurements before you go to the store.

"If they have a measurement with them, we can then work out what size cloth they need," he says.

"They can also bring in a plate or saucer to help them select colours. This makes things much easier."

For large functions, Deblins carries banquet-size table coverings that measure up to 216 inches long.

At both Deblins and David's, linens are for sale, not rent.

To learn more about Deblins products and services, call 416-782-2910 or visit the company online at www.deblins.com.

Contact David's Fine Linens at 416-590-7311 or www.davidsfinelinens.com.


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# Give a party that will 'wow' the guests

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

Shortly after Natasa and Nebojsa Stojkovic opened The Artistic Way (416-760-9027), their storefront art school at 1003 Eglinton Ave. W., a couple of local parents asked if the Stojkovics could run a camp during Passover.

"We had just opened in March," recalls Nebojsa Stojkovic. "My wife and I agreed to run the camp. We started with two children. By the time the week was up, we had 12. Most of them were boys."

He feels that this was an auspicious beginning for the new community art school. "We had a wonderful time."

The Artistic Way, across the street from the Village Shul, a couple of blocks east of the Allen Expressway, is offering a variety of services, including drop-in paint-your-own-ceramics, ceramic painting and art party packages for all age groups, fine art classes for adults and children, clay animation classes, and arts-based camp programs for the summer and school holidays.

Stojkovic explains that what makes the Artistic Way different from other paint-your-own ceramic places is that he and his wife are both professional artists. Between them, they have training in graphic arts, painting, ceramics, mosaics and clay animation or claymation. "I want to teach the children how to do their own short animated film with claymation."

The Artistic Way also has professional artists giving classes – they start Sept. 28 – in painting, life drawing and hand-building and wheel work in pottery, says Stojkovic. "We want to establish ourselves as a community-based art school.

"We want our students to have fun. They can achieve some interesting things exploring."

He adds that he will also be running special one-day workshops.

The birthday parties are two hours long – one hour is devoted to painting, ceramics or other art projects, the second hour is for refreshments, he says. "We offer a few packages. People can choose more expensive ceramic pieces, depending on the package.

"There's also an art party package. The children make their own sculptures and we fire them in the kiln."

The Artistic Way provides the paper plates and cups for the parties, says Stojkovic. "We let our clients bring in their own food."

The children's parties, which have a 10-child minimum charge, can accommodate up to 20 children.

For special occasions, Stojkovic says he will combine the store's upper and lower levels for larger parties. "We're doing a corporate party for 35."

He says he will also be expanding the space in the summer by opening up the backyard patio.

The Artistic Way also offers paint-your-own drop in services from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, he notes, adding that he carries a wide selection of Judaic greenware – menorahs, Passover plates, and mezuzot.

Stojkovic stresses that the camp program – people will have a full or half-day option – is an art program; the emphasis will be on learning new skills in painting and pottery.

The Stojkovics will be running after-school art programs at local schools such as Leo Baeck.

For more information visit the website at artisticway.ca or e-mail them at art@artisticway.ca.

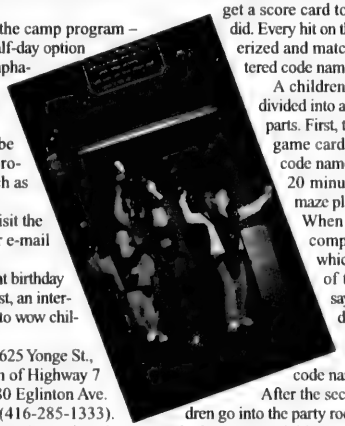
For a completely different birthday party setting, try Laser Quest, an interactive activity that is bound to wow children of all age levels.

Laser Quest is located 9625 Yonge St., in Richmond Hill just north of Highway 7 (905-883-6000) and at 1980 Eglinton Ave. E., near Warden Avenue (416-285-1333). There are two other GTA locations – in Mississauga and Brampton.

Marketing manager Arlene Duncan describes Laser Quest as a game of hide and seek and tag, played in a multi-level maze. The 7,000-square-foot maze is lit by a black light. "Nobody knows who you are when you're in the maze," she says.

Indeed, everyone chooses a code name.

Players all wear vests with flashing sets of sensors that are activated by laser beams fired by their opponents' laser guns. "You score points by tagging an opponent with the laser beam," Duncan explains.



"There are places to hide. If you get targeted, you have five seconds to get away and hide."

The players spend 20 minutes in the maze and get a score card to see how well they did. Every hit on the sensor is computerized and matched with the registered code name, she says.

A children's party is typically divided into a number of different parts. First, the children get their game cards and register their code names. They then spend 20 minutes in the laser tag maze playing the first game. When it's over they compare score cards, which is an integral part of the interactive fun, says Duncan. The children then register for a second game and may change their code names at that time.

After the second round, the children go into the party room for refreshments and other party activities.

Duncan advises people to allot an hour for the game-playing and an hour to 45 minutes for the second half of the party. "Two hours is the maximum time."

She notes that Laser Quest has no food services on the premises. "You're welcome to bring in or order whatever you like. That's great for kosher food."

**Pictured: Kids enjoy an afteroon at Laser Quest. The Laser Quest party invitation can be downloaded at www.laserquest.com.**

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PARTY PLANNER

# Roll out the red carpet for a wedding in style

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

With its ability to let you share a special day with 150 to a thousand of your closest friends, the Fairmont Royal York Hotel (www.fairmont.com/royalyork/) has something for everyone.

"Whether it's a bar mitzvah, a boutique wedding or a large affair, we have elegant spaces to create an enchanted evening," says the hotel's assistant director of catering sales, Lisa LeGrand.

LeGrand says that wedding ceremonies and dinner with dancing are both popular choices for couples.

"We have a very grand ballroom with 21-foot-high ceilings with gilded gold, which makes a fabulous ceremony room for larger weddings," she says. "Then for the dinner dance, we move to the concert hall. The acoustics are great, and there is a large dance space for all the horahs."

The concert hall can accommodate up to 500 guests for dinner and dancing.

The Fairmont Royal York stands out as a unique venue because of "the elegance of the rooms themselves, the quality of our staff, and the dedication of our service," LeGrand says.

Many high-end events take place at the Fairmont Royal York, and LeGrand takes care that guests are greeted in style.

"We literally roll out the red carpet for guests entering a function," she says. "As well, we provide valet parking."

For smaller weddings, the Imperial Room is the venue of choice.

"There is a lot of nostalgia associated with the Imperial Room. Frank Sinatra performed there. It has old-time charm, and seats between 150 and 250 guests," notes LeGrand.

"Our objective is to turn moments into memories," she says.

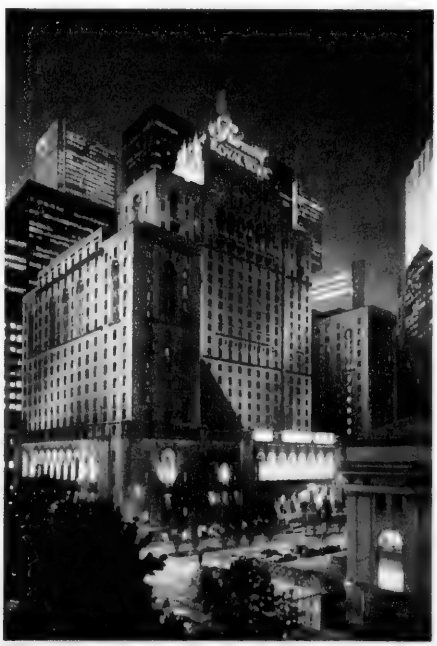
The Fairmont Royal York offers outside kosher catering, and also provides its own "kosher-style" food services.

For weddings, there are *bedecken* rooms available. As well, the hotel offers accommodations for out-of-town guests to stay for the weekend. Brunches on the day after the wedding in the hotel are popular for those with visiting family.

Bar and bat mitzvahs at the Fairmont Royal York are held in one of its four ballrooms, and there are separate small rooms attached to some of the halls for children's activities. "If there is a karaoke machine or games, the rooms off to the side are a great way to entertain the kids away from the main ballroom area," suggests LeGrand.

The most in-demand times of year for Jewish functions in the ballrooms are Saturday nights from October to November, and Sundays from April to May. LeGrand recommends booking a space eight months in advance for a smaller occasion. For a larger event, a year in advance is recommended.

The Fairmont Royal York is located at 100 Front Street W., and LeGrand can be reached at 416-860-5072.



Looking north at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

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## CHAPTER 2

# What is mint? she thought curiously,....

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After months in development, our fresh new website has finally launched. Experience the scope of Mint Lifestyle Events, and see our complete list of specialty services for all your entertaining needs. Visit the Mint Blog for upcoming news and events, check out our photo gallery for cool pics, and see our newly produced promotional videos to see what we're all about. Most of all, enjoy the site and let us know your comments or suggestions by sending an e-mail to info@mintevents.ca. See you online!

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PARTY PLANNER

# Ketubot and other fine gifts for every simchah

By ERIC LAYMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Are you looking for a ketubah or other gifts with a uniquely Jewish character for a bat or bar mitzvah, wedding, anniversary or other simchah? Contact Jessica Black-Grosman of jessyjudaica (416-398-4432; toll free 1-888-884-3004; www.jessyjudaica.com). In Toronto, ketubah viewings can also be arranged by appointment.

An oil painting from an original photo.

The ketubah has a long and honourable history. It is both a legal document – a written marriage contract according to Halachah – and a medium for art, in calligraphy and illuminated text.

The ketubah dates from the Babylonian exile. Traditionally, though written in the Hebrew alphabet, the text is in Aramaic. There is traditional wording preferred by Orthodox and Conservative rabbis, but Sephardim and Ashkenazim use different texts.

jessyjudaica carries all texts: Orthodox, Reform, Conservative with Lieberman clause, interfaith and anniversary. They also offer English and Hebrew calligraphy for custom texts, as well as translations. And each ketubah is a limited edition, signed and numbered by the artist.

Black-Grosman will prepare any type of ketubah, including those with special text requests. And she notes that a growing number of non-Jews find the idea of a ketubah attractive.

Motifs range from the simple to the elaborate. There are Jewish themes as diverse as the *Song of Solomon* and Marc Chagall's paintings of lovers. Nature motifs, with flowers and other symbols of new beginnings, are also popular.

During the middle years of the 20th century, the custom of having a ketubah inscribed was falling into disuse. It never died out altogether, however, and in the '80s, the practice was revived. It continues to grow and spread in popularity.

Over the centuries, when having a ketubah was a matter of course, not every one was a crafted work of art: some were quite plain, with nothing but the required text. With the revival of interest, most couples want their ketubah to be artistically inspired, a thing of beauty.

Black-Grosman, who founded jessyjudaica in 1998, says her business increases every year. That same year, she teamed up with ketubah artist Marion Zimmer.

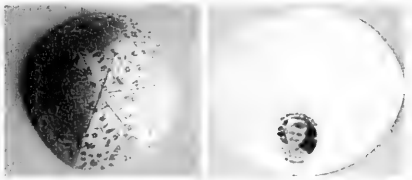
Grosman-Black refers clients to Zimmer for one-of-a-kind ketubot, and also wholesales her work. jessyjudaica has over 120 styles on the website, from $100 up. With a growing demand for Sephardi texts, it now has more than 30 Sephardi styles.

Giclée printing, a new reproduction method that looks hand-done, is popular for ketubot. This technique sprays pigment onto a surface, producing one copy at a time. It lets the artist be more creative, not having to worry about the high cost of producing a print run. For the client, this cuts the cost.

A wedding glass cube.

Grosman-Black, who plans to become a one-stop wedding shop, offers a wide range of other gifts and interesting keepsakes for simchahs. She hand-picks all the items herself. Translation is done by native Israeli speakers of Hebrew. And service is heimisch and friendly.

Among the gifts available are Hebrew name necklaces, which are ideal bat mitzvah gifts. jessyjudaica also carries mezuzot, Hebrew name rings and other jewelry.



The elegant kippah, left, and the photo kippah.

Grosman-Black carries a new wholesale line of satin and silk kippot from Asia. She also offers "photo-kippahs" as mementoes of an event. Plain on the outside, the kippah has a photo inside – of the bride and groom, the bar mitzvah boy, etc.

jessyjudaica will also make a memento of the glass the groom breaks at the wedding. They will rebuild the shards into the shape of the glass, as closely as possible, and imbed the glass in a lucite cube.

Give jessyjudaica a photo, and the staff will turn it into a painting. The bride and groom at a wedding, for example, can give each of their parents a thank-you gift in the form of the parents' wedding pictures transformed into a richly textured oil painting. Alternatively, a selection of Judaic art prints is also available.

*Another ketubah place advertising in this supplement is: Ketubah Ketubah, 416-963-9191.*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PARTY PLANNER

# Give away a celebrity, or lip gloss with a conscience

Artistic Creations specializes in everything for your function.

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Have you ever imagined hosting a party and inviting your dream guest list – say, pop star Beyonce Knowles, Hollywood legend James Dean, screen siren Marilyn Monroe and scientist Albert Einstein?

Now you can. Your simchah will be the talk of the town when these very special guests attend, despite the fact some of them are no longer with us.

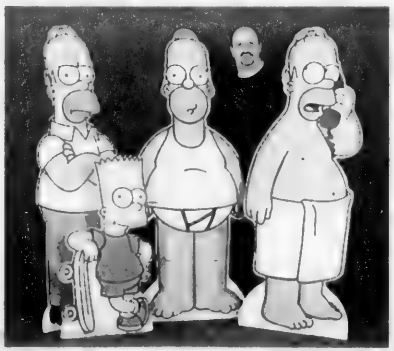
Gord Cohen of Hollywood Standups (hollywoodstandups.com) is the man who can make your dream a reality. He sells life-sized cardboard cutouts of Hollywood celebrities and cartoon characters.

"Our specialty is bringing famous people to your parties. We position the cutouts around the venue at the party. They're a great conversation piece," Cohen says.

"For my own son's bar mitzvah, we took pictures of the kids posing with the characters and gave them the photos to take home as a souvenir."

Equally popular, according to Cohen, is giving away the cutouts as bar mitzvah giveaways. The stars also add an authentic touch to themed parties.

"By far, our most popular cardboard characters are Peter and Stewie Griffin from the cartoon *Family Guy*," Cohen says. Homer Simpson is also a favourite.



As well, Cohen offers Superman, wrestling, *Star Wars*, and Disney characters, to name a few.

The life-sized cardboard characters are between five and six feet tall. "When guests see something or someone they recognize, it draws them into the event," says Cohen.

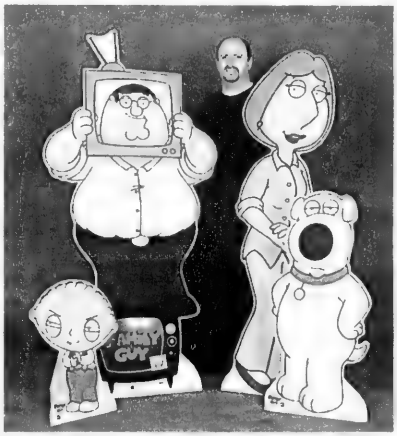
Having Humphrey Bogart standing next to the appetizer table or Elvis next to the coat check is sure to amuse your guests.

Cohen, the self-proclaimed Canadian talent agent for the cutouts, also customizes cardboard pictures of the bar or bat mitzvah boy or girl. "We can also attach a sign-in board to the customized cutout of the child," he says.

All cutouts fold in half and have an easel on the back that props up the characters. Prices range from $29.95 to $39.95, and Cohen recommends ordering two to four weeks ahead of your simchah via the website or at 416-491-2333.

Theme parties have increased in popularity for bar and bat mitzvah children, and Tammy Heisel of Artistic Creations (www.tammyswebsite.ca) is no stranger to this trend. After more than 14 years at the helm of this event-planning and décor company, Heisel has expanded from her base in London, Ont., to include upstate New York.

"Artistic Creations specializes in everything from invitations to complete room decoration to party favours for your function," Heisel says. "But our specialty is theme décor."




The crew of *Family guy* are a favourite with Hollywood Standups clients.

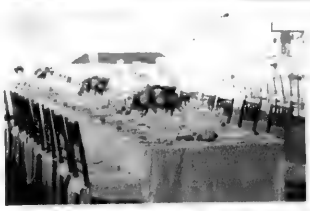
"Ninety per cent of what we do is hand-designed, so clients come up with their own themes and designs for a truly customized occasion – from sports to cartoons to Judaic themes for bar and bat mitzvahs," she says.

The Artistic Creations website is a virtual storehouse of everything you need to plan a function. For weddings, seating cards, floral arrangements, chocolates, limousines and centrepieces are just some of what Heisel has to offer. For bar and bat mitzvahs, it's props, balloons, lighting and name signs, among other things.

A giveaway popular with bar mitzvah-age children is Heisel's own creation, a lip gloss called Curing Kisses. For orders of 50 lip glosses or more, Artistic Creations will make a donation to a charity of the bar or bat mitzvah child's choosing. As well, the lip glosses come personalized with the child's name and the charity that he or she is supporting.

Artistic Creations serves Toronto and surrounding areas in Ontario and can be accessed online or by calling 519-672-1855.

PARTY PLANNER



**Chair-man Mills rents everything from the tables to the glasses, top. Chuppahs 4 Rent offers an array of hand painted chupahs, above and right.**

# Need a cool party accessory? Rent it!

**By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL**
*Special to The CJN*

No matter the size or type of affair you're hosting, a bounty of accessories are typically needed to dazzle your guests and enhance an event.

From chairs and table linens, to dinnerware or even the chupah at a wedding, the items required to make a special function complete aren't likely to be found at the corner store.

That's why renting them is a convenient and practical approach.

"For people having a party, renting [accessories] makes things much easier," says Mary Crothers, president of Chair-man Mills, Canada's largest party rental company.

"If, for example, you're having a dinner party and you need wine glasses, you can rent them for your party and when you're done, you just empty them and return them without even washing."

In business since 1911, Chair-man Mills provides a range of items for rent, including tables, chairs, china, candles and much more.

Crothers says people often want to be unique with their table set-ups and do so by having unusually shaped and coloured plates, for instance.

"Square shaped plates are big and lots of colours are trendy," Crothers says.

"If you have more variety as far as the décor is concerned, you make your party more unique. And it can add a little pizzazz without costing a lot of money."

Crothers advises clients to go to a party rental showroom to see what's available.

Then, you can work in tandem with a salesperson to make selections that are both in line with your budget and match your theme.

"We'll work within your budget to get something that works without costing a fortune," she says.

The months of June, September and December are busy times of the year at Chair-man Mills, as are Jewish holidays such as Passover, so be sure to book rentals well in advance if your event falls during those months.

Just as wine glasses and chairs are imperative at a wedding, so too is the chupah, the traditional canopy that the bride and groom stand under during the wedding ceremony and symbolizes the new home they are starting.

To make the ceremony especially touching and dynamic, many couples are opting to rent chupahs adorned with vibrant designs.

Chuppahs 4 Rent offers an array of hand-painted chupahs with colourful images and calligraphy created by a professional artist.

"One theme we have is old Jerusalem, with a mountain and the Western Wall in the background and the seven blessings written in Hebrew calligraphy," says Moshe Saadon, owner of Chuppahs 4 Rent.

"It adds a nice touch to the ceremony to have a meaningful piece of art."

The chupahs are silk with satin backing, and because there are eight in Saadon's collection, he says clients have an easy time finding colours that match with motifs from their wedding, such as the bridal parties' colours.

Beyond traditional or Judaic themes, Saadon says he also offers a chupah adorned with a heart which doesn't have religious symbols or Hebrew lettering.

"The heart is a universal theme and it's suitable for a multicultural ceremony," he says.

Saadon encourages clients to contact him three to six months in advance of their affair.

In addition to the chupah rental, his services include delivering the chupah, setting it up and taking it down.

To reach Chair-man Mills, phone 416-391-0400 or log onto www.chairmanmills.com.

Visit Chuppahs 4 Rent at www.chuppahs4rent.com or call Moshe Saadon at 905-886-4969 or 416-277-4222.

*Other rental places advertising in this supplement are: Around the Table, 416-630-6704; Chair Decor, etc., 905-731-9217; Giant Screen Systems, 416-784-4454.*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# Park Hyatt offers luxury with competitive catering pricing

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

A hotel is an ideal venue for sophisticated affairs and one of the most elegant in the Greater Toronto Area is the Park Hyatt Hotel (416-925-1234), just south of Toronto's Yorkville district.

The Park Hyatt, located near the northwest corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road, offers great service, says Michael Rosen, director of catering. "Whether it's a bar or bat mitzvah or a wedding, every party gets the five-star treatment. That's what we're all about."

And while the Park Hyatt is in the luxury class of hotels, the catering prices are quite reasonable, says Rosen. "It's a misconception that we're expensive. Our prices are very competitive in the kosher marketplace.

"For the service and quality of the food and the luxurious surroundings, we offer great value."

He says there are several party venues within the hotel to choose from. The Roof Salon on 18th floor is ideal for more intimate gatherings. The room can accommodate 115 for a sit-down dinner with dancing or 140 people for a dinner or a luncheon without dancing.

"It's the perfect setting," enthuses Rosen. "There's a small wrap-around terrace and the view is breathtaking.

"We're just above the ROM [Royal Ontario Museum]. On a clear day, everything's in view. It's a gorgeous skyline."

He adds that in the winter, the ambience of the room is enhanced by the fireplace. "It adds so much warmth to an already beautiful space."

Rosen notes that the Queen's Park Ballroom seats 270 to 280 people comfortably with dancing. "We typically give people space for the ceremony. We don't charge for the space if we're charging for food and beverage."

He says clients are in very good hands with Donald Hillis, the social catering manager. "Donald did high-end, off-premises catering for years. He is so likable.

"He recently did a kosher wedding for 200 people. The bride was ecstatic about the food and service, but it was more about the personal touches and the attention she was given by Donald. We call him our resident wedding specialist."

Rosen says clients can expect exceptional service. "What distinguishes us is the extent of our service. It's unprecedented in a hotel."

He attributes this high quality in part to the large number of staff on hand for any affair.

"We understand that when you're making a wedding, you only have one shot. There's no hit or miss. At the Park Hyatt, it's consistently perfect.

"We like to say we serve up perfect events."

> Serving up perfect events

Rosen says the food presentation and quality is very impressive for a hotel. "The greatest compliment we get is how good our food is. We provide restaurant quality and presentation for food served at a banquet."

He credits the accomplished executive chef for setting the high standard for all the food served at the Park Hyatt. "Joan Monfaredi oversees the kosher kitchen as well. The same chef is cooking for everyone at the hotel. Everyone gets the same VIP treatment.

"The same talented crew in the five-star restaurant works in the kosher kitchen. We can do that because we're a smaller hotel. We're not a convention hotel. We are more of a boutique-style hotel."

Monfaredi can create any menu style, whether it's an eight-course dinner or food stations, says Rosen. "Every event is customized."

He stresses that whenever there's a kosher affair, a mashgiach is on site for the whole event. "From prep to clean-up, everything is supervised."

Kosher dinners start at $70 per person, he says, explaining that the hotel is able to keep the cost of kosher events down because it has its own kosher china and cutlery. "Because we own our own dishes and flatware, it's less expensive than other venues where they have to bring in all the rentals."

Weddings held at the Park Hyatt include a complimentary deluxe guest room for the bride and groom, he adds.

Rosen says the hotel is offering a special program

One Perfect Day, Two Perfect Nights – for couples holding weddings at the Park Hyatt before June 30, 2007. "Book and hold the wedding at the Park Hyatt Toronto, and the couple will enjoy two complimentary nights at any Hyatt resort or any Park Hyatt Hotel worldwide.

"It could be Paris or New York. What a great way to spend your first anniversary."

# Deluxe spa opens at B.C.'s Sun Peaks Resort

By KATHRYN KATES
*Special to the CJN*

Spa Life

Last September, aromatherapist and esthetician Kim Berardine opened Pinnacle's Essential Spa in the Pinnacle Lodge and Spa.

The Pinnacle Lodge and Spa is less than one hour away from Kamloops, B.C., in Sun Peaks Resort, the second largest ski resort area in the province, next to Whistler.

Berardine, a Burlington and Milton, Ont., native opened her one-person operation after setting up another spa in the resort.

The walls of Pinnacle's Essential Spa are painted a soothing pale yellow and accented with warm wood trim. The main room houses a waiting area, a small retail space and pedicure and manicure corners, by a picture window facing Mount Morrissey. There is one softly lit treatment room.

"The spa is intimate," says Berardine. "When you book your treatment, it becomes your spa, which is unique. You are not sharing it with anyone, unless you invite people to come with you to the spa.

"I have another esthetician available for group bookings. I can also bring in a hairstylist for weddings," she adds.

Upon advance request, Berardine offers limited treatments including massage, manicures, pedicures and mini facials for two or more guests in guests' rooms. For outcalls, she adds an additional $25 to her fee.

The Pinnacle Lodge and Spa overlooks the Graham Cooke, scenic 18-hole Sun Peaks Resort's golf course, at the ninth hole. In the summer, Berardine plans to put a massage chair there and offer services to help people relax before, after and perhaps during their game.

Pinnacle's Essential Spa offers an à la carte service menu, but Berardine will custom package her services to suit her clients' needs. Clients can even book a time period and not a service, and decide what they are in the mood for on the day of their appointment.

The spa's services include massage, hot-stone massage therapy, aromatherapy and reiki. Body treatments on offer are Dead Sea Salt Scrub & Nourishing With Body Butter; and Relaxing Herbal Body Wrap & Warm Detoxifying Massage Blend. The body treatments are popular with the ski enthusiasts who populate the resort in the winter months.

Pinnacle Lodge and Spa. [K.Kates photos]

Other body treatments offered by the spa include Organic Clay Body Mask & Skin Tight Body Butter; Muscle Relief Seaweed Gel Wrap & Soothing Body Butter; and Exfoliating Massage & Body Bronzing Treatment.

In addition to a number of specialized facials, Berardine offers hand and foot treatments including paraffin dips and Epsom salt soaks, which are particularly good for sore muscles after a day on the slopes or golfing.

Also available are lash and brow tinting, makeup applications and body and face waxing. With three or more services, clients are given a 10 per cent discount. Spa lunches can also be included.

"For facials I use a Spanish product line called Skeynor. It has been around since the 1960s," Berardine says.

"I use foot products from Germany – Gehwol and Applresan. Both are targeted for specific foot treatments like cracks or eczema on the feet. For nail products, I use OPI and Zaya, and for makeup, I use MAC."

The Pinnacle Lodge and Spa has been under new ownership since June. The new owners of the lodge and spa are Quebec native Andree McKenzie, its general manager, and her chef husband, Craig, from New Zealand.

The Pinnacle Lodge and Spa includes 20 suites, all with private balconies and amazing views of the mountains or golf course. Each suite has a soaker tub and, for warmth, a gas fireplace and heated bathroom floor, which is much appreciated on winter nights.

Resort amenities include a sauna, fitness area, outdoor hot tub and skating rink in the winter. The resort has ski/golf storage and designated pet-friendly rooms. All-inclusive ski packages are offered.

Sun Peaks Resort gained prominence about 11 years ago, when Olympic gold and silver medallist Nancy Greene Raine and her husband, Al, opened Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge, a hotel/condominium.

Winter outdoor activities at Sun Peaks Resort include skiing, dog-sled tours, ice skating, sleigh rides and snowmobiling. Summer activities include golfing, mountain biking and hiking.

For more information on Pinnacle's Essential Spa, phone 250-371-7376 or toll free, 866-578-7850, or visit www.pinnaclelodgesunpeaks.com.

The spa offers many types of services.

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# A great band gets people dancing

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

A great band not only emanates energy and gives solid performances but also inspires the audience to get up and dance.

Raisy Ordel, of the 42nd Street Band (416-441-1721, ext. 306), says her band meets the criteria.

"We know how to put on a good show," she says. "But it's not about the band, it's about the people out there – giving them the best show they'll ever see in their life."

The 42nd Street band consists of seven members, including a female and a male lead vocalist, a saxophone player, a drummer, a guitarist and a bass guitarist. Ordel says the band receives letters of praise after most events because they draw people out of their shells and on to the dance floor.

"Say you have 250 people. Half are really with it and the other half are really quiet. The band has to be able to read the audience and be able to get them up and dance," she says. "It's up to the band to encourage them."

Ordel says that it's crucial for "a band to have a good time making sure you have a good time."

Even during trying times, such as the massive summer blackout three years ago, the 42nd Street Band has remained determined and steadfast in their dedication to please a client.

"We were scheduled to do a performance at a prestigious place during the blackout. I had no gas in my car, and the party concerned was very concerned. I said to them, 'No matter what there'll be a wedding, even if they have to sing a cappella or we use a big ghetto blaster, there'll be a wedding,'" she said. "And the day before the wedding, the power returned and the wedding was beautiful."

Sarah Morrison & The Dog's Life band (416-880-1795, www.sarahmorrison.ca, info@sarahmorrison.ca) is another act that is worth checking out.

Morrison, the dynamic lead singer, is the celebrity vocal coach on *Canadian Idol* and the singing coach and judge on the Canadian television show *Popstars*.

She is backed up by a five-piece band, which includes a drummer, bassist, keyboardist and guitarist. The band can add additional members, including a saxophonist, trumpet, tenor saxophonist, trombone and a male vocalist.

"You get the same sound whether they have a five to six-piece or if they have an eight- to nine-piece band – it's more of an energy level," says Morrison.

Like Ordel, Morrison says a band must bring people on to the dance floor, something that a DJ may not be able to achieve.

"A band and a DJ are two completely separate things," says Morrison. "A DJ is a background thing where you either get up and dance or you don't. The thing about a band is that it's an entertaining thing, so even if they don't dance, they can watch and still walk away from an event fulfilled."

Morrison knows how to read the crowd and what can make or break a party.

"First and foremost, have the bar in the room. People spend a lot of money on live entertainment and then don't put the bar in the room," she says. "People have often been standing around or sitting for hours, so by the time the band starts, the first thing they want is a drink, and you don't want to make your guests choose between one and the other."

Morrison, who grew up with Alanis Morissette in Ottawa, says low lighting is another way to make guests feel comfortable, as people are less self-conscious in it.

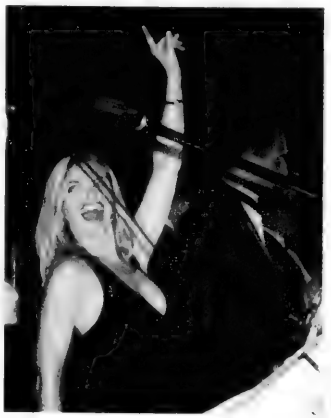
"These factors aren't thought about, but if you manipulate them you can influence how the party goes," she says.

Morrison encourages her clients to bring her new material to add to her performance list "so that their event is special."

Morisson says the band is the one part of an event that guests never forget.

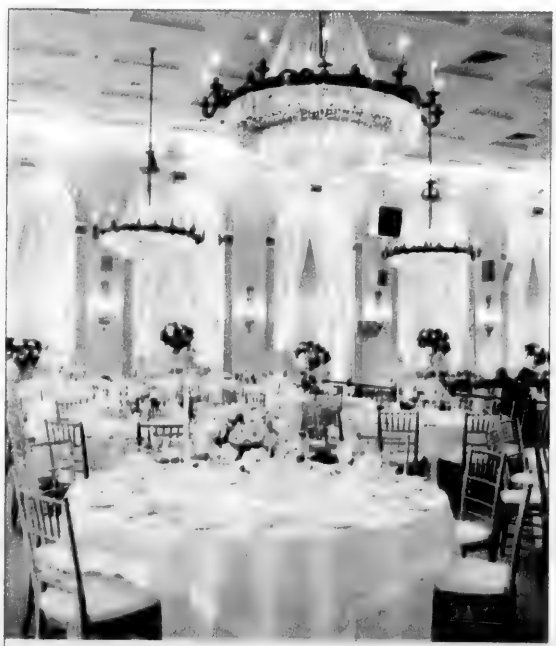
"It may not be the highest priority, but it's one of the most memorable, that both the bride and groom as well as their guests will remember," she says.

"You won't remember the colour of the flowers or those details, but you always remember the band. It's a very important thing."



**Sarah Morrison.**

*Other bands advertising in this supplement are: Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo, 416-693-8778; Bais Groove, 416-486-8417; Beyond the Pale, 416-482-2699; David Brant Entertainment, 647-889-6886; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment, 416-225-6977; Hu-Tsa-Tsa, 416-651-7521; The Kenny Simon Band, 905-889-8850/416-638-2549; Klapman's Klezmer Band 416-588-0854; Nice 'n' Easy, 905-508-0907; The Sky's Band, 905-731-0881.*

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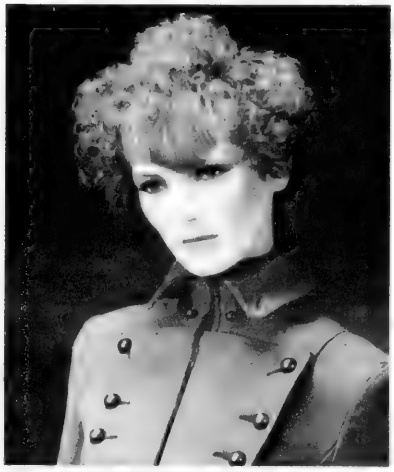
PARTY PLANNER

# Finding your perfect look at the salon

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Up-dos, short-dos, long-dos – with so many choices out there, how is a girl ever to choose!

With the party season quickly approaching, it may be time to get your hair done in the most elegant fashion or just simply update your look. But hairstylists are dime a dozen… or so you may think. Since your hair plays such an important part in your overall appearance, selecting an excellent hairstylist can be one of the most important (and tough!) decisions you make. Among the best services in Toronto, two salon and spas stand out.



Hair After offers a range of services.

Mane Society Salon & Spa (www.manesociety.com) operates full-service salons and spas, with five locations in and around Toronto. Breathing fresh air into the hairstyling industry, Mane Society offers a wide array of unique hair and spa services.

Recently husband-and-wife team Jeff and Cheryl Benoliel partnered with star hairstylist Mickey S., who heads the Mane Society chain. The Benoliels are contributing their marketing and business skills to the three-year-old business.

World-renowned hairstylist Mickey S. brings his talents to his loyal clients, and welcomes new clients as well. He travels the world styling the hair of the rich and famous and just returned from Jordan, where he showed his talents to the king and queen, at the queen's request no less! Mickey S., with celebrity clients in the United States and Canada, can be booked through Mane Society. To ensure a spot with Mickey, be sure to book at least two to three weeks in advance.

Among the hottest hair services offered at Mane Society, Cheryl Benoliel cites extensions made of real hair, a must-have for summer. Often used for special occasions as well, extensions can be transformed into a manifold of shapes. "We can do absolutely anything with them," she says.

Among the most unique spa services at Mane Society is the Seawater Strengthening Therapy, which uses plant antioxidants to help rejuvenate your face. Other spa services include various facials, sea spa manicures and ear candling, which is the holistic process of purifying the inner ear with the use of wax.

Mane Society also caters to wedding and bar/bat mitzvah parties, offering various spa packages, including stress relievers and day-at-the-spa pampering. Just watch your cares float away as Mane Society's expert staff spoils you from head to toe.

Another option in full-service salons is Hair After (416-221-6658), a salon that has been serving its loyal customers for more than 35 years. A family-run business, Hair After boasts three generations of stylists working at the salon. While at the salon, you quickly feel as if you are part of the family. The salon's atmosphere is laid back, and spending a morning or afternoon there is like spending time with old pals. For coffee lovers, the salon offers espresso made fresh from its espresso machine.

While Hair After is owned and run by John Colombo, his son Gian-Paolo Colombo is the star hairstylist of the moment. Voted best newcomer of the year in Canada and nominated for the same title in North America, Gian-Paolo has quite an impressive roster of clients. The team at Hair After also includes Enzo Cascone, a top North American stylist.

With such an expert staff, it's no wonder Hair After has a loyal following. Offering services in all aspects of hair, including cutting, highlighting and wigs – as well as manicuring and massages – the salon staff is aware of all the newest and hottest trends. Familiar with European styles, the salon's staff members truly understand style.

John Colombo cites the full-bodied 1970s look among the most popular at the moment. "The look is very textured, with light waves and root perms," he says.

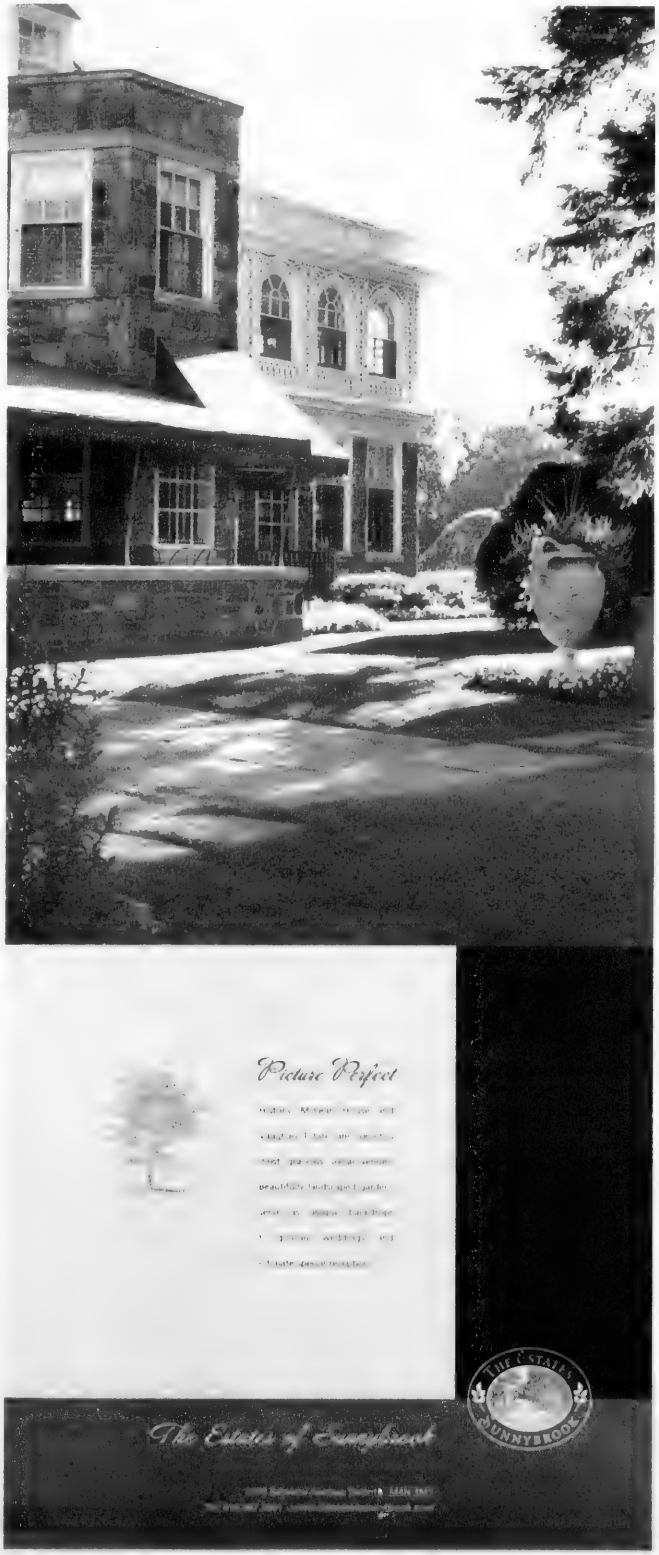
While moving with the trends, Hair After is true to their clients. "I am a firm believer in suitability," says Colombo. "What is in fashion doesn't always suit the customer," he says.

To avoid any hair mishaps, the stylists at Hair After always consult with their clients before touching their hair. Stressing the importance of comfort, Colombo has sketches on hand that relate face shapes to hairstyles.

Catering to larger parties as well, the stylists at Hair After offer specialized looks for bridal and bar/bat mitzvah parties as well. With an understanding of the importance of your special day, they will make sure that you look better than your best.

"Consultation is number one with us," says Colombo. "We take the time to make sure the client is completely happy with what we are doing."

*Other estheticians advertising in this supplement are: Estee Lavine and Associates, 905-417-8433, Farah's Place (Salon & Aesthetics), 905-760-2424.*



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# Enthusiasm, trust and selection: great gifts at Lawrence and Bathurst

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

With Mother's Day out of the way, you'd think the gift industry could relax for awhile. Not so, says Shaynee Schwartz, owner of Shaynee's, a multi-purpose gift store in Lawrence Plaza.

"Bridal season is coming up," says Schwartz, "We're also busy during Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Passover. We basically run the Jewish calendar."

Buying a bridal gift doesn't have to be expensive, Schwartz says. At Shaynee's, there are presents at every price.

"We have a great range. You can buy something for $5 or something for $300 dollars. Not every store is like that. I find that a lot of people also like our varied amount of product. The way I run the biz is if you come in looking for something and you don't find it, you'll be guaranteed to find something else."

One of Shaynee's best-sellers is anything stainless steel. Schwartz says she's the "stainless steel queen of Toronto" and listening to her talk about the material, you can't help but believe her.

"I really love stainless steel. You don't have to polish it and it looks gorgeous on the table. To be honest, I have increased my stainless steel business every year. The manufacturers were at one time doing silver plates, but they've now diversified into stainless steel. They used to make silver chafing dishes and they're now making stainless steel dishes."

If a bride wants to be certain that she'll get Shaynee's stainless steel products – or the dozens of other items, from menorahs to Alessi products – she can sign up to Shaynee's "big" bridal registry.

Another gift store with a well-stocked bridal registry is KOKLICO Gift Shop, a four-month-old gift store that sells jewelry, tablecloths and even flowers. Kathy Cohen-Ohayon, KOKLICO Gift Shop's owner, started the store after she tired of working as a dental assistant. She felt she could transfer her skills of making patients feel comfortable to the retail arena.

"The dental assistants were trained by going to a lot of conventions and taking courses on how to treat a customer," says Cohen-Ohayon, who was raised in Spain.

"People need that one-on-one contact. I have customers that keep coming because of my service. Somebody's going to leave the store and want to come back to a place where they feel warm and can be listened to. They release whatever problem they have in their mind. Buying a gift is the full experience from the moment you purchase it to the moment you give it."

Like Shaynee's, KOKLICO Gift Shop is located near Lawrence Avenue and Bathurst Street. Because of the location, Cohen-Ohayon thought most of her clients would be Orthodox, but that hasn't been the case.

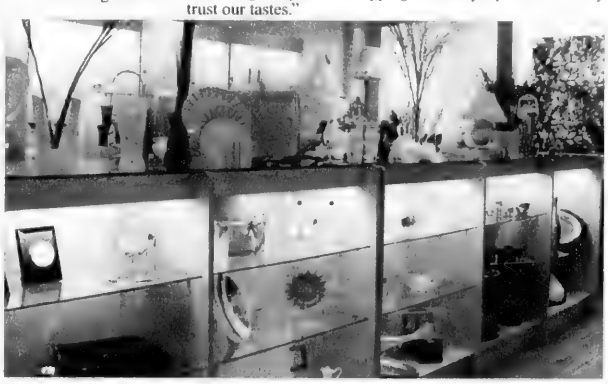
"I was expecting my clientele to be 90 per cent Orthodox, but I have customers from Thornhill to people who live close to downtown. I'm very pleased I have a little bit of everything."

The reason why KOKLICO Gift Shop and Shaynee's get customers from all over the city is because of trust and comfort.

**Shaynee Schwartz of Shaynee's.**

Some businesspeople who don't have time to get to Shaynee's even ask Schwartz to pick out a gift that a colleague might like.

"People call us, they need a retirement gift, a wedding gift for somebody or to give something to an associate. They'll phone us and we'll ask them a few questions and we'll pick something. It's painless shopping. A lot of people trust us, they trust our tastes."



**KOKLICO Gift Shop sells jewelry, tablecloths, flowers and more.**

Schwartz, who opened Shaynee's in 1991, adds that tastes have changed over the years. Many of her younger clients are looking for gifts that look interesting and don't resemble anything their mothers might buy.

"People are staying away from silver," she says. "No body wants to polish anymore. Younger people are more casual than their mothers were. They want a little bit of funk, something young. Now they're buying stainless steel, where their mother wouldn't have looked at it."

"Customers want different, they want things that are original," adds Cohen-Ohayon. "We try to work with the customer and find out more about the gift getters personality."

What really makes both of these stores successful isn't their diverse range of items – although that helps. It's their owners' enthusiasm for the gift industry.

"I love working in customer service, and I love decoration," says Cohen-Ohayon. "Making gifts is a passion."

"I've been in this business for a long time because I really like dealing with people," says Schwartz.

*Other gift places advertising in this supplement are: Eileen's Pearls, 416-630-1463; George Klein Creations, 416-730-1755; Magnolia Silver Jewellery, 905-787-1481/905-681-1755; Nutcracker Sweet Incorporated, 416-782-3232; Samuel Kleinberg Jewellers Inc., 416-789-7557; The Israeli Source, 905-482-2025.*

# This party planner specializes in babies

By ERIC LAYMAN
*Special to The CJN*

No one else in Toronto is doing what Adi Amsterdam does. She's a party planner for brises and baby namings, which she handles under the auspices of her interior design company called Amsterdam Design (416-473-1482, adi@amsterdamdesign.net).

She says she would never have foreseen taking up this line of work. At 32, Amsterdam is a mother of a son, Guy, 8, and a daughter, Noy, 6. After having her daughter, she went back to school to complete a program in interior design. She loves the field and has a good eye for detail.

But Amsterdam also loves party planning.

"I'm a people person," she smiles. "Working with people, being able to help them, gives me a high."

In 2005, a friend asked her to plan a bris. She agreed and enjoyed it immensely – as did her friend, who had a stress-free simchah in which all she had to do was show up with the baby.

She got her second client through her mom, who owns the Haymishe Bagel Shop. On a Wednesday, her mother asked her to do the bris, which was to be on the Friday, two days away. Again, Amsterdam agreed.

The event was a success, and the client called her three times to thank her.

"All this," recalls Amsterdam, "led me to remember how it was when I had my boy. It was shaping up to be joyous but stressful, with catering and linens and all the other things to look after. Then some friends and relatives pitched in to do everything for me, and I could relax and enjoy herself."

Milestones, happy or sad, are often overwhelming. A simchah such as a bris is bound to create stress. Usually, you don't know the birthing day in advance, and once the baby is born, the bris usually takes place on the eighth day of life, so parents have to plan a celebration at short notice.

Moreover, parents have to do this while they're sleep-deprived, and while the mother is still tired from giving birth and while the new arrival is asserting his claim to be the centre of the mother's universe.

And that's to say nothing of the emotions and stress generated by family members.

So Amsterdam knows how much a bris or baby naming planner has to offer parents. A planner gives the mother time to recuperate from giving birth and to bond with her baby.

"As a high-energy person", Amsterdam says, "I'm a natural for taking the stress off a mother's shoulders."

Amsterdam Designs gives you one-stop shopping for your upcoming bris or baby naming. She'll take care of whatever you need: caterers, linens, centrepieces, wait staff, entertainment. As well, her service includes what she calls a "bris kit," with gauze and other items needed for the actual circumcision.

Adi Amsterdam of Amsterdam Design.

As you'd expect, Amsterdam's knowledge also includes lists of mohels, and she also knows such facts as whether a mohel will walk or drive to a Saturday bris.

"Most brises are in the morning and last for a few hours," says Amsterdam. "This means I can work professionally, but have the afternoon free to cook, spend quality time with my kids, drive them to events, and do the other things that are part of being a mother."

Amsterdam's key piece of advice: "Know your budget, and know what you want. I can consult on the budget and make rough estimates. And when it's time to choose your caterer, etc., I have the names and numbers at my fingertips."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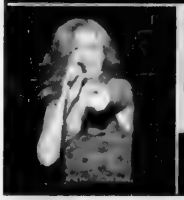

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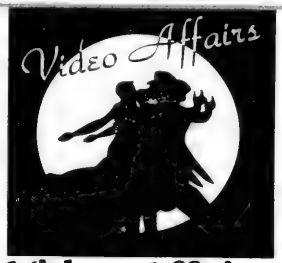


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# Sweeten any gift with chocolate

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

There's nothing like a little sweet talk, especially if it's said with chocolate.

Chocolate sweetens any message or greeting and it's the perfect gift, says Bob Levine, owner of Chocolate Charm (416-787-4256). "I like to say that we make gift giving deliciously easy."

Chocolate Charm, located at 3541 Bathurst St., a few blocks south of Wilson Avenue (across the street from Baycrest), specializes in chocolate truffles, chocolate novelty-shape gifts, baskets and trays and smash cakes.

Levine says people love to get chocolate as gifts because it "is known to be the most universally loved flavour."

Under COR supervision, Chocolate Charm offers both milk and pareve chocolates, all made from Swiss and Belgian chocolate, says Levine.

Chocolate novelty shapes, which Chocolate Charm can personalize and deliver, make wonderful gifts because they're something people would not buy for themselves, he says. "It's more of a fun thing. It's nice to get the shape they like in chocolate... If you like hockey and you get a chocolate hockey stick it's really fun. We have a few hundred different shapes. We have something for everyone."

A big draw for customers are the handmade milk chocolate truffles – chocolates with soft creamy centres encased in a harder chocolate shell – all made from scratch on the premises, says Levine.

"We make truffles the old fashioned way with a pot over the stove. We make a real ganache – it's a combination chocolate and cream."

He points out that Chocolate Charm employs two full-time chocolate makers, trained in the traditional chocolate methods.

"They don't use any preservatives or artificial ingredients. Our truffles are made with fresh cream, real butter and genuine liqueurs.

"We use a single malt scotch in our Irish cream and real champagne in our champagne truffles. They are by far the most popular truffles in the shop."

Other truffle flavours in big demand include caramel, coffee liqueur and amaretto, he adds.

Chocolate Charms also boasts a large selection of chocolate lollypops, he says. "We have the largest collection of chocolate lollypops in the city. They come in all kinds of shapes – roller blades, baseballs, Jewish stars. They can be used as favours for parties."

He notes that during the holidays, religious symbols are very popular gifts. For example, people like to send chocolate-shaped Torahs and the tablets for Shavuot, chocolate shofars for Rosh Hashanah, and chocolate menorahs and dreidels for Chanukah.

Chocolate flowers have also become very trendy, according to Levine. "Long-stem roses, daisies, tulips and daffodils sent in clay pots make wonderful housewarming and holiday gifts. Our flowers don't wilt."

He says that personalized chocolate champagne bottles are also frequently requested as gifts for special occasions. He recommends that customers give the store a day's notice for personalized items.

Chocolate Charm offers a line of pareve chocolates the most popular is the gianduja, which combines chocolate and hazelnut paste, says Levine. "It's the closest you can get to something tasting like milk chocolate in a pareve chocolate."

Smash cakes, the large, hollow, rectangular box-style cakes, continue to be a common bar mitzvah item, says Levine. "We've doing them since the late '80s.

"For the chocolate box, we use the same high quality European chocolate. We decorate the cake with all kinds of shapes, and the names are all in chocolate. The letters stand up.

"We provide a mallet. You can't cut it. You have to smash it. The cakes have to be hollow in order to be able to smash them."

Even though people are more health conscious, they still like to indulge in chocolate, so Levine says he offers some healthier options such as chocolate covered nuts, dried fruit, almond bark, and 70 per cent dark chocolate.

"The research shows that chocolate is actually good for you. Almond bark is a nice, healthy snack and it's not bad for the heart," Levine says. The store delivers across the GTA. "We get calls from all over the city. People want chocolate without milk because there are so many people who are lactose intolerant.

"We're also a good chocolate shop that happens to be kosher so we attract people from across the city."

> Chocolate Charm specializes in truffles, gifts and their famous smash cakes

**Chocolate Charm's smash cakes. Hammer is included.**

*Other specialty food places advertising in this supplement are: Bake: Dessert Co. Inc., 416-782-2253; The Chocolate Moose, 416-784-9092*

# Need a drink? Try some 'liquid fruit'

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

If you're thirsty or just low on energy, you might want to juice up with some pure liquid fruit.

Wilde Juice (416-293-8886), the latest entry into the Canadian juice market, is made from pure pressed fruit.

This line of kosher juices from South Africa is not like products from other juice companies, says Peter Wartski, a partner in Twynz Inc., the company that imports and markets the product in Canada.

Most commercial juices are made from concentrates and purees, but Wilde Juice has no added sugars, preservatives or water, explains Wartski. "The juices are so unique and delicious because they're pressed from fruit ripened on the trees. It's not a concentrate mixed with another juice to reconstitute it.

"Wilde juice is like drinking liquid fruit. We are convinced that we are selling the best juice in Canada."

So far, the juices, which come in Elopaks (Tetropak-style packaging with a convenient screw cap), can be found in more than 200 grocery and health food stores in Quebec and Ontario, including Longos, A&P, Dominion, Pusateri's, Whole Foods, Ambrosia, the Big Carrot, and selected Costcos.

The product is also distributed in Alberta and British Columbia, and there are plans to bring it to the United States, says Wartski.

The juices come in 12 flavours – single fruit and blends in a one-litre size – and six flavours are available in a 330-ml size.

"By far, mango is our best seller," says Wartski. "People who taste it love it. You haven't tasted mango juice like this. It's thick and delicious. It's a great product."

Other flavours include wild berry; apple, cranberry and ginger; and mango, orange and cranberry.

"Our lemon and pear is like a natural lemonade made without preservatives," enthuses Wartski.

"It's a totally natural product. It's pure juice squeezed from the fruit."

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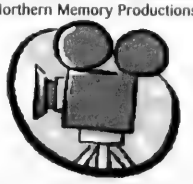

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# For gifts, go to the source, Israeli Source

By ERIC LAYMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Chuck Elnekave of Israeli Source had his first child three weeks before he opened Israeli Source in February 2006. So for him, this has been a year of beginnings.

Israeli Source specializes in Israeli gifts, including lots of Judaica. The store emphasizes unique hand-crafted gifts, mainly individual items. The more artistic handmade work is from Israel, but there are also items from the United States and other countries.

Elnekave benefits from the Canada-Israel free trade agreement. "I intend to expand my Canadian market," he says.

We think of Israeli exports as being based in agriculture, high-technology or medicine and more recently, fashion. What is less well known is that along with these industries, Israel also has many and varied handicrafts. The promotion of handicrafts actually predates the founding of the State of Israel. Under the auspices of the World Zionist Congress, the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design was opened in Jerusalem in 1906.

As his company's name implies, Elnekave buys from Israeli sources whenever possible. "I go to Israel myself to do as much of the buying as I can," he says. "And it's fun, with all the variety offered."

Elnekave's sources within Israel are diverse, ranging from shops and malls to craft fairs around the country. "Israelis like hand-crafted gifts themselves," he observes, "and give the craft artists a lot of local support."

Israeli Source carries a wide range of ceramics, but there's plenty of metalwork as well. You'll find serving plates and candlesticks. There are hamsas, hand-shaped protective amulets, in a range of designs and materials. There are Shabbat and yom tov hot plates, Havdallah sets, and silver plated kiddush cups and fountains, as well as a plethora of jewelry.

Israeli Source specializes in Israeli gifts, including lots of Judaica.

Israeli artisans use every imaginable material, a diversity that is reflected in Israeli Source's stock of crafted objects.

There's glass and pewter in abundance. And many craft workers like wood for its warmth and durability and its receptivity to varied treatments. For example, there are hand-painted wooden challah boards in different sizes.

Textiles are well represented, too. There are wall hangings and tapestries; and of course there are Judaica items including challah covers, tallitot, tallit bags and crocheted kippot in assorted designs. With all this variety, Israeli Source is something of a visual and tactile feast.

For those who like to read, the store also offers a wide selection of books – siddurim, Haggadot, Torah and Talmud texts, books on Jewish themes and history, novels and inspirational stories. Hebrew books include Israeli publications, novels and history, travel books, cook books and souvenir or coffe table books with lots o photos.

There are plenty of thing for your kids as well. Book for children include Wal Disney and Dr. Seuss i Hebrew, and there are toys an games. And Israeli Source carries kid-sized kippot.

Do you have a lot of corre spondence with Israel, som of it in Hebrew? On Israel Source's shelves, you can fin useful items like an English Hebrew keyboard. And ther are novelties like mah jon cards.

You shop in a self-serv warehouse, with staff o hand to help. Elnekave has high praise for his staff. "They enjoy being knowledgeable an helpful," he says.

Israeli Source is also a wholesale outlet You'll find it at 60 Doncaster Ave., Unit 1 Thornhill, Ont. It is closed on Saturday. Fo store hours, phone 905-482-2025 or 1-877 613-1818; fax 905-482-2026. Website www.israelisource.com; e-mail info@israelisource.com.

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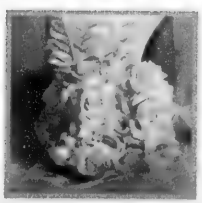

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PARTY PLANNER

# Photojournalist captures the moment forever

By JENNA ROSMAN
*Special to The CJN*

A Toronto photographer has won the gold medallion from the Artistic Guild of the Wedding Photojournalist Association.

In the first year he has entered, Adam Miasik of Moving Images Photography (http://www.movingimagesphoto.com), won sixth place in the international competition this May, receiving the prestigious gold medallion for his submission in the wedding portrait category.

"I'm a member of the [Wedding Photojournalist Association]. One of the things [they have] are these ongoing contests, three times a year. You enter your work and go from there," he said. "Hopefully it brings attention to [my] work and my profile is raised up a little bit. It's another stepping stone up the ladder."

Miasik has been a photographer for the past 18 years. He opened his business, Moving Images, five years ago.

He described his candid, captivating style as "storytelling," but said that the growing popularity of photojournalism in event photography has become "almost like a catch phrase for a lot of people" or "an excuse for bad photography."

Miasik cited renowned photographers, Norman Parkinson, Robert Doisneau and Henri Cartier as being the "true masters" of photojournalism.

In his own work, Miasik focuses on captivating the atmosphere. "I try to capture the mood of the day, like when the bride and groom see each other for the first time – the little details," he said.

"They all add to the story, to the picture of the day. I hope to convey, if you weren't there, this is what you missed. I really want people to be themselves."

Miasik, whose commercial clients include Premier Fitness, said his technique for capturing such expressive moments is to remain observant and unobtrusive in the background. He said many people are too focused on the expense of hiring a great photographer, rather than on the calibre of the material.

"We've forgotten that these are life memories, too, that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

"When your children pick up that photo album or look at that portrait, you really want to get a sense of that person," he said. "If you are just looking at a price point, especially with technology today, anybody could just take a picture, but to truly be able to see the person, I think that's what a good photographer is."

All pictures by Moving Images Photography.

Miasik recommends booking up to a year in advance. For more information, contact him at 416-271-1957.

*Other photographers advertising in this supplement are: Paula Feig Photography, 416-636-9466; Horvath Studio of Photography, 905-707-5770; Platinum Studios, 905-709-7754; Signature Studios, 416-784-4488; Snapp Photography, 416-938-2489, Special Event Photography, 416-221-3773*

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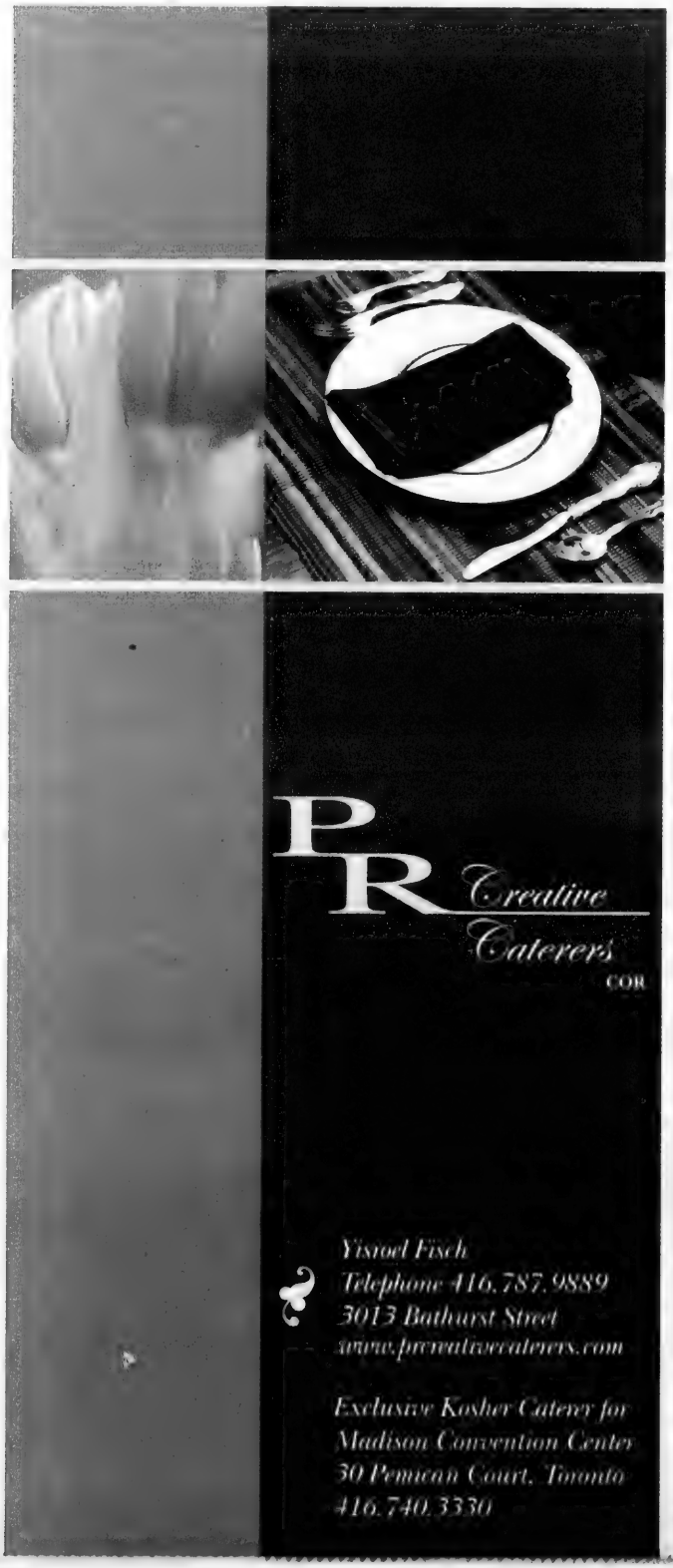


PARTY PLANNER

# Mint offers 'fresh,new approach' in event consultation'

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

**Mint Events takes the bar/bat mitzvah industry to a whole new level.**

When Jared Florence was 16, he thought it would be a lot of fun to DJ a friend's party. Little did he know he'd still be entertaining 13-year-old kids a decade and a half later.

Florence is the owner of Mint Events (416-923-6468), a boutique entertainment service that organizes everything from bar and bat mitzvah parties to club openings and charity events. The company has been around for about a year, but Florence has been organizing events for almost 20.

"At first, I would DJ bar mitzvahs. It ended up being once a month, then once a week to twice a week to three or four times a week. It became my way of life."

About six years ago, Florence saw a change in the bar and bat mitzvah industry – people wanted flashier, more elaborate functions – and the budding entrepreneur saw a business opportunity.

"I started to see the potential to take this to another level," he says, "I felt that so much more could be done at these events."

So he hired dancers to entertain the kids, and started planning more elaborate parties.

However, he wasn't the only one noticing the trend toward extravagance.

"At one point there was one company that had 95 per cent of the industry, but then it changed. There were all these other companies," says Florence. "People were spending insane amounts of money. We've done bar and bats where people spend up to $250,000."

To get a bigger share of the business, Florence bought out one of his biggest competitors, Mandell Extreme. He then teamed up with another competitor, Noah Cappe of Superfly Entertainment, and enlisted a friend, Jordan Fogle, and together they created Mint Events.

"This wasn't really new," he says. "It was taking up from where Mandell left off, but what is new is that we're offering a fresh, new approach in event consultation."

That approach involves planning events from start to finish, and not just for bar and bat mitzvahs, but for other, private functions as well. One upcoming event involves flying several people to the Caribbean for three days.

"We're there to orchestrate all the entertainment – people like [singer, dancer, actor] Usher have parties down at this resort. There's the usual things, dancing, dinner, but we're also planning jet skiing to scuba diving to beach volleyball. We'll facilitate everything for them, using all suppliers and people in industry we've become really close with."

One industry Florence has become close with is the entertainment industry. Britney Spears and Paris Hilton are making appearances at a club opening Mint is planning, and they've hired Elton John to play a client's 50th birthday party.

"We're affiliated with all the major agencies in L.A. This client, whose party Elton John's playing at, has given us carte blanche to make this a great evening. There are other parties where my partner has shown up and he's the entertainer, and there are 30 electric guitars to give away."

Despite their success in other areas of party planning, bar and bat mitzvahs take up most of their time. Florence says about 50 per cent of their events are bar and bats.

"People are still spending a lot of money on these events," he says, "but they're now looking for a lot more value with what they get."

The added value, says Florence, is in Mint's experience. He says a lot of DJ operations are "opening overnight," but his company can do a lot more than just throw on some music.

"Mint Events is not specifically a DJ company," he says. "It's a misconception that we're hoping to change. In fact, there's not another company who does what we do. Mint to us is a way of life. We introduced a certain element of style when we started this because we saw Mint as a state of mind. We've come up with a very clean, very slick way of presenting ourselves."

Florence also deserves credit for understanding a constantly changing industry. At his own bar mitzvah, he invited 20 close friends and they danced along to a band. Now, he says, times have changed.

"Kids are a lot smarter and sophisticated now. We're doing parties where on average there are between 70 to 120 kids. The biggest thing is that this generation of kids is going to between 30 and 80 events a year, so our clients want to keep these parties fresh. If you have that system where you have package A, B and C, these kids have seen A, B, and C already. You have to make it more customized to the client and to the kids otherwise you'll fail. Getting a T-shirt as a prize doesn't cut it anymore. Kids want an iPod."

As big a business as bar and bat mitzvahs have become, an even larger undertaking that Mint Events recently entered is wedding planning.

"The wedding industry is more saturated than the bar and bat industry," says Florence. "There are probably 10 wedding DJs for every one bar mitzvah company."

So why did Mint Events even bother entering this crowded business? "It's a lot of fun," says Florence, who recently had his own wedding. "I know not only from doing it for a living, but doing it myself, what it takes to plan a wedding. We just want to be as diverse as possible without forgetting where we came from."

Florence isn't kidding about not forgetting his roots. Not only are kids still an important part of his business – Mint is putting on 53 events at camps this summer – but he still regularly DJs bar and bat mitzvah parties.

"I still DJ every weekend. I'm going to be 33, and I just got married, but I love it. It's still the best job you can ever have."

PARTY PLANNER

# Invitations get your simchah off to an elegant start

By JENNA ROSMAN
*Special to the CJN*

Invitation design sets the tone for the party, says invitation designer Sharon Klinghoffer.

"Many times, brides come in with their colour theme in mind and they want their invitation to carry on with that. It's the first thing the guests see," says Klinghoffer, who along with her best friend Gerri Goldberg, operates Designs by Sharon.

**Invitations by Designs by Sharon.**

"Our goal is to not only make a beautiful product, but to make our customers feel very comfortable, happy, content and satisfied when they come here and when they leave here," she says. "There is no other place in the city that delivers customer service like we do."

Designs by Sharon, which is best known for doing customized and unique work, has incorporated colourful photographs of a bar mitzvah boy or a bat mitzvah girl into designs. Other options include creating custom-made invitations made to fit into a gift box that is often hand-delivered by clients to invitees. Silk-dried flowers, rhinestones and even pearls have been integrated into invitations.

As far as invitational style for weddings, Klinghoffer says earthy tones have become popular, along with cream tones, and colours such as muted gold, and sage green. Pink and purple tones, Klinghoffer says, are timeless.

Klinghoffer says that an outgoing trend in invitational design is layering.

"Styles change every 10 years," she says. "People want that clean look and change."

Klinghoffer says Designs by Sharon make the most striking baby cards in Toronto.

Their 3-D card features many different pop-up options, such as rubber duckies or baby shoes.

Designs by Sharon provides personal one-on-one service, by appointment only.

"Just like customizing a piece of beautiful jewelry, we do the same things with our invitations," she said.

Graphic designer and visual artist Heather Hennick of Partyzazz (www.partyzazz.com) specializes in special event production, including invitation design, posters and promotional material needed for events.

"I offer not just by-the-book [items]. I'm an expert of not just paper design and so on, but I can do things that other people aren't able to do," she said, "I work with unique concepts such as dye-cut [creative and unique shapes of invitations and invitational seals]. I work with different medias in terms of producing cards with original covers. It's very custom sort of work."

Hennick is able to produce invitational seals in various shapes.

"For example, if it is for a bar mitzvah, I can make a seal in the shape of a Torah," she said.

Unconventional backgrounds and colours are incorporated into Hennick's creations, through her use of graphic design. Hennick has integrated materials such as leather, plastic and wax into her cards.

**An invitation by Partyzazz.**

While you can choose a standard invitation out of a catalogue at Partyzazz, Hennick said it's most common for people to add their own personal touches.

"Because I'm an artist and a designer, I'm able to change the design to make it a bit different," she says.

Like Klinghoffer, Hennick says wedding invitations these days are generally "simple and elegant."

Hennick says Jewish weddings often incorporate aspects of Judaism into the design, such as "expression, spiritual sayings and [religious] elements"

Hennick says the fundamental difference between a standard and professionally made invitation is its beauty.

"It's really a whole science of things that make it a beautiful invitation," she says. "My job is really to help the client establish what they are trying to say and if I can do that successfully and cleanly, then that's a beautiful invitation."

Hennick says that while she can have a card printed as quickly as one week, other cards require several months. She recommends that clients call her a year prior to their event.

"It's about talking about what your ideas are. People want something different. It's not about looking in a book and you're going to see it. I don't think I've ever done one invitation that was the same," she said. "Everyone is different."

For more information about invitations from Designs by Sharon, contact Sharon Klinghoffer or Gerri Goldberg at 905-881-5884.

Heather Hennick of Partyzazz can be reached at 905-881-5736 or info@partyzazz.com.

*Other invitation places advertising in this supplement are: Barbara Mortfield Invitations, 905-738-1232; Paper Expressions, 905-764-9812; The Printed Word, 416-484-4600.*

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# Enjoy hands-on activities at your next party

By JEN THOMPSON
*Special to The CJN*

Looking for a fun activity for your next event? Need an idea that is innovative and sure to impress? Perhaps you would like to create beautiful, handmade jewelry. Or have you ever thought of running away and joining the circus? If so, Beadology (416-898-1347) and The Wonderful World of Circus (905-479-2411) are two activities that are sure to entertain you and your guests.

Sabrina Smith created Beadology four years ago, when a weekly bead club for adults with psychiatric disorders grew into a new type of art therapy program. As a result of the success of the program, there was some increased demand for Smith's talents. People were constantly asking her to come to parties and teach both children and adults the art of beadology. Smith decided that it would be a wonderful opportunity to share her love of making beads with the community.

Beadology brings the world of beads to you. Smith and her staff bring everything needed, including the skills to ensure the most organized, colourful and creative items possible. New projects are being designed all the time, and Smith says all the participants – adults and children, boys and girls – love the things they create.

The tools Smith brings include everything necessary to make beautiful beads that will last for years. A Beadology party consists of a beading lesson and a trained professional to assist and supervise. Guests have a huge selection of beads and colours to choose from. They take their projects home in decorative organza bags filled with goodies for each individual creation.

Girls love making crystal bead necklaces, beaded headbands and seed bead chokers. However, Smith says that the boys love beadology just as much as the girls.

"It's often harder to get the boys to stop working on their projects than the girls," Smith says. She is constantly amazed by their creativity. Boys love to use materials such as leather and wood to make their own creations.

**Pictured above and left are images from the Wonderful World of Circus which has something for everyone. Below are pictures of children enjoying an evening of beadology.**

Not limited to birthdays and bar and bat mitzvahs, Beadology offers numerous services for its clients. It has camp programs for children of all ages. And a beadology class is also a great idea for bridal showers, corporate events, interactive fundraisers, home jewelry parties and community centre workshops.

Since its inception, Beadology has become increasingly popular. Smith suggests booking a month in advance for your event. However, she will always try to accommodate her clients' schedules.

Another unique activity to consider for your next event is The Wonderful World of Circus. Located in Thornhill, Ont., the Wonderful World of Circus was established in 1996 by world-renowned circus performers Oleg Kantemirov and Tatiana Zoubrilina. Many of the students and performers have worked, or now work, with Moscow Circus, Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Niagara and other world famous circuses.

A party at the Wonderful World of Circus will have something to entertain everyone. The hour in the gym includes a clown show where clowns interact with kids, funny games, and activities on gym and circus equipment. A real circus show can be customized with additional performances with trained dogs or birds, a magician or an air gymnast, a professional circus juggler, or if available, an amazing blow-up clown act.

The Wonderful World of Circus offers other specialized services: field trips on which children will see magical, amazing performances they have never seen before; or workshops where students can gain first-hand experience as circus performers. Classes and camps are available throughout the year.

*Other kids' activity places advertising in this supplement are: The Clay Room, 416-466-8474; The Funstation/Funpark Amusement Park, 416-736-4804; Rainbow Cinemas, 905-886-7464*

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# Use caution when buying jewelry, dealer warns

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

The president of a venerable Toronto jewelry store says customers need to be wary of deceitful activity within the industry.

"You've really got to go to a jeweller you can trust, who has the knowledge," says Lorne Spivack, who is also a co-owner of Samuel Kleinberg Jewellers along with Samuel Kleinberg and John Fairley.

"We're finding that there is just so much misconception out there in the marketplace today, especially with appraisals," adding that it's difficult for the average consumer to distinguish between a real and counterfeit diamond.

"[A fake diamond] doesn't have the brilliance that a real diamond does. It's probably not going to have any inclusions [flaws] in it, like a real stone would," he said. "It will look too perfect."

He said the fundamental difference between a poor quality and high quality diamond is in overall beauty.

"What diamonds do is they reflect light," said Spivack. "If a diamond is cut properly, if it's in the right proportion, the light will reflect from the diamond and catch the eye."

Spivack said that the cut, clarity, colour and weight of the diamond determine its overall value, but he cautions that "if [your appraisal] is off by even half a grade, it can make a big difference on the price of the stone."

***Overall beauty is the main feature of high-quality diamonds***

The business, which was established in 1967, imports diamonds and gold, and sells four different brands of watches: Movado, Esquire, Bulova and Wittnauer.

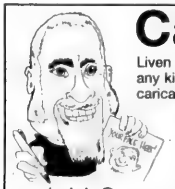
He said the company has been "built on reputation," which has contributed to its longstanding success.

Spivack said there are many trends in jewelry fashion at the moment. White gold, he said, is most popular, but "in Europe, it's starting to turn into yellow again, which we'll see here in a couple of years," he said.

"We're also starting to do a lot of second engagement rings for couples who have been married 20 or 25 years. They are starting to upgrade to a larger stone."

Samuel Kleinberg Jewellers is located at 3130 Bathurst St., Suite 204. You can call the store at 416-789-7557.

Samuel Kleinberg Jewellers was established in 1967.



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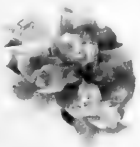

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PARTY PLANNER

# Quality men's clothing at affordable prices

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Hersch Freedman of Shirts Unlimited.

While trying to look your best for the many occasions that fill your calendar, your wallet has the tendency to empty at a speedy pace.

Typically, buying the best quality in dress clothing can cost a pretty penny, but with the help of Raji's Custom Tailors (416-661-6777), you'll have as many suits in your closet as bills in your wallet.

Raji's Custom Tailors, which is located at 4699 Keele St., is a complete suit operation from start to finish. Everything from designing and measuring to creating is done on the premises. Having a suit made there is a completely personalized experience – at extremely affordable prices.

Raj Singh, the owner of the business as well as a tailor by trade, deals directly with his clients on a one-to-one basis. Together with the client, he designs a look from head to toe. With up-to-date catalogues and more than 600 high-quality European fabric samples in stock, Singh can create a suit for your specified measurements and with any stylistic elements you would like to add. And since you are working directly with the person who is making your suit, any and every accommodation can be made to match your needs.

With three resident experienced tailors on hand, the suit is created quickly – under two weeks – which is possible because everything is done in-house. "Since I do everything here, I can keep prices down and offer the best-quality product for my customers," says Singh.

While prices start at around $550 for a customized suit and $650 for a tuxedo, Singh has developed a convertible technology to make sure that you get the most use out of your jacket. Since tuxedos are bought or rented on rare occasions only, Singh will attach the satin lapel to the jacket by hand. Once the occasion has passed, the lapel can be removed and voilà – what you have left is an impeccably made suit.

Possibly the youngest tailor in the city, Singh is aware of trends and modern techniques in suit making. He cites an extremely fitted European silhouette as the hottest trend of the season. Suppressed at the waist with side venting, even this look can be custom-made to fit any specific measurements.

As well as the designing and manufacturing of the suit, Singh offers consultations to help best organize your wardrobe. Among his tips, he recommends getting two pairs of pants made with one suit as pants generally wear out faster than jackets or shirts. To make for a more cohesive wardrobe, he keeps a record of everything you have purchased from him on file. And to make sure you look your best, he will help you with any last-minute pressing or adjustments that need to be made.

"I want my customers to look their sharpest," says Singh. He also offers home and office calls for clients who are too busy to come in to the store.

Another option in quality men's dressing at affordable prices is Shirts Unlimited (416-784-9845), which is located at 1930 Avenue Rd. Shirts Unlimited carries an enormous selection of men's casual and dress shirts. With such a vast selection of sizes in men's shirts from short and tall to extra-tall, there is something for every man at Shirts Unlimited.

Shirts Unlimited is owned by Hersch Freedman. The former owner of Kingsport Clothiers, Freedman has been offering one of the widest selections of men's shirts in the city for more than a year now. "Everyone knows me from my 28 years at Kingsport. It's nice to run into my old customers," he says.

"No one has the selection that we do," says Freedman. "We carry over 500 patterns, fabrics and styles." But that's not all. The store also offers a wide selection of men's accessories, including ties, cufflinks, belts and even jeans. The store also offers a selection of women's clothing, including blouses and bottoms in a variety of fabrics and styles.

With casual shirts starting as low as $35 (regularly priced at $75) the store carries every style from golf and polo to knit. These shirts are offered in every size and every fabric from silk and linen to hemp.

Perhaps the greatest thing about the store is that the stock it carries is on permanent special. The store offers the bargain of three shirts for $75 or five for $100. Dress shirts, which come in a wide array of fabrics, styles and sizes, range from $35 to $100 (regularly priced at $85 to $150). And if you still can't find what you are looking for at the store, custom-made shirts can be created in seven to 10 days. As well, the already discounted shirts can be altered at no charge.

Among the many offered colours in the store, Freedman names orange and coral as the hottest shades for summer. A fitted and striped look is the hottest silhouette of the moment. While offering styles for every occasion and customer, Shirts Unlimited moves with the times. "We don't carry that fuddy-duddy stuff," he says. "We carry the off-the-wall looks, too."

*Another men's fashion place advertising in this supplement is Le Club Menswear, 416-488-7848*

# Preserve memories with a photo collage, or star in your own animation

**By ERIC LAYMAN**
*Special to The CJN*

Over the past few decades, everyone has become more sophisticated visually – more attentive to visual detail and harder to satisfy.

This sophistication is especially obvious in kids, who are more adaptable to new media than most adults.

Here are two gift ideas which should interest the new generation of sophisticates.

* * *

Daniel Krenek of 12 Pix Design (647-836-5165, www.12pix.net) makes photo collages for milestone events such as birthdays, bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and anniversaries. He did the first of these privately, as a keepsake for his mother, when she came to visit from the Czech Republic, where Krenek was born.

He's been in business for one year. "It's still fun," Krenek says. "Money is secondary."

12 Pix Design produces a lasting memento of an event by

gathering pictures from your life – for instance, as a baby, at age one, etc. – and mounting them as a photo collage. It's like a scrapbook, professionally done.

Krenek recommends a minimum of 12 pictures. While they will work with fewer if you want, the price is the same as for 12.

Such a collage might feature an important motif from your life. If you're an enthusiastic bike rider, for example, it might begin with a photo of you as a tot on your first tricycle, then continue through childhood and adulthood.

A12 Pix Design collage not only keeps memories alive, but groups them together.

"We deliver sentiment," says Krenek.

Krenek does other things with photos and graphic design, such as personalized postcards. And while most of his clients are private, he's interested in corporate work.

Select 12 or more photos you want to use and choose the layout you want. Drop the photos or CD with your information with Krenek, or you can mail or e-mail them.

He will use your photos with layout selection, and design a unique 11 x 17 poster and 5 x 7 postcard. Then Krenek will e-mail you the design for your approval. You can pick up your personalized design, or he will mail it to you.

* * *

Carol Solis of You Star Legends (905-901-7777, www.youstarlegends.com) offers another visual novelty gift. While this may be of special interest for birthdays and bar or bat mitzvahs, kids aren't the only ones who would like the idea.

You Star Legends makes animated movies with a kid's face, making a child the star in the movie. It's both a memento and a way of thanking guests for coming.

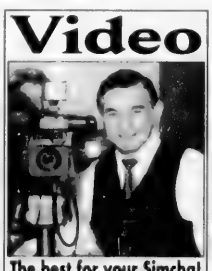
*The Aphindian Legend*, a four-minute movie, offers a young hero a chance to save the universe from extreme peril.

Currently, Solis is working on two other movies. One, *Erik and the Green Gorilla*, is an anti-bullying story by Scott Graham. Another is a motivation film on setting and achieving goals.

Every guest at a simchah could have a personalized movie, or as a memento, each could receive one with the bar or bat mitzvah boy or girl. They could be given at the event, or ahead of time.

You Star Legends teams up with charities and non-profit organizations. Among the charities are Possibilities, which mentors children; Angel Hair, which provides wigs for children who have lost their hair; A Child's Voice; and Camp Quality, for kids with cancer. The company can also do product placements.

**Carol Solis of You Star Legends offers a visual novelty gift.**

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# Combining experience and openness to new ideas

**PR Creative Caterers offers quality food and presentation at reasonable prices.**

**By ERIC LAYMAN**
*Special to The CJN*

You've often been advised to choose the proven caterer with many years of experience. But what about giving a break to the newcomer who may be inexperienced but is open to new ideas and ready to go the extra distance needed to build a reputation from scratch?

Well, what if you don't have to make that choice? What if you can have years of professional experience at your service together with the eagerness of a man who is establishing the reputation of a new company?

This is what Yisroel Fisch of PR Creative Caterers offers you (416-787-9889). He founded the company in February this year, but at 27, he has seven years of experience catering private and corporate functions in the Toronto area, in halls, boardrooms and homes. And he's ready to put in the time and effort it takes to build a reputation.

Fisch's people bring their own expertise to the new company. His head chef, for example, was executive sous-chef at the Sheraton. His chefs know how to relate to the clients. And his wait staff are experienced, well-paid professionals.

Fisch sets out to offer quality food and presentation at reasonable prices. He co-ordinates everything with the other professionals, such as the florists, to make sure everything matches. As a client, you have the right to expect these things from any professional.

Fisch advises booking your caterer four to five months ahead, giving him time to prepare your feast properly. He will meet with you two or three times before the event, walking you through every detail to ensure there are no surprises.

Fisch can work with you whether you have a lot of definite ideas on what you want or only a few. "Know what you want when you come in," he recommends, "but take professional advice seriously."

Fisch's menu ranges from traditional (chicken soup) to popular organic (wild rice). International stations are his specialty, with dishes as diverse as couscous cakes and butternut squash soup, as well as delicious desserts and pastas. And there's a huge choice of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.

Fisch will go to great lengths to meet the unique requirements of your party. He once hired an ice carver to make a sushi bar of solid ice.

Ze'ev Saban of Gan Eden Catering (416-222-1230, ext. 24; www.ganeden.ca) has the same standards of integrity, service and willingness to respond to the client's ideas. But like Fisch and every other fine caterer, he brings to his work a unique, personal style.

Gan Eden Catering has been in business for 15 years. Saban was always intrigued by the idea of the Garden of Eden, or Gan Eden in Hebrew. "With good food, Eden is just a taste away," he says with a smile. "And people associate fresh fruits and garden produce with Eden."

There are plenty of these on Gan Eden's menus, along with a lot of Israeli and Moroccan flavours. Menus range from kiddush and Shabbat take-outs to full-course dinners. And the staff respect the growing trend to have food that is both delicious and healthful.

"You should be a guest at your own event," Saban says, and his staff do whatever they can to make sure your event turns out great without your feeling exhausted by the end of it. They have an on-site banquet co-ordinator who takes the pressure off you.

"A party," Saban says, "is an expression of its host. Be flexible," he advises, "but have some idea of your tastes and budget. Within any realistic budget, quality is possible, and we ensure that you get the best possible options."

How far ahead to call depends on your function, Saban says. Do you just want some trays of food? Or do you want to organize an entire hall?

"The more complex your needs, the further ahead you should contact me.

"Often," Saban continues, "clients book as far as a year in advance. A month before the event, we sit down together and do the menu."

Saban can also bring in other party professionals you need, such as musicians, florists and videographers. He stands ready to supply whatever you require in order to have a happy, stress-free event.

If he can't supply something himself, he usually knows where to refer a client who wants a specific product or service. This readiness to help brings a great deal of goodwill.

"I don't have a pastry chef, for example," he says; "but I apply professional standards in choosing those I recommend."

Saban has catered private, corporate and non-profit affairs, everything from a bris to a fundraiser. Venues range from the Regency to Baycrest Terrace.

Almost always, Saban says, his company organizes the whole hall. "This makes sense," he explains, "as every facet of the party has to be integrated with the food: florists, centrepieces, linens, lighting, sound system, photographers, etc." And he enjoys providing this diversity.

PR Creative Caterers and Gan Eden Catering are both kosher under the supervision of the Kashruth Council of Canada (COR).

*Other kosher caterers advertising in this supplement are: Ely's Fine Foods, 416-782-3231; Miriam's Table Inc., 416-633-6554.*

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# Liberty Group celebrates 20th year

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Now in its 20th year, the Liberty Entertainment Group (www.libertygroup.com) owns some of Toronto's top banquet facilities.

The Liberty Grand, the Crystal Room, the Courthouse Chamber Lounge, the Rosewater Supper Club, and its recently opened Rosewater Room are just five of the Liberty Group's 11 venues in the heart of downtown Toronto.

Their latest venue, the Rosewater Room, located above the Rosewater Supper Club, debuted this month.

It features a Renaissance revival style design, 15-foot ceilings, mahogany hardwood floors, a private elevator and an original hardwood staircase from 1867.

"All of our venues cater to weddings or bar or bat mitzvahs," said marketing manager Milka Mili. She said that while most people choose to host their event at the Liberty Grand, others opt to entertain at the Rosewater Supper Club, the Courthouse, and even the Crystal Room or C-Lounge nightclubs.

Mili describes the Crystal Room, formerly known as the Left Bank, as an elegant facility that's ideal for a special private event. The venue, located on trendy Queen Street West, has just undergone a renovation.

"There's a bunch of different chandeliers we've painted. We've painted the interior. It's very clean," she said.

Culinary Arts Catering, which caters the Toronto International Film Festival, the Molson Indy, the Toronto Jazz Festival, Benson & Hedges Gold Series - Cosmic Cruises, and the BioTech Conference, is the official catering company of the Liberty Entertainment Group.

However, each venue has its own team of in-house executive chefs.

While outside kosher catering is an option at the Liberty Grand, there is no hashgachah on its in-house catering.

But Christina Xavier, senior events manager at the Liberty Grand, said: "We understand the philosophy of not mixing meat and dairy. We never serve pork and shellfish, and we do have occasions where we will create a full vegetarian, full fish, or a fully pareve menu."

The Liberty Grand, constructed in 1926, features four ballrooms with 27-foot ceilings and can accommodate events for 150 to 3,000 people.

"It's gorgeous. It's definitely a beautiful space," says Mili. "We've put in a great effort to turn it into something that attracts people, and that people want to see."

Xavier said the Liberty Grand's speciality is its "tasting menu."

"It is multiple courses of miniature foods. For instance, we will create a complete Korean kimchi [a spicy Korean cole slaw] and it's served with a very long, either tuna or all-vegetarian, sushi roll in it, and it's eaten in a cosmo glass," she said.

Dynamite (sushi) rolls, Indonesian spring rolls, and smoked-black Alaskan cod are other examples of what can be featured on a menu.

Xavier said fish such as snapper and talapia are other popular main courses.

Desserts include individual molten lava chocolate cakes served a la mode, with a vanilla bean ice cream, homemade fudge, caramel corn, apple cobbler and candy floss covered chocolate-dipped strawberries.

Xavier said the Liberty Grand is known for its "minis."

"We produce 400 to 500 different types of tiny, little morsels of dessert, like white chocolate or dark chocolate miniature dipped cheesecakes that are served on lollipop sticks."

For more information about the Liberty Group, call 416-LIBERTY (542-3789) or e-mail info@libertygroup.com.

**Liberty Entertainment Group owns some of Toronto's top banquet facilities.**

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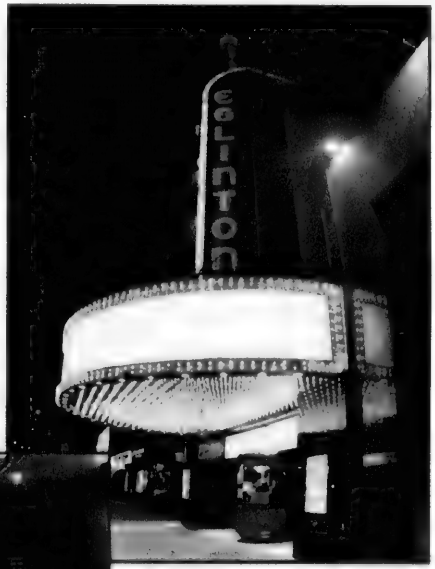


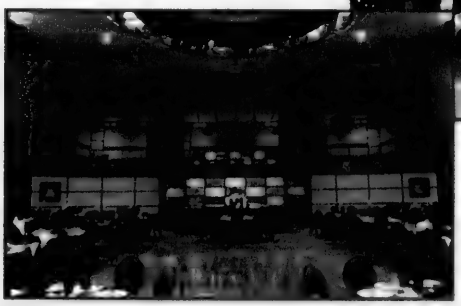

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# Have your modern event in an 'old' setting

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

The saying everything old is new again is certainly apropos for the Palais Royale.

The 84-year old Palais Royale (416-533-3553) has just undergone a massive multi-million-dollar renovation.

The 20,000-square-foot building, located at 1601 Lakeshore Blvd. W. between Jameson Avenue and Parkside Drive, originally housed a canoe factory and showroom and a ballroom, when it first opened in 1922.

The building has just been converted to an event venue and banquet hall, says Mary Lou Borg, a partner in the company that has leased and renovated the vintage waterfront space. "This wonderful historic building is owned by the city."

In its heyday in the 1930s and '40s, the Palais Royale was one of the city's most popular dance venues. Some of the big name attractions in those years included Count Basie, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington.

Borg notes that after the war and the construction of the Gardiner Expressway, the structure gradually fell into disrepair, although it continued to be a venue for pop and rock music concerts. (The Rolling Stones played there in 2002.)

The Estates of Sunnybrook

She says the owners are aiming to restore the building to its former glory. "We've worked closely with the historical board so that the exterior will look like it did in 1922."

The revamped building with its new gleaming wood floors and walls of glass doors boasts a 4,000-square-foot waterfront deck that can accommodate 400 people, Borg says.

She muses that with seating for up to 300 people, the deck is a picturesque and romantic setting for a wedding ceremony. "We also have a full bridal suite outfitted with a luxurious vanity. The balcony in the suite has breathtaking views of the lake. It's an ideal setting for taking pictures."

She describes the decor as "contemporary Art Deco. The neutral colour is an easy colour scheme to work with. It's very elegant."

The Palais Royale is licensed for 800, or 400 for a sit-down dinner with a dance floor.

Now in its new life as a banquet facility, the former ballroom/concert hall is already in high demand, she says. "We're booked for every weekend in June and July of 2007."

Borg points out that Palais Royale is a full catering service facility with a basic package that includes tables, chairs, linens and dishes. "We have our own kitchen. It's state of the art.

"We'll be happy to accommodate any kosher event. We've started booking kosher weddings, and we've been approached to do bar and bat mitzvahs."

She says the Palais Royale has historic significance for many people. "They have an emotional attachment to the place."

Borg encourages people who have pictures, stories or memorabilia from the old ballroom to bring them to the museum in the lower lounge area. People are welcome to call to book tours. For more information about the Palais Royale, visit the website at www.palaisroyale.ca.

The Estates of Sunnybrook (416-487-3841), offers three different vintage homes – they're located off of Bayview Avenue between Lawrence and Eglinton avenues – that have been transformed into elegant banquet facilities.

Lynne Foster, director of catering sales and marketing for Sunnybrook, explains that the three properties – Vaughan Estates, McLean House and the Coach House are all owned by Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

"These heritage buildings are on 42 acres of land. You can't see them from the road. They're 500 yards from Bayview, so the city noise just disappears. It's a like retreat or an oasis in the city. Our clients love the privacy of the setting."

She says the old-style homes with their vintage interiors add tremendous ambiance to the parties. "People love the beautiful surroundings of these authentic old houses – the moldings, wood panelling and fireplaces. People come and tell me that you couldn't make these today if you tried."

She notes that McLean House, built in 1929, was the first of the three houses – they were all private homes donated to the hospital – to be renovated. McLean House was a show house for the Junior League in 1982 and was subsequently turned into a party facility.

Vaughan Estates, the largest of the three homes was built in 1931, and after it was donated, it was used by the hospital for clinics until its renovation in the 1990s, Foster recounts, adding that the Coach House, the smallest of the three spaces, was renovated last year.

Vaughan Estates has an extension to accommodate two ballrooms – one on the main floor and one on the lower level. The upper-level ballroom has seating for 100 to 150 people, but a maximum of 120 with dancing, while the courtyard ballroom can accommodate 70 to 140 people, with a maximum of 110 people for dancing.

The upper-level ballroom is more formal than the courtyard, which has a patio overlooking the ravine, says Foster. "The courtyard is more relaxed and informal with a beautiful view."

As for outdoor wedding ceremonies, both ballrooms offer picturesque outdoor settings. The main-floor ballroom has The Arbour, a stone oval, in the trees while the courtyard has the stone patio.

The curving staircase leading from the upper gardens to the patio offers a dramatic entrance for brides and guests, enthuses Foster. "The patio is a perfect place for cocktails, and then people can move into the courtyard ballroom for dinner.

"We have a beautiful outdoor locations for photographs in the formal gardens or natural wooded areas."

She stresses that both ballrooms are completely private areas with separate bars, bathrooms, entrances and reception areas.

All the Sunnybrook facilities are full-service venues with their own kitchens and fully licensed bars and permanent wait staff. "We have very experienced maitre d's on staff. They run the event for you. They are totally dedicated to your event.

"The comment we get is that we are very good at taking care of people."

McLean House, a medium size venue with a picturesque garden for outdoor wedding ceremonies, can accommodate 50 to 72 people seated in one room.

Foster points out the advantages of this setting: "The clients have the entire house to themselves. It's completely private as if you're getting married in your own home."

She suggests that one room be allocated for dancing, while other smaller rooms, like the wood-panelled library, be used as conversation areas.

McLean house can hold 125 people for a cocktail-style party with food stations for grazing, Foster notes. "It's a better set-up for mingling [than a sit-down dinner]. There's more conversation spots and there can be dancing all night."

Like McLean House, the Coach House is completely private, offering a two-level venue for a maximum of 40 people. "It has its own patio as a ceremony space."

Foster says The Estates of Sunnybrook are not just for weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs. "We're a great setting for birthday and anniversary parties, showers and corporate events."

By holding events at The Estates of Sunnybrook, one makes a contribution to the health sciences, she says. "All the profits go right into the hospital's research budget. It's a nice added bonus. Your event budget is going for a good cause."

*Other party venues advertising in this supplement are: Baycrest Hospitality Services, 416-785-2500, ext. 2477; Captain John's Harbour Boat Restaurant, 416-363-6062; Casa Loma, 416-923-1171; Copper Creek Golf Club, 905-893-3370; The Eglinton Grand, 416-485-5900; Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 416-368-2511; Gladstone's Wine Bar & Grill, 416-487-9500; Granite Club, 416-510-6676, The Hard Rock Cafe, 416-362-3636; Hudson's Bay Catering/Acadian Court, 416-861-6138; Juke Box Bar & Grill, 416-486-4767; Karbouzi Mediterranean Bar & Grill, 416-483-3846; King Solomon's Table, 416-630-1666; La Primavera Hospitality & Convention Centre, 905-265-8100; Le Cantile Suites, 514-844-3951; Le Jardin Special Event Centre, 905-851-2200, Liberty Grand, 416-542-3789; Metropolitan Hotels, 416-977-5000; Novotel North York Hotel, 416-733-2929, Park Hyatt Toronto, 416-925-1234; Pickle Barrel, 416-990-5086, Radisson Hotel Toronto-Markham, 905-305-5496, Richmond Hill Country Club, 905-731-2800, Scaramouche Restaurant/ Party Bar, 416-961-8011; Sports Centre Cafe, 416-928-9525; Szechuan Szechuan Restaurant, 905-738-8398, Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, 416-597-9200*

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PARTY PLANNER

# Without entertainment your party will be a drag

By ERIC LAYMAN
*Special to The CJN*

In planning the entertainment for your simchah, there are a lot of factors to take into account. Depending on the event, they may range from halachic considerations to venue size to the kind of lighting you choose.

You, the client, need to make the final decision on every aspect of the party you're putting on. But to make all these decisions, says Adam Swaye of Swaye Entertainment (416-545-0741; www.adamswaye.com), you need the advice of professionals who will tell you what works, and where.

Swaye Entertainment is a relatively new company. However, Swaye has performed for over 20 years, and represented performers for over 10. He has appeared before every audience from kids to senior executives, and at all kinds of venues, including casinos.

He still performs as a magician, though he books other people too: DJs, henna artists, caricaturists, airbrushers, psychics, look-alikes, singers and musicians. He also offers inflatable games and casino games. His other company, Swaye Talent Management, represents actors and actresses.

"I place high value on maintaining my reputation as a professional," Swaye says. He works closely with meeting and event planners. While his main purpose is to supply entertainment, the benefit of his advice and expertise goes with it, because the client needs to know what works best in a given situation.

Swaye adds that a true professional, while being as diplomatic as possible, will also tell you if something you want won't work. So listen carefully to the professionals you hire.

"Aside from help in the logistics of your event," Swaye points out, "the main thing they have to offer is advice." This includes working within your budget, to have the best possible choices in your price range.

Swaye got into entertainment booking because when he worked as a magician, he was too busy to take all the clients who wanted to hire him. He therefore started to refer them to other magicians, then went on to hire other types of entertainer, because his clients were looking for them.

Swaye has been around long enough to see many changes in the party industry. He knows who's new and who's old. And what's more important, he knows who's good.

Professionals in any industry often advise you to hire experienced people still in business because they've stood the test of time. On the other hand, the newcomer eager to win new clients will bend over backwards to satisfy you. Swaye offers experience along with the fresh approach of a newcomer.

**Adam Swaye can be a magician and can hire other talent, centre and left. Janice O'Bright, right, of Party Extras specializes in cutting-edge ideas and the latest trends.**

But the party entertainment industry is huge, as you will soon find out when you set out to organize an event. The question is not only: "Where can I find a magician, a caricaturist, etc.?" It's: "From all those available, how do I choose the one who's best for my party?"

Another person you might ask is Janice O'Bright of Party Extras (905-707-9919; www.partyextras.biz; e-mail info@partyextras.biz). Party Extras is all about knowing the answers to your questions on how to choose.

"I'm an entertainment broker," O'Bright says. "Say you want a tattoo artist, a candy table, a caricaturist and other artists for your party: I put them together for you."

As an entertainment broker, she's a kind of one-stop shop for you. She does corporate as well as private work, and entertains people of all ages.

O'Bright has a contract with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment. For the second year in a row, she also has a contract with the Blue Jays, Junior Jays Saturdays, and with caricaturists, face painters and tattoo artists. And her April Pizzazz program for the TTC, with caricaturists in buses and subway stations, was a huge success.

For a bar or bat mitzvah, Party Extras offers guitar pick jewelry, and vintage bottle cap jewelry is also popular. It has incredible mentalists and magicians – and the best airbrush team in Toronto.

Party Extras specializes in cutting-edge ideas and the latest trends in party merchandise. O'Bright takes the traditional party activities, and brings them into the 21st century.

The candy tables are spectacular. The company customizes candy centrepieces as part of the candy table. If a party client needs novelty foods, they provide it.

Everything is individualized: no two clients have exactly the same thing. And this respect for the individual client has been a key factor in building a regular clientele. In some families, O'Bright is now doing the bar mitzvah for the third kid.

Reputation counts for everything, O'Bright says. As a broker, she works with people who provide consistently good service.

"My aim," she says, "is to marry honesty and dependability with vibrancy and flair."

She also marries quality with affordability.

"By taking entertainment to a higher level," says O'Bright, "I not only provide something better for each of my present clients. I raise expectations and thus raise the standard, which is good for everyone."

And for O'Bright, there's more to her work than just working. "I'm ambitious," she says. "My business is a passion with me, involving head, heart and energy."

*Other entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Dance Heads, 1-866-366-1983; Enkin Entertainment, 416-763-3516; Mint Events, 416-923-6468*


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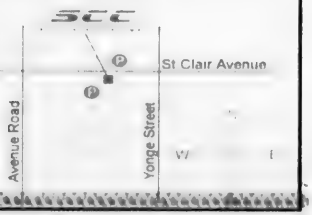

# Timeless looks for your little ones

By RANDI BERGMAN
*Special to The CJN*

Somewhere between the swimming and the sandcastle making, this summer will be full of times when your child needs to look his or her best.

There is no telling how many places you might visit on a seemingly hopeless quest to find an outfit that best suits your child. To help narrow down your search, here are two of the finest locations for children's clothing in the city.

Bon Lieu (www.bonlieu.com, 416- 963-4322), which is located at 890 Yonge St., offers an extensive selection of high-end children's clothing at affordable prices. Carrying such quality lines as Jean Bourget, Miss Sixty and Energie, Bon Lieu is stocked to the brim with everything from bathing suits to snow-suits for infants to 18-year-olds. "We are a head to toe shop", says Cerissa Abbott, the store's co-owner.

Bon Lieu's services include a baby registry and long-distance delivery.

For nearly 20 years ago, Bon Lieu has been at the forefront of children's fashion in Toronto. Travelling around the world to scout lines to carry in the store, Abbot carefully picks the very best. A firm believer in European craftsmanship, Abbott carries mostly the fashions from these countries. "Europeans are extremely experienced in making children's clothing," she says. "They are smartly made and therefore fit smartly."

By now you must be dreaming up the high prices at Bon Lieu, but don't be deceived. Although Bon Lieu carries higher-end clothing, there is something at the store for everyone there. With classic T-shirts starting at under $20, there are plenty of bargains to be had.

The clothing carried by Bon Lieu is durable. "Each child can get at least two years' usage out of our clothing," says Abbott.

Because of the superb quality, the clothing is often passed down between siblings. What's more, with the right jacket or skirt, so many of the items can be transformed from casual to dressy and vice versa. So, initially spending more on the item really can save you big bucks in the end. "Buy less, buy the best," says Abbott.

With all the beautiful clothing in stock, Abbott cites luxury as a rising trend in children's wear. Leather jackets and heavily detailed jeans (with adjustability for growth of course) are among the hottest items. Bright colours such as lime green and turquoise are making a big splash for summer.

Bon Lieu's biggest fans are the children themselves. "I have six-year-old boys begging their mothers to come back," says Abbot. "Kids fall in love with what they own." With the length of time they'll be wearing clothing from Bon Lieu, it's a good thing.

Another place to find gorgeous European clothing for your children is Floriane (416-920-6367), which is located at 38 Avenue Rd. Exclusively carrying the French line that gives the boutique its name, the store is full of classic looks for boys and girls aged to 12. For 30 years, the label has been making its name in Europe as a celebrated standard of quality clothing. The Toronto boutique has been open since 1999.

While moving with trends, Floriane remains a standard in impeccably made clothing for children. Dressed in Floriane, your child will never look like a fashion victim. The looks are always refined, sophisticated and beautifully designed.

Susie Lawson, the boutique's manager, cites sundresses and embroidered sweater sets among the sweetest looks for girls. Among the most popular looks for boys are casual items from the Peter Rabbit line.

The in-store service is excellent, and home deliveries can be arranged. Alterations can be made if necessary.

"We always put the customer's needs first," says Lawson.

*Another kids' fashion place advertising in this supplement is: Crawford Boys, 416-782-8137.*

**Pictures on this page provided by Floraine.**

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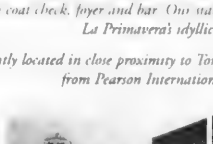
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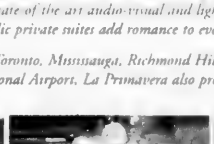
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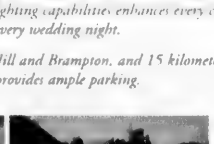
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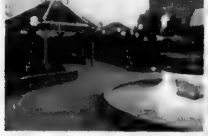
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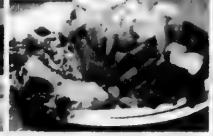
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LA PRIMAVERA

# In-house kosher catering taking off

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

At one time, the thought of kosher catering was just that, a thought. Most wedding venues, save for the Inn On The Park, didn't have a kosher kitchen, so people either spent thousands of dollars on an outside caterer, or special ordered a few kosher meals. Now, kosher kitchens are popping up everywhere, even at the once-famous theatre, the Eglinton Grand (416-485-5900).

"Right now, if somebody has to bring in outside kosher caterers, it's much more costly than what it will be if someone has an in-house kosher kitchen," says Dino Lucchetto, the Eglinton Grand's sales and marketing manager, explaining why the venue implemented kosher catering. "You shouldn't have to spend those costs to cater an event."

One reason why in-house kosher catering never took off was because there wasn't a lot of meal choice. Now, a venue can prepare the same dishes they have on their non-kosher menu.

"The kosher menu will complement the one we already have," says Lucchetto. "There are different things you can serve, like sea bass as a main entrée – that's pretty popular right now. We have a very large kosher menu to choose from."

**The Eglinton Grand is converted from an old theatre.**

Although the kosher menu is set, the actual kitchen isn't ready yet. Lucchetto expects the facilities to be completed sometime this summer.

Once the kitchen is open for business, he can expect to have a lot of new clients banging down his door. At least that's what happened at the Copper Creek Golf Club (905-893-3370) when they installed their kosher kitchen two years ago.

"We had new business right away," says Douglas Collier, director of food and beverage operations and the Copper Creek Golf Club. "Having a kosher event is becoming more and more important. I think people are starting to lean towards more traditional values. Also, in the past people didn't have avenues to seek out kosher catering. Those who had the values felt that they didn't have the options. Now the options are there and becoming more and more so."

Like the Eglinton Grand, Copper Creek can provide an array of tasty meals, but Collier says that they provide a "new spin on kosher."

"Our chef is phenomenal. He's Italian, and he brings a very non-traditional approach to kosher catering. This industry is like the restaurant business – the new guy on the block is good for the first six months, until the next thing comes along. You really have to work hard to bring new ideas."

Some of these non-traditional meals include curry, sushi and soup stations and having pasta as an appetizer as opposed to a salad. They'll also prepare more regular meals like salmon or fish, but, says Collier, beef Wellington is a popular choice.

Even though party goers can now choose pretty much any food they want, it's still a challenge to cater kosher in-house.

"When you're doing new renovations there are challenges, of course," says Lucchetto. "To keep things kosher, a certain cleaner has to be used, and the mashgiach has to be present."

Collier says,"Our costs are a little bit more expensive. In order to keep costs down and pricing reasonable, you need to be smart in the way you prepare. You have to be careful. We do a lot more of the prep ourselves.

"Chicken, for example – we buy whole chickens and we break everything down ourselves because that way I can achieve almost the same pricing as I would a non-kosher chicken."

**Copper Creek's well-groomed lawns are the perfect place for wedding pictures.**

The benefits of having a kosher kitchen obviously outweigh the challenges – if they didn't, venues wouldn't offer the service. With so much choice for food, people can concentrate on other aspects of a venue than the food when deciding where to host an event.

While the Eglinton Grand and Copper Creek are both full-service venues, they offer very different things in terms of décor. The former used to be an old theatre, and still maintains the Art Deco finishing, while the latter's well-groomed lawns make for the perfect place to take wedding photos.

"There's usually an outdoor component for most events, which is a main attraction here," says Collier. "Whether it be the gazebo or some cocktails on the patio. The lower terrace has a stunning view – it overlooks the ninth and tenth holes."

Besides looking great, both venues have spacious rooms that hold a large number of guests.

"We have a 600-seat ballroom and we have a smaller room downstairs that seats 130 with dinner and dancing capabilities," says Collier. "Our gazebo can host outdoor wedding ceremonies with up to 500 guests."

Lucchetto says the Eglinton Grand can hold from 300 to 500 people depending on if there's dancing or not, but that the guest list for many of their events is much smaller, he adds.

"I noticed that the actual events have gotten smaller. Before you'd have a lot of events with 300 people. Now, it's a lot more intimate. Just personal friends and family members."

Even though fewer people are attending functions, both the Eglinton Grand and Copper Creek are booked solid.

Collier says his venue puts on about three weddings a weekend between May and October.

Lucchetto hopes that once his kosher kitchen is ready, business will be even busier. "We're hoping business will boom. People will see that it's more convenient to come into a venue that has an actual caterer, than hiring someone from outside," he says.

*Other kosher party venues advertising in this supplement are: Baycrest Hospitality Services, 416-785-2500, ext. 2477; Copper Creek Golf Club, 905-893-3370; The Eglinton Grand, 416-485-5900; Gladstone's Wine Bar & Grill, 416-487-9500; King Solomon's Table, 416-630-1666; Le Jardin Special Event Centre, 905-851-2200; Park Hyatt Toronto, 416-925-1234.*

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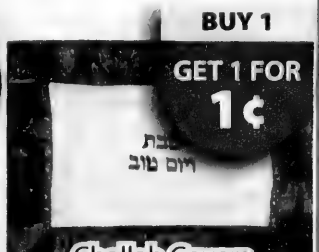

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## This Week

### National

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**York region** shul receives 300-year-old Torah scroll. *Page 22*

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**Yiddish language** needs a boost, educators say. *Page 25*

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**NOT QUITE SEEING EYE TO EYE: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, left, visited Jordan's King Abdullah II in Amman last week to present his plan for unilateral withdrawal from parts of the West Bank if there are no peace talks with the Palestinians. Olmert called Jordan "a true partner for bringing peace to the region." For his part, King Abdullah urged Olmert to negotiate with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. "A negotiated agreement that leads to a viable and contiguous independent Palestinian state, on Palestinian territory, will help to establish a just, comprehensive Middle East peace that provides security and stability to every Arab and Israeli, man, woman and child," the king said.** *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

# Academic boycott of Israel cancelled

By TALYA HALKIN
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — A motion to boycott Israeli academics, approved two weeks ago by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE), Britain's largest academic trade union, was cancelled on Sunday afternoon.

Several factors in the boycott's cancellation were cited, foremost among them international pressure from academic organizations. Another influence was the threat of legal proceedings by union members who claimed the boycott would hurt their ability to do research.

The union's official statement had declared that the "conference notes [the] continuing Israeli apartheid policies, including [the] construction of the exclusion wall, and discriminatory educational practices."

A similar boycott against Bar-Ilan and Haifa universities was also cancelled last year due to international pressure.

Yosef Yeshurun, rector (dean) of Bar-Ilan University and head of the International Advisory Board (IAB) for Academic Freedom, praised the decision. "Academic boycotts hurt the essence of academia," he said.

The boycott had provoked a wave of condemnations from Israeli and British officials and from senior academics and universities in Israel and abroad.

"Around the world this proposal has been rejected as an act of blatant discrimination," said Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Zvi Hefetz. "As a means of promoting dialogue and coexistence in the Middle East, an academic boycott of Israel is counterproductive in the extreme."

The call to consider a boycott of Israeli academics was passed with 106 votes in favour, 71 votes against and 21 abstentions.

"By pursuing such a policy, NATFHE will isolate its members and their students rather than isolating Israeli academics, who are [in] the forefront of international co-operation on academic study and research, including with Palestinian universities and institutions elsewhere in the Arab world," Hefetz added.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Lord Triesman also expressed regret at the boycott vote.

**Continued on page 35**

# *Losing the propaganda war*

**Analysis**

By ANSHEL PFEFFER
*Jerusalem Post*

Brig.-Gen. Miri Regev can sum up her first year as an IDF spokesperson with great satisfaction: her unit succeeded in its two main missions.

The pullback from the Jewish settlements in Gaza and parts of the West Bank were packaged and presented to the Israeli public, with the help of a willing media, as a heartwarming demonstration of the army as a unifying force in Israeli society, under the brilliant slogan of "determination and sensitivity."

Miri Regev

Regev's other success was in selling her boss, chief of general staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz, as the nation's most responsible person. She helped build Halutz's image as the wise and resourceful "Mr. Security" who nobly shepherded novice Defence Minister Amir Peretz through the pitfalls of his new and frightening job.

Both successes were achieved on the home field, in the Israeli media, a statement not intended to belittle the achievement, because Regev's predecessor, Ruth Yaron, seldom

**Continued on page 35**

**Beha'alotcha**
**Candlelighting: 8:44**
**Havdallah: 9:49**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**IDF denies responsibility for Gaza beach deaths — see page 33**

# The News in Brief

## CANADA

### J'lem 'Blunder' Fixed

**MONTREAL** — Quebec's Ministry of International Relations quickly changed information on its website after *La Presse* reported June 2 that the department had made "the diplomatic blunder" of citing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Ministry spokesperson Jean Fortin told the paper that it was a "silly and unfortunate error," adding that Quebec, which has "always conformed to Canadian policy, does not want to distinguish itself." The website now states: "Israel has declared Jerusalem to be its capital. However, the final status of Jerusalem has yet to be resolved and Canada, like most other countries, maintains its embassy in Tel Aviv."

### $20M Gift to Hospital

**VANCOUVER** — Noted Jewish philanthropists Gordon and Leslie Diamond last week announced a $20-million donation to Vancouver General Hospital. A new 11-storey centre now being built at the hospital will be named after the couple. They cited Jewish values as their reason for the donation, which will fund programs and equipment.

## WORLD

### More Liberal Mikvahs

**BOSTON** — The number of non-Orthodox Jewish ritual baths in North America is growing. Most of the 20 or so mikvahs are less than five years old, said organizers of Reclaiming Mikveh, a three-day conference of clergy and educators last week in Newton, Mass., sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism. Almost all the mikvahs are also linked with Reform or Conservative shuls, which are often blocked from using Orthodox mikvahs.

### Chief Rabbi Attacked

**ZAGREB** — Croatia's chief rabbi, Eliezer Aloni, was attacked May 3 on a Zagreb street. Men yelling "Jews out," in German, pushed him to the ground, *Ha'aretz* reported.

### El Al Plot Foiled

**ZURICH** — Swiss authorities said they're holding seven suspects in a plot to attack an El Al plane. They announced the arrests June 8, saying the suspects were of African origin and are believed to have planned an attack on the Israeli airline in Switzerland. Swiss and French intelligence reportedly foiled a plot by Arab immigrants to down an El Al jet over Geneva in December.

### Alleged Nazi Guards Facing Trial

**ST. CATHARINES** — The trial of two alleged Nazi concentration camp guards got under way last week with testimony of the horrors of life in a Nazi concentration camp.

Josef Furman, 85, of Edmonton, and Jura Skomatchuk, 83, of St. Catharines, are facing allegations they obtained citizenship by lying about their wartime service in Nazi units. A finding against them could lead to the removal of their citizenship and deportation. Both cases were launched more than two years ago.

Historian Johannes Tuchel told the court his research suggested Skomatchuk was trained as an armed guard at the Trawniki camp before serving at several concentration camps.

Former prisoner Jack Terry described the inhuman conditions of living in captivity, including details from some of the places where the two accused allegedly worked, Canadian Press reported. Guards were known for their "unsurpassed brutality," he testified. "They would curse us, kick us. Rifle butts were the usual way of dealing with us."

The Crown alleges Furman took part in the liquidation of the Warsaw and Bialystok ghettos in Poland in 1943. He was later transferred to the Flossenburg concentration camp.

Skomatchuk allegedly served as a Trawniki guard when 40,000 Jewish inmates of the labour camps at Poniatowa, Majdanek and Trawniki were executed.

### Support Wanes

**WASHINGTON** — Pro-Palestinian sentiment in Europe is waning, says Stan Greenberg, one-time pollster for former U.S. president Bill Clinton. Greenberg, who recently polled Europeans on behalf of the Israel Project, told the *Jerusalem Post* the results showed a "dramatic" shift away from previously widespread pro-Palestinian sympathy, especially in France. He said many Europeans used to see the Palestinians as struggling against a "colonial" Israel, but now it's "the Palestinians who may be the extremists, or who are allied with extremists who threaten Europe's own society."

### Divestment Denounced

**BOSTON** — A Presbyterian minister in Boston has denounced the Presbyterian Church USA's resolution to divest from firms that do business with Israel. Speaking at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston's annual meeting May 31, Rev. Hurmon Hamilton, of Roxbury Presbyterian Church and president of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, said he would work within the church and with interfaith allies to rescind the national church's stance. The Presbyterian Church USA is meeting later this month in Birmingham, Ala., to revisit the issue.


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# Associated mom grills MPP on school funding

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Gila Martow, a Thornhill mother with three kids in Jewish day schools, became so angry about what she considers Ontario's discriminatory policy on funding faith-based education that she invited her local MPP on a school tour to press home her point.

Along with Associated Hebrew Schools' senior principal Sandy Rabinowitz and incoming vice-president Claire Glowinsky, Martow met Thornhill Liberal MPP Mario Racco May 26 at Associated's Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill, where they toured the campus and discussed the funding issue.

"They are not going to write us a cheque tomorrow," Martow told *The CJN* in an interview before the meeting. "[The aim of the tour is] to keep the pressure up. That's what I'm hoping to accomplish. Eventually, maybe we'll get some funding."

Martow – a member of Parents For Equality in Education Funding (PEEF), a multi-faith coalition of parents with children in non-Catholic faith-based schools – pays about $10,000 a year in tuition for each of her two youngest children, who are at Associated. She also has another child at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, where tuition is about $15,000, and another who attends the University of Western Ontario.

She said it's unfair that the province funds Catholic schools, but not those of any other faith.

"We are not legally obligated to fund [Catholic schools] past Grade 9, based on the 1867 Confederation agreement. We are not legally obligated to fund their sports programs, confirmations, parking lots [or bus transportation]," Martow told Racco.

"People at this school would just be happy if they got the cost of busing. We would be happy with that, because we don't get any funding, let alone busing. If you could at least pay for our busing and our arts programs, it's really a start."

On May 5, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced a $4-million Arts Education Partnership, a program that promises to match, dollar-for-dollar, funds raised privately for arts education in public and Catholic schools.

The announcement caught Martow's attention and inspired her to invite Racco to Associated.

During his tour, she handed him a package that included two tongue-in-cheek application forms for the new arts program – one for each of her children – as well as a bank statement showing her property tax and tuition payments.

"I'd be happy to take your application, but I think you know the answer," Racco said as he accepted the file.

Referring to the McGuinty government's 2003 decision to repeal the tuition tax credit for parents with children in faith-based schools, Racco told *The CJN* that while Martow made some "decent arguments" during his visit, the Liberal government "rightfully or wrongly" has "decided to support what is considered to be the public school system, based on the 1867 Confederation agreement."

Glowinsky stressed that neither she nor Martow was speaking on behalf of Associated, but she said "many of the school's parents go through tough personal sacrifices in order to be able to send their children to [Jewish day schools]."

She said Associated's enrolment has decreased since the McGuinty government repealed the Equality in Education Tax Credit.

"The fees have crossed a certain point where it's not manageable for a family. The sacrifice has become too enormous for a family of two or three children. They'll then have to move into the public system, which is a wonderful thing, but the community deserves the choice," Glowinsky said. "But no child is turned away [by the school]."

About 43 per cent of Associated's 1,700 students receive financial assistance for tuition, said Chuck English, Associated's marketing co-ordinator.

But Martow said even people like her and her husband, who are both doctors, are financially strained by tuition.

"Who can afford $10,000 a year per child?" she asked, adding that some parents earn too much to qualify for assistance, "but it's not enough to really afford it. Those are the people who are really losing out."

**Continued on page 6**

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# Coexistence still quite delicate

*Part 5 of the highlights from the International Conference of Jewish Newspaper Editors May 7 to 11 in Israel.*

Early in the morning on the next-to-last day of the conference, the group of editors left the golden streets of Jerusalem and headed north through the densely populated low-lying plain of central Israel to the lush green hills of the Galilee.

Our destination was Nazareth, the largest Arab community in Israel outside Jerusalem. Our objective was to peer into the world of Jewish Arab co-existence by visiting with the principals of a joint high-tech venture and with Arab journalists.

New Generation Technology (NGT) is a small company based in Nazareth whose chief executive officer, Sharon Dvir, is Jewish and whose vice-president, Nasri Said, is Arab. They and the company's seven-member board of directors, four of whom are Arab, are described as a high-tech incubator. They bring together expertise in broadly inter-related disciplines such as science, business and high-tech and try to find startup businesses to nurture and in which to invest.

Two of their current projects involve companies producing a dental fluoride treatment and specialized infant formula products.

Succeeding in business is NGT's main objective. The principals understand that any commercial success of the company might help to close, if only a little bit, the economic gap between Arab Israelis, who comprise nearly 20 per cent of Israel's population, and the majority Jewish Israelis. In addition, they are also keenly aware of the important positive symbolism of the example inherent in the unique joint nature of their company's efforts.

The mature business and social entrepreneurs of NGT are products of the intense, hard-scrabble societies from which they sprang. They are not naive. But nor are they so cynical as to have abandoned all belief in the possibility that they can help bring about change for the better in their shared homeland and make some money in the process.

A decidedly different sensibility and ensuing sense of possibility, however, on the subject of sharing this embattled homeland permeated our meeting with the two Arab journalists, whom we met.

Haneen Zoubi is the general director of the Ilam Center, a media centre for Arab Palestinians in Israel. In her mid-30s, she was a firebrand of unceasing, heated complaints of disaffection with and alienation from the Jewish state.

She would not be reconciled under any circumstances to the very essence of the Zionist enterprise, namely to build a state for Jews.

"Israel cannot be Jewish and democratic at the same time. We identify ourselves with the 1.2 million Palestinians of Israel. We would not move away from Israel. This is our homeland. We consider ourselves indigenous peoples."

To drive the point home more precisely, Zoubi used a phrase whose meaning no one could mistake. "The government's program to develop the Galilee and the Negev is really the Judaization of the land."

"We want equality but at the same time we want to maintain our Arab culture. It is not treason to say this," Zoubi pleaded.

"I recognize Israel; I simply demand equality. I want real political influence. But I define myself as Palestinian because this is what I am. I support the Palestinian struggle. You cannot say Israel is a democracy simply because it provides Arabs the right to vote."

Adeeb Alwan, a freelance journalist who has worked in Saudi Arabia and for the BBC in London, is more than twice Zoubi's age. However, the opportunity to speak to a group of Jewish journalists from the foreign media must have excited him for he spoke with equal vigour to that of his younger colleague, echoing her litany of complaints concerning Israel's flawed democracy.

When asked at one point whether they could cite anything positive about living in Israel, neither journalist could find the words.

Zoubi and Alwan spoke insistently and at great length, listing item after item of alleged Israeli failures toward its Arab minority. But none among the group challenged them until Zoubi expressed her approval for military actions against Israelis who live beyond the Green Line, the pre-Six Day War borders. Then emotions erupted among the group of editors.

The contrast between the two "coexistence" programs was as distressing as it was eye-opening. For we were told that Zoubi and Alwan are considered moderates in the realm of Arab Israeli (Palestinian) journalists.

No one, least of all any Israelis, will ever assert that Israeli society is flawless. There are a number of social, economic, cultural and political gaps including foremost perhaps the gap between Jewish and Arab Israelis, that need to be bridged. But if "moderates" reject the Jewish dream of attempting to secure a Jewish majority for the State of Israel, what are the realistic chances for a quiet, peaceful reconciliation between Jewish and Arab Israelis, let alone between Israelis and Palestinians?

***– MBD***

See JN

**JK GRADS: Junior kindergartners at Netivot HaTorah Day School, from left, Niki Sapir, Jordana Cohen, Daniel Hutchens, Refael Abecassis and Mia Rosenblum sing and dance at their recent JK "graduation" program. Now, on to SK.**
**[Rebecca Ansel photo]**

# CUPE faces more fire for anti-Israel resolutions

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

One of the oldest social service agencies to unionize in Ontario has pulled out of CUPE Ontario over a resolution that slams Israel and accuses it of practicing "apartheid."

Local 265, which represents about 100 workers at the Jewish Family and Child Service in Toronto, notified CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan it is withdrawing from the regional labour association because of the "one-sided and insensitive" resolution.

The resolution, passed unanimously by 896 delegates at the union's recent convention, calls for boycotts and divestment from Israel unless Israel recognizes the Palestinian right to self determination. It also condemns Israel's security barrier as an "apartheid wall."

In a letter to Ryan, local president Teena Grund noted that members of local 265 were "pioneer members of both CUPE National and the Ontario division. Maintaining a sense of pluralism and inclusiveness seemed always to be important pillars of belief within the labour movement. From our perspective, these beliefs have now been indelibly stained. We will not allow ourselves to belong to an organization so intent in both excluding us and making us feel unwelcome."

Grund urges CUPE Ontario's leadership to rescind the resolution.

Criticism of the CUPE Ontario resolution was widespread. Columnists and editorial writers blasted the union for dabbling in foreign policy instead of sticking to labour issues, for focusing on Israel while ignoring human rights violators around the world, and for disregarding steps Israel has taken for peace.

In Winnipeg, New Democrat MP Pat Martin stated, "contrary to CUPE Ontario's resolution calling for economic sanctions and boycotts against Israel, I am proud that my union, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, has significant investments in Israel through its benefit and investment plans. I will certainly be encouraging our leadership to ignore any appeal to join this misguided activism.

"Israel is a modern and progressive multi-party democracy with a free and independent trade union movement, freedom of speech and religion, and a profound and frequently tested commitment to human rights. If anything, the State of Israel deserves the support of the international labour movement for fostering and encouraging these values in spite of overwhelming adversity and relentless attack."

In a column in the *Toronto Star*, Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers, wrote, "The Canadian labour movement and the left could play an important role in supporting a peaceful resolution to the Middle East conflict. To do this, however, we must get past simple rhetoric – like the claim that Israel is equivalent to the former South African apartheid regime."

Hargrove called for an end to finger pointing and for more constructive advocacy of dialogue in the region.

Some CUPE members were scathing in their denunciations of Ryan. Carolyn Roberts, president of CUPE National local 21237, which represents Jewish Vocational Service workers in Toronto, said Ryan "has become an embarrassment to the dignity, equality, respect and goodwill associated with the CUPE name."

Roberts accused Ryan of ignoring union protocol by staging the vote without proper notification and on the Jewish Sabbath, when observant Jews would not be present.

"Mr. Ryan is clearly not in alignment with an agenda that genuinely seeks peace, but rather, something quite the contrary. He is completely ignorant of the fact his actions are not only undermining Middle East peace, but solidarity and the whole labour movement right here at home by undermining our efforts to serve our members in our locals."

CUPE Ontario member Cindy Himelstein wrote to Ryan to say that passage of the resolution came as "a complete shock to me."

An employee of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Himelstein said the resolution was passed on the Sabbath, when she could not attend. "This issue was not even discussed at my local union membership meetings before the convention so that all CUPE members could be involved.

"As a paid member of CUPE, I am outraged to know that part of my union dues is going to be used for this one-sided campaign of 'boycott, divestment and sanctions.' Nothing positive will be accomplished by these sanctions."

Simon Kalkstein, a 30-year union veteran and past president of local 265, said "there has been a fair bit of outrage and disappointment" at the resolution. "It is certainly a very divisive issue. It was presented as unanimous, but now that we're faced with it, there are a lot of members of CUPE – many Jewish, but many gentiles who are fair-minded – who feel it's one-sided."

Canadian Friends of Peace Now called the resolution "simplistic, one-sided and ill-timed approach to the conflict.

"We consider [Ryan's] embrace of the strategy of 'boycott, divestment and sanctions' to punish Israel for its occupation of Palestinian territory to be both morally obtuse and divorced from reality. The boycott, and CUPE Ontario's embrace of it, suggests that only Israel is at fault for the ongoing conflict between the Jewish state and the Palestinians."

Daniel Orner, a graduate student at York University and a member of CUPE Ontario local 3903, called the resolution "ridiculous."

He said he was unaware in advance the vote was coming up, adding "It never entered my mind that a union which is supposed to deal with [labour] issues would discuss Middle Eastern politics."

Orner's local, however, which represents faculty, teaching assistants and graduate assistants at York, said it was one of the locals to bring the resolution to the CUPE convention. In a posting on its website, local 3093 stated the resolution was debated and approved "by the general membership at one of our monthly membership meetings." It calls on visitors to the site to sign an online petition supporting "CUPE Ontario's courageous position."

"Our local has a long history of doing international solidarity work. This resolution was among several resolutions that 3903 submitted on international solidarity," the Web posting states. "Others included calling for the removal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan and Haiti."

**Continued on page 24**


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# Good police work netted terror suspects: Kwinter

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Although his talk had been scheduled far in advance, the recent arrest of 17 terror suspects gave a timely urgency to a speech last week by Monte Kwinter, Ontario's minister of community safety and correctional services, about preventing emergencies in the province.

Kwinter, the MPP for York Centre, spoke at a fundraiser for Boys Town Jerusalem, a technological school for disadvantaged children in Israel.

He credited the recent arrests in southern Ontario to good policing.

"All policing is intelligence, whether it's terrorism or organized crime. It has to be intelligence," he said.

"It's not just catching them, but when the police do arrest them, they have to be fairly certain that they have evidence and can convince a judge that the suspects have done something. That's why it takes so long."

The law enforcement body responsible for the Ontario arrests is called INSET – the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team – which is headed by the RCMP but includes officers from the OPP's anti-terrorist unit, as well as CSIS, border police, and all major police forces in Ontario.

Among his other varied duties, Kwinter is responsible for all policing in Ontario, including the Ontario Provincial Police.

This month's terror arrests have been in the works for two years, and police have monitored e-mails and used wiretaps, surveillance cameras and undercover agents.

"Police continue their surveillance as long as they can to build their case and make sure everything is absolutely documented," he said. The investigators wait until the last minute and until they are of the opinion a suspect or suspects would pose an immediate danger if they did not intervene.

The trigger for the recent arrests, Kwinter said, was the delivery of what the terror suspects believed to be ammonium nitrate, a compound used by farmers but capable of significant destruction if used as an explosive.

The suspects are now being held in Milton at the Maplehurst Correctional Complex. "It's quite interesting, because the justice of the peace said that the suspects are to have no contact with one another. What's happened is that they are now complaining that it's against their religion and want to pray together. Each one has been given a Qur'an, and the option of special dietary meals."

The type of surveillance activity that led to the arrests is going on all the time, Kwinter said.

"I knew that this particular event was in the works months ago. I didn't get a lot of details. I knew it was ongoing. I was surprised that so many people were surprised. This is a global problem. Nobody in the world is safe from the Al Qaeda doctrine," he added.

"When I talk to the people who report to me, it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when. [Al Qaeda leader Osama] Bin Laden wants people who are fighting in Afghanistan to pay for it."

Though it may be difficult for Canadians to think of terror as a reality, he said, "who would have ever thought that 9/11 could have ever happened? It's out of science fiction."

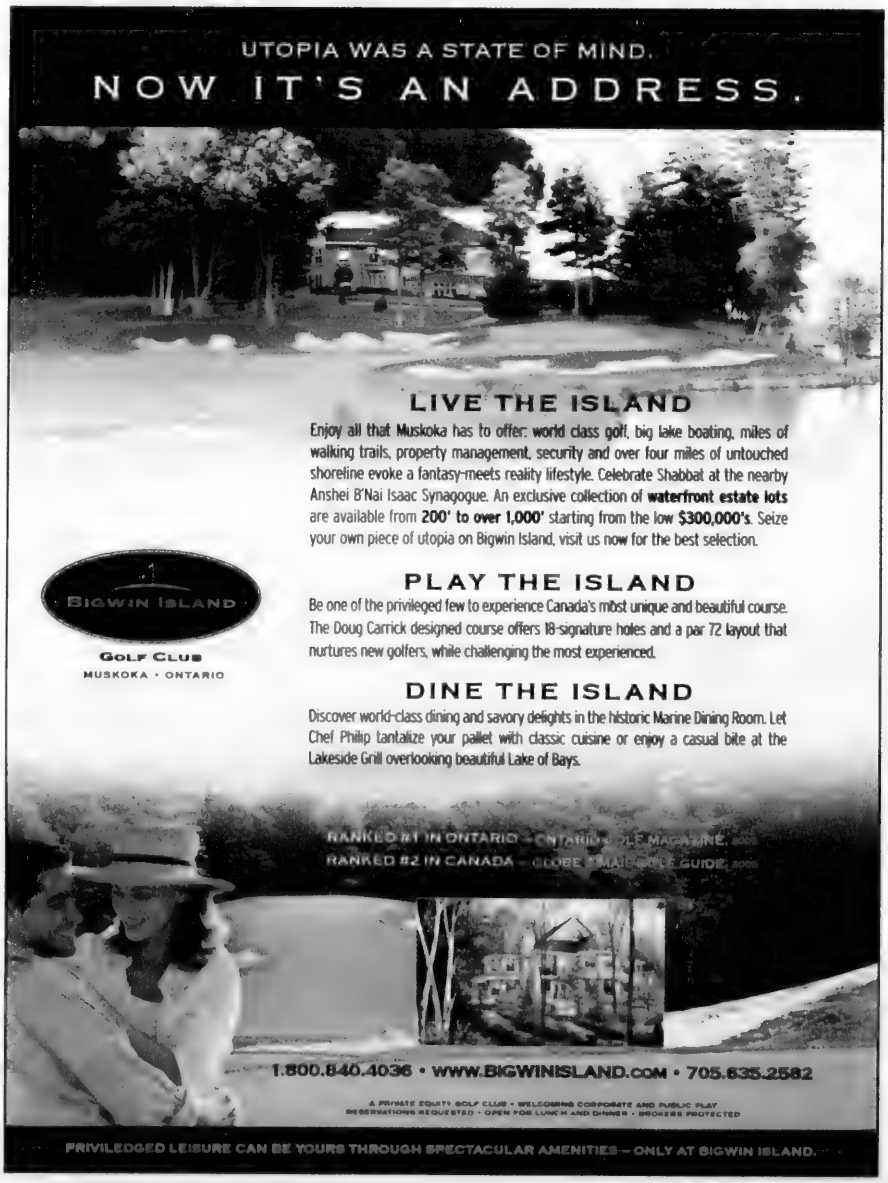
After Kwinter's talk, an audience member asked him whether the Ontario terror suspects are a real threat or just young amateurs who need not be taken seriously.

The minister responded with an anecdote about a mission he led to Israel with 30 police chiefs to learn about how to deal with terror from Israeli experts.

"We were shown videos from Arabic-language television with parents saying that the greatest thing that could happen to their child is that he should die as a suicide bomber," Kwinter recalled.

"These kids are indoctrinated. Other than one man who is 43, all the other arrested suspects are young ideologues. Some are younger than 18. They are people who have been convinced that their role in life is to create havoc. A young person of 18 is very capable of killing," he said.

"We hope for the best and prepare for the worst. [Terrorism] is a fact of life."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# School funding upsets parent

**Continued from page 3**

As he toured the building, Racco said that there "has always been discussion about this issue, for many, many years. My party has also thought about it, and there will be more thought given, more discussion taking place in the future."

Martow noted that in 1999 and again in 2005, the United Nations ruled Ontario to be in violation of international human rights law because of its educational funding system, and she said that on May 12, she submitted a PEEF petition to Racco with about 1,000 signatures in support of equal funding for faith-based schools

Racco told her he read the petition into the record in the legislature on May 15, but Martow noted that he omitted the phrase, "Whereas Ontario is the only western democracy that fully funds faith-based schools of one religion to the total exclusion of all other religions."

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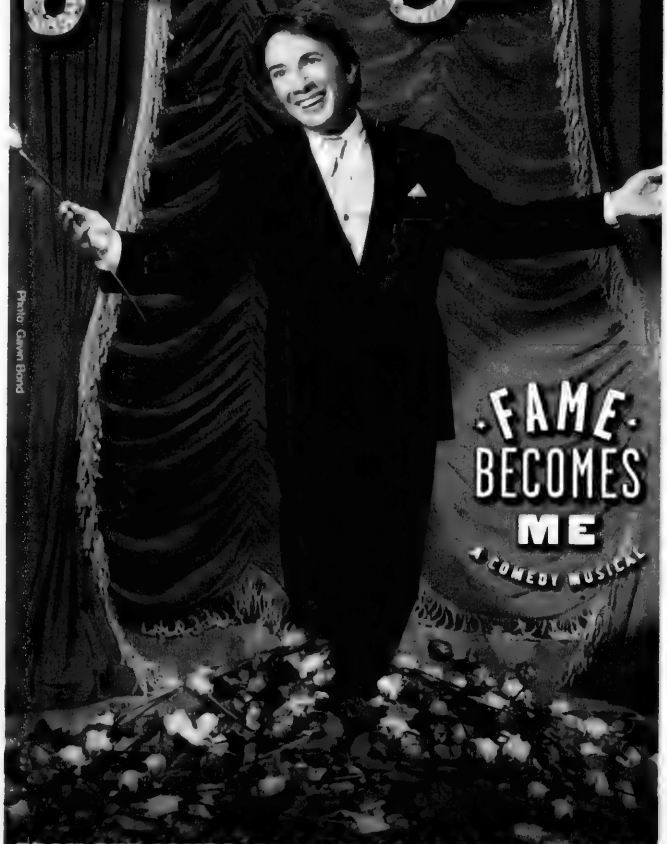


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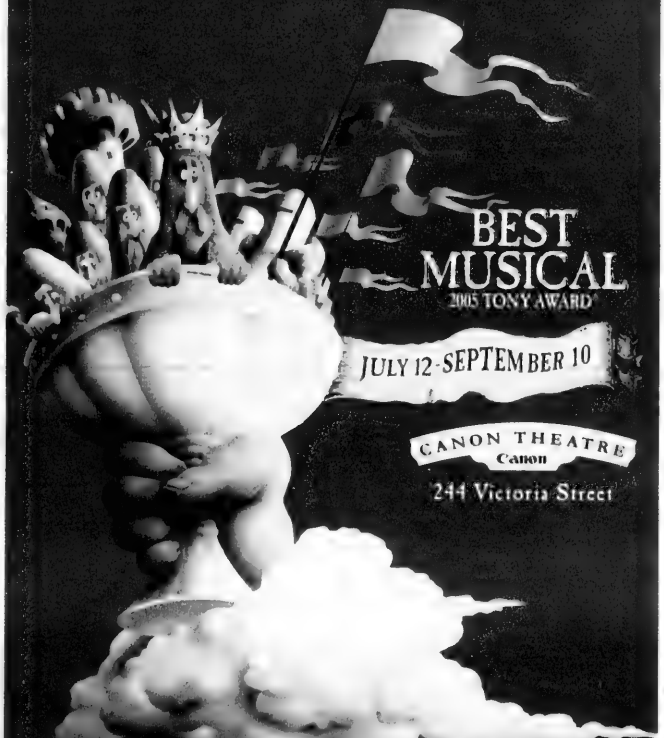


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# Violent death was vain nihilist's final glory

The questions that surfaced about the final moments last week of the life of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi are irrelevant. Whether the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq died immediately under the concrete rubble of his bombed hideaway, or some moments afterward while lying on a medic's stretcher, or, as an Iraqi "witness" has claimed, after a beating administered by unnamed American soldiers, matters only for the sake of the accuracy of the historical record. The entry that now matters most beside his name is the adjective "dead."

Not surprisingly, some Hamas officials in the Palestinian Authority mourned the news of Zarqawi's death. "We are dead sure that assassination of any of the people [like Zarqawi] who are resisting will not... end the resistance," PA Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar said.

But to refer to Zarqawi's penchant for sadistic slaughter as a form of resistance is to buff too shiny a gloss on the term "resistance." That so many journalists dignified his vicious brutality as a campaign of "resistance" was always puzzling. For he aimed very few of his attacks at the "occupiers" themselves.

For more than three years, Zarqawi planned and executed horrific, at times ghoulishly sadistic, acts of violence against a great many individuals the vast majority of whom were innocent of the slightest taint of complicity in or responsibility for the Allied presence in Iraq. His was nihilistic, seemingly pleasurable murder.

His targets were generally civilian foreigners whom he tortured and then murdered – some as we know, by beheading. He also targeted members of the diplomatic corps, as well as ordinary Iraqis at their places of worship, at the marketplace or merely standing, unluckily, at the side of the road. He was particularly frenzied in targeting Iraqi Shiites, hoping thereby to incite and inspire sectarian bloodshed. Not to be forgotten was his strike outside of occupied Iraq, in Amman, Jordan. A triple suicide bombing there resulted in the slaughter of some 60 people.

No doubt, Zarqawi will soon be replaced in Al Qaeda's video-adoring pantheon of anti-occupation, resistance-fighting leaders. Indeed, a statement under the alleged authority of Osama bin Laden was released on the weekend to that very effect. And more innocent lives, alas, will soon be cut short. For that is the Al Qaeda way.

It is ironic, but not amusing, that Zarqawi's end may have come because of his boastful, bloated vanity. Western security officials have suggested that the video he recently released, in which he appeared unmasked and taunting, provided the final clues to his whereabouts. That his own vanity was ultimately Zarqawi's undoing is not surprising. For, at its core, the terrorist's fanatic bloodlust is a callow, cruel conceit of close-minded pretension.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

In what it described as a technologically perfect pre-emptive strike, Israel sent military aircraft to destroy Iraq's French-built nuclear reactor. Although there was almost universal condemnation of the move, Prime Minister Menachem Begin said the action was essential for Israel's security.

Editorials & Letters

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## CUPE boycott of Israel

With the passage of a resolution calling for a boycott of Israel, Sid Ryan, the president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Ontario branch, has decided that adding achieving peace in the Middle East to his résumé is more important than responsibly tending to the needs and interests of the 170,000 working Ontarians who make up CUPE Ontario ("Jewish CUPE members upset at union resolution," *CJN*, June 8). Too bad his actions are sparking divisions within the union and squandering the resources that are the sustenance of a union – unity, trust and credibility. If Ryan, armed with the resolution, with its inflammatory rhetoric and one-dimensional understanding of the Middle East crisis, believes he can contribute to peacemaking, he only needs to look at the damage he is wreaking in his own union to see the likely outcome of his efforts.

Ontario has legislation forbidding union leaders from using unions for purposes that are detrimental to their members. I trust the membership and CUPE National will assert their authority and relieve Ryan of the burden of leadership so that he can tackle the world's problems alone.

**Tim Greenwood**
**Newmarket, Ont.**

* * *

It bothers me that the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Ontario branch has singled out Israel for special prejudicial treatment ("CUPE votes to boycott Israel," *CJN*, June 1). Why, for instance, do they not look at the cause of Jews who were brutally pushed out of Arab countries after World War II?

Israel is perhaps the best example of a country that has decided to take passive measures with its security wall to manage a refugee and terrorism problem created and promoted by Arab nations and maintained ad infinitum by the United Nations. CUPE wants Israel destroyed by opening the floodgates to both Palestinian immigration and more terrorists – yeah, sure!

More disturbing is the fact that any union would use its membership dues to advance the political goals of the union's leaders. There are enough issues related to the health, working conditions and welfare of their members to keep unions busy.

I urge CUPE members in Ontario to withhold their dues or collectively go to the courts to make sure the unions and especially CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan are doing their work.

**Gary Gerofsky**
**Dundas, Ont.**

* * *

I am writing to express my utmost support and encouragement for CUPE Ontario's recent resolution to support Palestinian rights through targeted divestment from Israel ("CUPE votes to boycott Israel," *CJN*, June 1).

CUPE Ontario is doing a huge service to Israel by speaking out against its illegal and hurtful actions in the West Bank and Gaza, and by following up that rhetoric with a campaign that seeks to correct the oppression of millions of Palestinians. Targeted sanctions and boycotts, such as those CUPE is endorsing, aim right at the infrastructure of the Israeli occupation. The European Union has been doing this for several years now, demanding illegal Israeli settlement products be labelled and taxed heavily. CUPE is expanding this effort by boycotting goods and services related to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, not at the general Israeli public.

I ask CUPE to hold its ground in the midst of misguided and reactionary opposition rooted in the assumption that to be anti-occupation is to be anti-Israel.

**Avi Zer-Aviv**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Barenboim is pro-Israel

Jack Chivo has made sweeping and denigrating accusations about Daniel Barenboim, to which many members of the Canadian Jewish community would take great exception, myself included ("Films celebrated anti-Israel activists," letters, *CJN*, May 25). In my view, this fine musician is pro-Israel, because he recognizes the disastrous path Israel is on, fraught with both moral and political dangers.

I recall the predictions of the late great scientist, religious philosopher and social critic Yeshayahu Leibowitz. Starting in 1967 after the Six Day War, he strongly cautioned Israel against becoming the occupier of another people, lest it lead inevitably to moral corruption and political decrepitude.

Sadly, I am repeatedly shocked to see how far down this path the people and State of Israel have gone in the last 40 years.

**Bernard Katz**
**Toronto**

* * *

## The oldest paint store in Toronto

My family's store, Ontario Paint and Wallpaper, established in 1913 at 275 Queen St. E. in Toronto, is the oldest paint store in the city and is still run by its founding family ("Rejuvenate your home with quality paints," No Place Like Home, *CJN*, May 18.) My late grandparents, Max and Mary Ackerman, started the business and my late father, Morris Ackerman, ran it with my grandmother (who passed away in 1992) until he died in 2003. My brother, Sid Ackerman, is still running the business to this day.

**Roz Fine (Ackerman)**
**Toronto**

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Perspectives

# Finding parts of myself on a Moroccan holiday

By SUSAN KRASHINSKY

"Sunny Asilah is the perfect beach retreat!" my brother Jon screamed over the roar of rain and wind-whipped sea mist, quoting the guidebook that had led us to this small Moroccan town.

I was in no mood for irony. The trip was hardly going as planned. I am usually so cowardly that I can barely board a plane without vigorous pep talks and my chamsa necklace – a talisman for protection – secured around my neck. I had boarded three separate planes, a bus, a ferry and a train just to get to Asilah, and I wanted results.

We had come chiefly to do postcard-perfect vacation activities, such as getting sand in our bathing suits and cultivating skin damage. Now we were reduced to leaving our room with forced glee at the prospect of walking along the sopping beach swaddled in sweaters and glorified garbage bags that masqueraded as emergency raincoats. We never thought we'd actually need rain gear. It was May in North Africa, for goodness' sake.

But we were grimly determined to enjoy ourselves, and so we forged on, reading things to each other out of the guide book.

"The Portuguese built the walls of the old city in the 15th century!" I would proclaim through gritted teeth. "They're so imposing and beautiful!" Jon would gamely reply, shivering in the downpour.

To escape the site of our holiday defeat, we opted to walk a little ways out of the centre of town. As we wandered along the shoreline, we suddenly spotted what looked like a ruined building. It was perched above us, atop a small rise of land that curved upward from the ocean. When we clambered up to have a look, we saw that the building was actually a simple tomb. We had found an entire cemetery. The place was overgrown with wildflowers. Many of the gravestones were worn down by time, and all that remained of their former carvings were nearly imperceptible bumps on otherwise flat stone surfaces.

They were so worn, in fact, that I was worried that the contents of the graves might be partly exposed. They were not the lumps of earth that many westerners associate with cemeteries. Rather, each grave looked like its own miniature tomb, with a stone coffin set above ground and marked at the top. But I noted with discomfort that some of these covering stones were partly broken. So when Jon shouted for me to come look at something, I began hopping anxiously from one foot to another, like a cartoon housewife who had spotted a mouse.

"Can you see the dead person?" I whimpered. "Don't show me if it's a dead person."

Once he coaxed me into going over, I saw what had made my brother call me so urgently. The gravestone was carved with Hebrew writing. These stones weren't tombs. They were traditional Jewish graves. We had found an abandoned Jewish cemetery.

My relationship to the Jews of Morocco is tenuous at best. The closest link I have to them is that I reside in Montreal alongside the largest Moroccan Jewish community in Canada. During our stay in Morocco, my brother and I would come face to face with pieces of a Jewish past that, admittedly, was not our history. But the emotional link I felt was palpable, echoing the history that I can read in my own bones: the pogroms, the emigration and the hope for a better life somewhere else.

We would tour the *mellah* – the Jewish quarter – in Fez, its winding, narrow streets that, for all intents and purposes, looked just like the crowded Jewish neighbourhoods in eastern Europe where our family once lived and from where they would eventually have to flee. We ran down to the beach to find rocks to place on some of the graves, and said *Kaddish* for the dead who lay in the cemetery with no family to tend to the graves or leave little stones as indications of their visits.

We didn't have much time to spend there. The formerly public cemetery was now surrounded by a wall. We only managed to access it by approaching from the beach. The owner of the property soon came out, shaking his head at us and clearly unhappy at our intrusion on his goats' grazing land. We left as many stones as we could and headed back the way we came.

Upon arriving back in the *medina* (old city), we took refuge in shopping to get out of the rain. We hit a shop that at first looked like all the others. However, as we browsed, we began to notice Jewish ceremonial objects, including oil-burning menorahs, hand-carved metal seder plates, mezuzot and more than one *shiviti* (a wall hanging hung in synagogues so that one is always aware of God's presence) and *mizrach* (a wall hanging for the easternmost wall of Jewish homes to indicate the direction of prayer), all no less than 70 years old. The owner told us the objects had come from houses nearby where Jews had once lived.

In 1948, there were 265,000 Jews in Morocco. By 2003, the community had shrunk to 5,500. Even during relatively tolerant times, Jews lived in the confines of the *mellah*, and at night this was the only place they felt safe, and sometimes they didn't even feel safe there, either.

Yet Morocco can't be written off as just another anti-Semitic country. Jews suffered discrimination under the French during the war, but at the same time, King Muhammad V worked against their deportation. As well, although support for Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy was prevalent in some Moroccan media outlets and in the general population, the popular King Hassan II was a strong supporter of modernism, tolerance and interfaith dialogue. Moroccan leaders have also shown support for the peace process in the Middle East, but it was the increased violence after the establishment of the State of Israel and a subsequent anti-Semitic campaign that drove many Jews away.

The country's relationship to its Jewish community is complex and has its positive side. However, the truth remains that the majority of Morocco's Jews pulled up stakes en masse. The quality of life they faced in Morocco pushed them to leave, and to leave things behind.

"My grandfather found them," the owner of the shop explained, referring to his merchandise. I thought of the graves we had just come from, which had also been deserted by necessity. For the first time, I was forced to really consider my moral position on looting. If his grandfather had not taken these things, surely someone else would have. Their rightful owners certainly weren't coming back for them. But could I really resign myself to this person making a living off the death of a community? On the other hand, in a country with 20 per cent unemployment, was I in any position to judge?

While Jon asked more questions about the history of the area, I had fallen to looking at a silver *chamsa*, carved in beautiful curving lines with a Star of David in the centre of the palm. Though larger than my necklace, the design of the wall hanging was remarkably similar. My family may not have come from Morocco, but the communities that existed here were still Jews, and with them I shared the stories, rituals and symbols that link us together throughout the Diaspora.

Muslims have a chamsa symbol too: the hand of Fatimah. Like their Muslim neighbours, many Moroccan Jews believed in *jinn*, evil spirits against which they felt it was necessary to protect themselves. These are the kind of "superstitions" that modern Jews began to shun upon coming to the New World and that some now look upon with suspicion.

[Susan Krashinsky photos]

But I have always been taken by this symbol. My *chamsa* necklace, without which no flight is now complete, was one of the few things I bought when I went to Israel, during a visit to the mystical city of Safed. Does it have the magical power to ward off evil spirits? Everyone chooses how literally they believe in the symbols of their culture. All I know is that it gets me through plane rides.

Granted, I am a traveller now for very different reasons. Growing up in Canada, my family has never had to consider uprooting itself suddenly in order to survive. We have never had to leave our most cherished belongings behind, and we never had to accept the knowledge that we would never again be able to visit the graves of our loved ones. But as our ancestors spread themselves across the globe, we have carried the same symbols with us. The image of the protective hand speaks to me of the need for spiritual, and not just physical, shelter. And as I walked beside my brother through Asilah's old city, the aged *chamsa* clutched in my hand, I thought that ours is a culture in flux. From everywhere we must eventually part and leave remnants of ourselves.

*Susan Krashinsky is a freelance writer based in Montreal.*

# An issue we must address

Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua caused something of a furor at last month's Centennial Symposium of the American Jewish Committee. As a panelist discussing "The future of the past: What will become of the Jewish people," the irascible luminary of Israeli literature waded headlong into controversy with comments that stunned his hosts and many in his audience.

*Lawrence Hart in Hamilton*

What Yehoshua was on about was what he perceived as the self-evident viewpoint that to live a fully Jewish life, one had to commit to living in Israel. He inferred that it's only there, and not in the Diaspora, that a "significant Jewish identity" is realizable.

Needless to say, his remarks triggered a deluge of comments and criticisms, including a series of articles in *Ha'aretz*. Some supported his position, while others saw the need for damage control and a more placatory approach to the Israeli-Diaspora duality.

But inasmuch as the AJC symposium evoked controversy, it has nonetheless unmasked a simmering tension in an essential relationship that goes way beyond parochialism, pragmatism, or paternalistic rivalries. It speaks to the very essence of Jewish peoplehood in the 21st century.

At the core of the problem is the apparent inability of each side to understand the other's values and perspectives. For instance, it's well recognized that in Israeli schools, students are taught very little about the lives of Jews in the Diaspora or the important existential issues that confront them on a day-to-day basis. And look, too, at the not-infrequent disconnectedness between Israelis living in the Diaspora and indigenous Jewish communities in their host countries. It's no secret that many of these Israelis tend not to participate in the activities of their adopted communities, attend their institutions, or contribute materially to their well-being.

At the other end of the spectrum, and using American Jewry as the example, it's especially disturbing that a national survey conducted for the AJC in 1989, found that 73 per cent of Jews agreed that "caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew," while by 2005, only 57 per cent supported this concept. Moreover, it was found, not surprisingly, that younger adults exhibited much-weaker attachments to Israel than their elders.

The writing must surely be on the wall for both the Jews of Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora. Regardless of background, there desperately needs to be a renewal of the partnership that reinforces the notion of an Am Yisrael whose strength and endurance stem from unity, common purpose, and mutual understanding.

In this context, it's not especially relevant whether Yehoshua's perceptions are right or wrong. What's so much more pertinent is that he has drawn attention to an issue that we dare not ignore.

# Unloading some baggage before my vacation

I am counting the days with great anticipation. Four more and I will be winging my way northward through azure skies towards Denmark, long a second home for us through my wife. It will be a pleasure to get away from this seething pot of a country for some relaxation in the serene detachment of Scandinavia. Denmark and Israel are polar opposites, and they appeal, each in its own way, to the schizophrenic extremes in my personality. Born and raised in Canada, I have spent the better part of my life in Israel and live equally well with cold and hot, fog and aridity, forests and deserts, falafel and pickled herring, Mediterranean ebullience and chill northern reserve.

*Ross Culiner in Jerusalem*

It takes getting away, I find, to fully realize how tiring and trying life in Israel can be. Not only does that conspiracy of hate and hostility around us exact a toll on one's nerves, but we Israelis aren't exactly the easiest people to get along with, either. An indigenous aggressive streak, aggravated by an acute egocentricity, repeatedly transforms what ought to be routine social interactions into confrontations.

But there is something else, more troubling, that is eating away at me these days and I can only blame myself for it. After all, nobody forced me to be such a hopeless idealist, to fall so in love with the inspiring notion of a modern Jewish homeland that I am unforgiving of any behaviour or individual that would debase what I view as a noble and historic cause. However, my recent conversations with people from all walks of life indicate that I am not alone in my grave disappointment with the current state of affairs. The sense that something is indeed rotten in Israel, if not in the Kingdom of Denmark, is dangerously widespread.

The daily news is a good barometer of the seriousness of the condition – nothing but a monotonous litany of indescribable horrors. Hardly a single corner of our national life has been spared the destructive influence of corruption, starting with law enforcement agencies themselves and filtering up through the entire system to the very top of the political and religious pyramid. Prime ministers and their families, rabbis and theirs, and possibly even illustrious Nobel Prize winners are not exempt from its influence. Moreover, organized crime, both imported and homegrown, has spread its tentacles everywhere. The diseased tissue can be detected throughout.

The catalogue of our other present-day social ills is long, varied and ugly – gangland murders, family and youth violence, spreading pockets of abject poverty, ubiquitous alcohol and drug abuse, sex slavery and molestation, maltreatment of foreign workers, a callous Jewish messianism, and many further manifestations of a society in distress. Whereas once we boasted proudly that the streets of the Jewish state were safe, sound and basically clean, today we cannot.

And, meanwhile, the slaughter on the roads continues unabated. We moan and mourn over the tragedies inflicted on us by our enemies, and then, hypocrites that we surely are, thoughtlessly exact an even steeper price in Israeli lives with our very own hands. The damage of Hamas and Hezbollah are mere pin pricks compared to the rivers of Jewish blood we send coursing down our highways day in, day out.

And now, seeing as I'm already getting things off my chest before my sojourn in Denmark, I will also add a lament for the wanton contamination of our limited and precious river systems, the massive littering of our countryside and beaches, the neglect in our two biggest cities, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where but a few short blocks away from their well-groomed centres can be found urban wastelands, architectural and human, that would be right at home in the Third World.

Good. I feel better now. I am ready to leave this beloved land of mine, this marvel of achievement and catastrophe of underachievement for a few days of rest and reflection. I will admire, as always, a Danish society that is more civilized, honourable, compassionate and responsibly well-managed than my own. After which I will return home and continue dreaming, perhaps naively, of how we might have been, had we truly wanted to be, a light unto the nations.

*Culiner@netvision.net.il*

# Anti-Israel obsessions

The latest onslaughts in the political war against Israel have come from trade unions in Canada (the Ontario branch of CUPE – the Canadian Union of Public Employees) and Britain (the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education). Last month, both groups passed resolutions using the demonization rhetoric of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, which revived the "Zionism is racism" agenda. The union resolutions also promote sanctions and boycotts – the preferred method of turning Israel into the new "apartheid regime" and preparing the foundation for its destruction.

*Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem*

These and similar attacks from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) flying the false flags of human rights and humanitarian aid are marked by the huge level of ignorance that's used to justify anti-Israel obsessions.

In his opening speech, Paul Mackney, NATFHE's general secretary, highlighted the pressing issues on the agenda: the problems facing public sector unions in the United Kingdom, the crisis in education, and, of course, the situation in "Palestine."

Here, Mackney claimed great expertise, overcoming his lack of education in international relations or the Middle East. Repeating the rhetoric of Durban, he dispensed with the history and evidence, including the Arab rejectionism, incitement and violence. Instead, Mackney poured out a stream of data purporting to compare Palestinian suffering to that of Israelis in terms of casualties, unemployment, education, aid, and other spheres. His claims are based on bogus statistics repeated from Palestinian propaganda sheets. And there was no mention of Palestinian incitement, corruption and the internal anarchy in the Palestinians' terrorist proto-state. It was a triumph of ignorance.

In Canada, Sid Ryan, the head of CUPE, displayed an equally toxic combination of hatred and ignorance in promoting the Durban strategy and repeating the "apartheid" slogans. Ryan seems to have adopted the words of Rafeef Ziadah, a Palestinian whose presence is noted in many extremist anti-Israeli activities, including "Israel Apartheid Week" this past school year at the University of Toronto. Ryan's call for a boycott campaign until Israel "meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination" totally erases Palestinian rejectionism and terror. And the promotion of the Palestinian myth of a "right of return" for refugees is tantamount to calling for the destruction of Israel. The absurdity of CUPE's move was highlighted by the resolution's rubber-stamping by all of Ryan's 896 "delegates" – Stalin could not have done better.

To their credit, many Canadian analysts and letter writers have highlighted Ryan's ignorance, and the *Globe and Mail* printed a point-by-point critique by Natan Sharansky. The extent of the damage is unknown, but the belated counterattack is important, if insufficient. Like Hitler's great lies, the slogans and rhetoric of the Durban strategy have become deeply embedded in the media and universities, and among NGO officials who fly the false flags of human rights.

To take the offensive and defeat the armies fighting this political war to destroy Israel, it's necessary to focus the public debate on their obsessions. For many years, the officials at Human Rights Watch, based in the United States, and Christian Aid, based in the United Kingdom, were able to devote a huge and disproportionate portion of donations to promote the slogans and myths used to attack Israel.

After NGO Monitor exposed this obsession, and demonstrated its inherent racism and anti-Semitism, the extremists in both groups were forced to retreat. In the past 18 months, the volume of HRW attacks against Israel has dropped to less than one-quarter of what they were, and human rights violations in Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and by Palestinian terrorists have suddenly been discovered. A recent study of Amnesty International's obsessive ideological agenda may have a similar impact.

Similarly, the Canadian government needs to halt the millions of taxpayer dollars provided by CIDA and other agencies to NGOs promoting the propaganda echoed by CUPE. Recipients in this category have included Alternatives (based in Montreal), BADIL, the deceptively named "Medical Aid for Palestinians," World Vision and UNRWA.

In addition, co-operation and educational activities involving serious labour leaders need to be increased, including sponsoring trips to Israel to dispel the myths. And the role of Arab extremists such as Rafeef Ziadah in CUPE, as well as the source of the funding for these activities, should be examined.

Finally, a members' revolt to remove union officials who promote this self-destructive and obsessive agenda would send a very powerful message.

The Kirshner File

# Novelist Henry Roth was rediscovered

I read *Call It Sleep*, Henry Roth's magisterial American coming-of-age novel, in 1964, when I was a teenager in Montreal. The novel, a classic of immigration and proletarian fiction about a hypersensitive Jewish boy coping with the puzzling mysteries of life, left a profound impression on me and many of my contemporaries. Since then, *Call It Sleep* has been printed in some 30 editions and sold more than a million copies. Not bad for a book that slipped into a black hole of utter obscurity after its publication in 1934.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Roth, born in a shtetl in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1906, was so devastated by its anemic showing that he virtually stopped writing and went into self-imposed exile in the wilds of Maine as a waterfowl farmer. Nearly six decades would elapse before his second novel, *A Star Shines Over Mt. Morris Park*, the first instalment of a projected series of six volumes, was published. In point of fact, Roth attempted to write another novel after *Call It Sleep*'s singular lack of success, but gave up after 60 pages and burned the manuscript in a fit of frustration, says Steven Kellman in his splendid biography, *Redemption: The Life of Henry Roth* (W.W. Norton).

Like the protagonist in his first novel, David Schearl, Roth was a child of Galician immigrants, arriving at Ellis Island with his beloved mother in 1907, the peak year of immigration through the port of New York.

Of the 1.2 million newcomers from eastern Europe who reached the United States in 1907, 149,000, or about 11 per cent, were Jewish. The influx of Jews into New York in the late 19th century and early 20th century increased its Jewish population by 16-fold, from 80,000 in 1880 to 1,250,000 in 1910.

Roth's parents, Leah Farb and Herman Roth, were in an abusive relationship and constantly quarrelled. She doted on her son. He was stingy, moody, abrasive and sometimes violent. Roth did not care for him and said so in his luminous prose, a mix of Joycean techniques and Freudian insights.

The Roths settled in Brownsville – a modest neighbourhood in Brooklyn inhabited mainly by working-class Jewish families – but within a few years, they moved to the impossibly congested Lower East Side. Roth lived there for only four years, but his sharp memories of its decaying tenements and its crowded streets remained deeply imbedded in his soul. In 1914, the Roths moved to cheaper quarters in Harlem, then home to 175,000 Jews. But the part of Harlem where they lived was an Irish and Italian enclave where a Jewish boy had to put up with anti-Semitic taunts.

He attended DeWitt Clinton School, the oldest high school in New York City, and among his classmates were Lionel Trilling, the first Jewish academic to be hired as an English professor by Columbia University, and Nathanael West (Weinstein), the author of such comic novels as *Miss Lonelyhearts* and *The Day of the Locust*.

Not being able to afford the tuition at Cornell University, Roth took his degree at City College of New York (CCNY), known as the poor man's Harvard. CCNY, nevertheless, produced distinguished graduates, from literary critic Alfred Kazin to sociologist Nathan Glazer, during the second half of the century. Kellman, a professor of comparative literature at the University of Texas, speculates that Roth was fortunate to have studied at CCNY, which transformed him into a novelist.

There he met Eda Lou Walton, an instructor in English literature who had a formidable influence on him. Considerably older, she took Roth under her wing, encouraging him to develop his talents, introducing him to her literary friends and smoothing out his rough edges. She also became his lover, but Roth was not new to sexual adventures. Well into his college years, he and his sister, Rose, indulged in an incestuous affair, a factor in Roth's lifelong self-loathing.

Roth did not excel academically, but he published his first story, *Impressions of a Plumber*, in a campus magazine, and wrote *Call It Sleep* in an astonishing burst of creativity in Walton's Greenwich Village apartment. Based on his childhood experiences, the novel introduced readers to a stream-of- consciousness narrative, a corrosive family triangle, a preoccupation with sexuality and a belief in the restorative powers of sleep.

Printed in a first edition of 1,500 copies, *Call It Sleep* generally elicited fine reviews and glowing appraisals comparing Roth to James T. Farrell and James Joyce. But after the second edition was released, demand waned and the remainders were pulped. In short order, Roth's publisher went bankrupt and *Call It Sleep* faded away.

Maxwell Perkins, the famous New York editor, signed up Roth for a book deal in the expectation that he would not be a one-novel wonder. Roth, having recently joined the Communist party, began writing a novel about a working-class hero. But he abandoned it as his relationship with Walton, his mentor, deteriorated. According to Kellman, Roth was the victim of a writer's block, though he kept on writing the occasional short story for *The New Yorker* during his dark, silent years.

**The young Henry Roth**

Roth met his wife, Muriel Parker, a promising musician who had studied in Paris with the teacher and conductor Nadia Boulanger, during this unsettled period. She was raised in Oak Park, Ill., the Chicago suburb where Ernest Hemingway was born. Roth found her as radiant as the morning sunshine, but he was not particularly impressed by her snobbish parents. Parker's father, expounding on the merits of the Kiwanis Club, told Roth: "Of course, while membership in Kiwanis is open to people of all faiths, Jewish as well as others, we don't want any kikes in this organization."

In 1938, with the country mired in the Depression, Roth travelled to Hollywood in the hope of selling *Call It Sleep* to a studio and perhaps launching a career as a scriptwriter. But the novel, Kellman tartly observes, was "an embarrassing reminder of the immigrant Jewish origins of many Hollywood producers." Roth went back to New York City, humiliated and disenchanted.

Desperate for work, he took successive jobs as a ditch digger and metal grinder. Since he was classified as an "essential worker," he was not drafted after the U.S. declared war on Japan following Pearl Harbor.

Kellman believes that Roth, a universalist who rejected the rituals of Judaism, was unaffected by the plight of Jews under the Nazis. He would regret his indifference.

With the onset of the Cold War, Roth decided it would be prudent to keep a low profile and cut ties with his old Communist friends in New York. He bought a 110-acre farm near Montville, Me., and resided there with his wife and two children in a tumbledown house lacking central heating, indoor plumbing and electricity.

To make ends meet, Roth took what jobs were available. He cleared brush, gathered and chopped wood, picked apples and blueberries, sold maple syrup, fought forest fires and taught in a one-room schoolhouse. For a while, he was a precision toolmaker at the Singer Sewing Machine Company and an orderly in a hospital.

Desperate to be financially independent, he started Roth's Waterfowl, a family operation specializing in the extraction of meat and feathers from ducks and geese. He wrote a primer on waterfowl, and though it was hardly literature, Roth regarded it as a tantalizing intimation that writing was still in his blood.

In 1960, when Roth was still plucking duck feathers, *Commentary* published an essay by Leslie Fiedler titled Henry Roth's Neglected Masterpiece. "For sheer virtuosity, *Call It Sleep* is hard to beat," he exulted. "No one has ever distilled such poetry and wit from the counterpoint between the maimed English and the subtle Yiddish of the immigrant. No one has reproduced so sensitively the terror of family life in the imagination of a child caught between two cultures." Within a year, *Call It Sleep* was back in print after a hiatus of almost 26 years. Irving Howe, in a rhapsodic front-page essay in the *New York Times Book Review*, hailed it as a masterpiece.

During much of his life, Roth was a staunch atheist. As late as 1963, when asked to contribute to a symposium in the American Zionist magazine *Midstream* on *The Meaning of Galut in America Today*, Roth claimed that Jewishness was an anachronism that he had discarded. But with Israel's victory in the Six Day War, Roth underwent a transformation. The 1967 war traumatized and Zionized him, and from then on, he identified with the Jewish people and even considered aliyah.

In 1979, when he was an old man, Roth began composing his final opus, *A Star Shines Over Mt. Morris Park*, which takes up where *Call It Sleep* left off. When finally published, Kellman notes, it "broke the longest writer's block in American literary history."

Roth died in 1995 in New Mexico, a titan in the pantheon of American literature whose manifest talents had been almost overlooked. Kellman, in this impressive biography, puts his life into perspective and pays him his due.

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# The Jewish Education Report

## Future leaders emerge from Jewish schools

*By Carla Lancit*

Aaron Lesser decided to run for president of the student council at Netivot HaTorah Day School on a whim. "I did it for fun," says the 14-year-old eighth-grade leader.

Apparently, whims can sometimes lead you in the right direction. Lesser says that he's achieved more as president than he could have anticipated, noting that it's a position that has let him take a lot of initiative.

Under Lesser's leadership, the student council has already raised money to help build a school in Honduras and is currently spearheading a project to have hats emblazoned with the name of the school's popular Netivot Panthers basketball team. The proceeds from the sales of the hats will be given to two Israeli-based charities; the One Family Fund which provides care and support to victims of terror in Israel, and the Koby Mandell Foundation, which helps families in Israel deal with the loss of a loved one.

Vice Principal Rabbi Elliott Diamond says that Lesser has demonstrated leadership "by helping to organize programs that have helped our students focus on situations that are important in Israel."

"My parents raised me to give and help as much as you can," says Lesser, who has also played on his school's basketball team and served on the yearbook committee. "It's important to spend as much of your free time helping people."

For more proof that student leaders can be inspired by their parents, look no further than another eighth-grader, Ari Zagdanski, at Associated Hebrew School

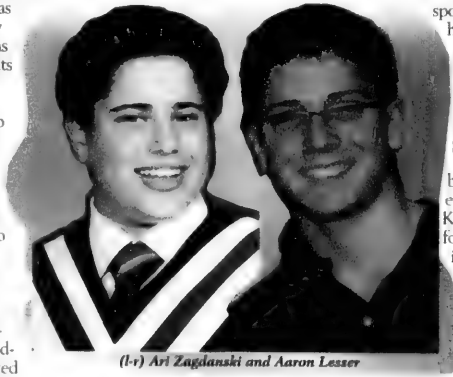
"I come from a family that's very pro-Israel," says Zagdanski, 13. "I follow in my parents' footsteps and like to give back to the community." He has already demonstrated that commitment with his money-raising efforts for this year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel.

"Ari is a good student, and when it comes to leadership, he's very well rounded. He's a leader type," says Ruth Portnoy, Judaic studies principal at Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack Middle School. "He cares. He will do anything for the school. He's involved."

Zagdanski's interests include sports, music, and fundraising. He has sat on student council as a class representative, plays on the school's hockey and volleyball teams, is involved in intramural hockey and basketball, and still finds time to play acoustic guitar.

This year, Zagdanski became heavily involved in an effort to raise funds for Camp Koby, an Israeli summer camp for children who have lost family members in terror attacks, or who have themselves been wounded.

Zagdanski and Lesser intend to continue their involvement in the fall at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and Yeshivat Or Chaim respectively. And given the leadership they've already demonstrated, this is just the beginning.



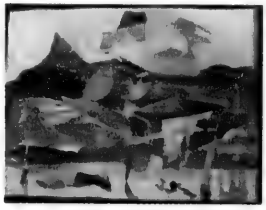
*(l-r) Ari Zagdanski and Aaron Lesser*

## Contest showcases creativity of students

Toronto's day school and supplementary school students are tapping into their creative sides, thanks to a number of UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) initiatives.

Among these events is a creative writing contest, which encourages students from grades one to eight to express themselves in English or Hebrew. This year's contest attracted more than 700 entries from 11 schools. The theme - *The Voice of Children* -allowed students to write on topics of their own choosing, although suggestions were provided for inspiration. "We tried to elicit things that would be very dear to their hearts," says Ora Shulman, director of the BJE's teacher centre. "Some were unbelievable to read."

Another BJE initiative - its third annual art show - brought together drawings, paintings, and sculptures by students ranging from kindergarten to grade 12, from 13 Toronto schools.



This year, the art show included a display of tzedakah boxes created by students. Local Jewish artists worked with them to create the boxes. The materials ranged from fabric to ceramic, demonstrating the endless possibilities for creating traditional objects while drawing students' attention to the mitzvah of tzedakah.

*The recent BJE art show inspired students to create paintings and tzedakah boxes as shown above.*

In addition to encouraging students to pursue their talents, Shulman hopes that these creative enterprises will strengthen the feeling of community among the many Toronto Jewish schools. "It brings all the day and supplementary schools together for the occasion," she says. "They find out they are part of a larger community by meeting students from the entire Toronto area."

Visit the BJE website at www.bjetoronto.org to read the winning entries in the creative writing contest and to view selected pieces from the art show & tzedakah box project.

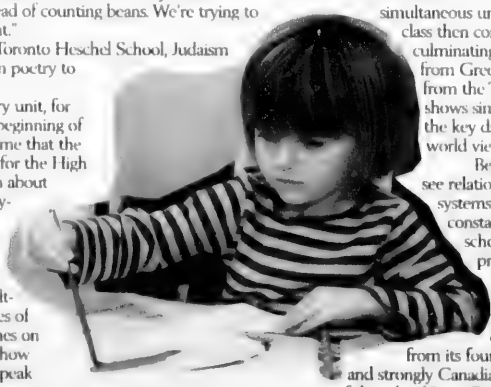
## Jewish ingredient flavours school subjects

How do you teach kids to become proud Jews in math class? At the Toronto Heschel School it comes down to one word: integration. That means integrating Jewish content into everything the school teaches.

"A lot of schools use integration," says curriculum director Greg Beiles. "For instance in math class they count Chanukah candles instead of counting beans. We're trying to go a bit deeper than that."

How deep? At the Toronto Heschel School, Judaism impacts everything from poetry to science to civics.

The grade five poetry unit, for example, comes at the beginning of the year—around the time that the school is also preparing for the High Holidays. Students learn about metaphor through studying the prayer "*Avinu Malkeinu*" in which God is referred to as a father and as a king. On the surface the resulting lesson is about figures of speech, but it also touches on the nature of God, and how metaphor allows us to speak about Him.



In eighth grade science, a midrash (often a story explaining a Biblical passage) illustrates scientific methodology. Students study the story—in which Abraham observes the sun and the moon and deduces that there must be a higher power. From this midrash Heschel teachers note the parallels between Abraham's thought process and the steps of the scientific method.

The school also attempts to draw parallels between secular history and Jewish history. A unit on ancient Mesopotamia, for example, places Abraham in historical context. When students learn about ancient Greece, a simultaneous unit covers Iron Age Israel. The class then compares the two cultures, culminating in a play in which a hero from Greek mythology and a character from the Torah meet. "The conversation shows similarities," says Beiles, "but also the key differences between a Jewish world view and an ancient Greek one."

Beiles believes that the ability to see relationships between thought systems is good for learning, and he is constantly impressed that the school's students can make profound and deep connections between things from a very young age.

The school's emphasis on integration springs directly from its founding. "Being strongly Jewish and strongly Canadian has always been the vision of the school," says Beiles.

"We want our kids to understand that they are both part of a Canadian Western culture and society and a Jewish culture and society, and that they interact with each other," he says. "There are a lot of similarities, and a lot of differences."

# The Jewish Education Report

## Meet some of this year's kindergarten graduates

*By Carla Lanclt*

Don't expect any crocodile tears when Trevor Wajs starts first grade in the fall. According to mom Marcy Wajs, the Leo Baeck student already thinks he runs the school.

"He walks in every day and says hello to all the teachers by name, even the ones who don't teach him," she says. "He has absolutely no trepidation about grade one. He is really looking forward to being 'upstairs' and having projects and all the things his brothers have been doing for the last few years."

In fact, the only complication that Wajs anticipates is getting Trevor to move between classrooms without stopping for too long to chat in the hallways.

Wajs and her husband Richard plan to prepare Trevor for the move to grade school with a series of discussions about what is expected of him. "I will explain to him that he is to set a good example for the other kids in the class by listening to the teacher and doing what he is told," she says. "I will tell him how proud we will be of him when he helps his friends who may be scared."

Seeing her son ready himself for the move up is a source of tremendous pride to Marcy, a passionate supporter of Jewish education.

"To me, the importance of a Jewish education is to develop a Jewish identity and to learn about Jewish traditions, and how they developed as they did," she says. "Leo Baeck has a strong focus on *Derech Eretz* (respect for others) and tzedakah, and those are some of the Jewish values that I want my kids to learn and practice in their lives. I also want them to have a Jewish education to develop a strong knowledge about Israel, why it exists and why we must support Israel and keep our own Jewish community strong."

Jamie and Susan Blatt are also preparing their son, Josh, to enter first grade in the fall.

"We love the fact that the kids all sing the Shabbat songs at home, they all know the songs for the holidays," says Jamie. "That's part of the joy of having them in Jewish day school; it reflects our traditions, our lifestyle and our appreciation for Israel."

According to Blatt, Josh has already leapt over the biggest hurdle—moving from the half-day of junior kindergarten to senior kindergarten's full-day program.

Josh, like Trevor, is getting excited about the change, thanks in part to the school's "moving up" ceremony. "A lot of practice went into it," says Blatt.

If Josh and Trevor are looking forward to first grade unreservedly, their parents may have a few reservations. As Wajs says: "I personally have absolutely no worries about the transition into grade one for Trevor except that it means my baby is really grown up and that makes me sad."

*Trevor Wajs is all smiles at his SK graduation last week and is now ready to tackle grade one.*

## Torontonian wins International Bible Contest

A recent international competition proves that Toronto has a lot to be proud of when it comes to Biblical learning

Yisrael Witty, a grade 10 student at Yeshivat Or Chaim, placed first in the Diaspora portion of the International Bible Contest held recently in Israel. Witty and fellow Or Chaim student David Pellow, came in fourth and fifth respectively in the international competition. The first three spots were claimed by Israeli students.

"We encourage participation in the Bible contest very much," says Or Chaim's Rosh Yeshiva (head of the school) Rabbi Shlomo Gemara. "It became a tradition that the strong boys have to compete."

The boys from Or Chaim and the girls from Ulpanat Orot, the yeshiva's sister school, fostered a team atmosphere, meeting with Rabbi Gemara's wife Ofra once a week to prepare and go over practice questions.

Silvia Eilath is not surprised by the Torontonians' strong showing. "We have amazing coaches, very devoted teachers," says the coordinator of the Bible Contest for UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education. "They go beyond the call of duty. They instill the love of the Book. They develop a passion for it. It's amazing." Gemara, however, credits Eilath with Toronto's success in the contest. "She works so hard and with such enthusiasm that it's really contagious," he says

Pellow has a long history of success in the contest. He won both the 5-6 division and the 7-8 division before going on to win the high school division and represent Canada in Israel. He says that he prepared for the contest for a year in advance. "I was expecting it to be hard, and it was."

Witty chalks up his success to plenty of hard work and repetition. "I've been working on this for a whole year," he says. "All the energy and time I've devoted to it came to fruition."

"He didn't go anywhere without his *Tanach* (Bible, including the Prophets) for a full year," says his mother, Laya Witty. "He went to the National Boy Scout Jamboree in the U.S., and he had it with him the whole time."

His upbringing also played a role. His father teaches at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), and his mother has a degree in Judaic studies. "My family emphasizes Torah learning as very important," says Witty. "My parents have generally encouraged me to enter this sort of event where I'll be challenged and have a long term goal. But they try not to put any pressure on me."

The importance of Torah learning was also imparted by his late grandfather, Rabbi Irwin Witty, who served as executive director of the BJE. "My father-in-law believed in the study of *Tanach*," says Laya Witty. "That kind of stuff rubs off on kids before they can even read it themselves."

Yisrael Witty and his grandfather studied together, and once started learning the Book of Daniel, which was part of this year's contest

Witty was pleased that the atmosphere at the contest was friendly. "There was an atmosphere of competition, but not of 'I have to beat you.' Everyone would study together, hang out together—it was a very friendly atmosphere, as if we were all working together to the same goal."

On May 15, Witty and Pellow were honoured at the Canadian National Bible Contest. One hundred and forty students came from Victoria, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Hamilton, Kitchener, Toronto, and Montreal to participate in the contest.

The winners included Lily Chapnik of Temple Kol Ami (English Division, Grades 5-6), Zachary Zarnett-Klein of Associated Posluns (Hebrew Division, Grades 5-6), and, continuing the family tradition, Rivka Witty of Netivot HaTorah (Hebrew Division, Grades 7-8).

Three winners of the High School Division will represent Canada at the International Bible Contest next year. They are CHAT's Josh Satok (first place), independent student A.J. Warner (second place), and Herzliah Snowdon's Emilie Bohbot from Montreal.

As for Witty, he's already "looking for another world to conquer."

*(left to right): Yisrael M. Witty, Yitchak Berebi and David Pellow take a break from "bible camp".*

## Celebrating Israeli Dance

*Four hundred students from sixteen schools recently took part in the 36th annual Rikudiyah held at York University. Rikudiyah, a city-wide Israeli dance festival, is co-sponsored by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Board of Jewish Education, the Koffler Centre for the Arts and the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.*

# Harbord plans new memorial to honour soldiers

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Former students of Harbord Collegiate Institute, which opened in 1892 and has a strong multicultural history, are working on projects to honour the memory of soldiers who perished in both world wars.

On Remembrance Day 2005, after an active fundraising campaign to restore *Our Soldier*, the World War I monument dedicated in 1921 that was urgently in need of repair, the monument was rededicated in the presence of students, alumni and many distinguished guests.

"Now we must turn to the second part of our challenge," says Murray Rubin, a retired pharmacist who is spearheading the Harbord Remembers fundraising campaign that will honour the memory of the many Harbordites who lost their lives in World War II.

The 1950 graduate, who is an active member of the Harbord Club, a network of more than 2,000 alumni, has embarked on the task of reaching former students, teachers and relatives of the fallen soldiers and asking them to participate in the creation of the new memorial.

When it is completed, the monument will proudly and permanently honour another generation of Harbordites whose lives were lost in World War II, says Rubin.

The war monument committee has commissioned internationally renowned architect and sculptor Morton Katz, a graduate of Harbord, to create the new memorial. The monument is stainless steel and stands 18 feet high in the dual form of a separated "H", the emblem of Harbord Collegiate.

The severing of the form, Katz explains, is representative of the lives cut short in the war. The names are memorialized on stainless steel plaques recessed at eye level into the inner sides of the "H".

"To view their names, one stands within the sculpture, embraced by the form," Katz says.

He adds that the new memorial sculpture will be located in the sunken courtyard at the east side of Harbord Collegiate at a distance from, but in concert with, the Our Soldier memorial. It will be dedicated on VE Day next year.

"We have raised $53,000," Rubin says. "Once again, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has most generously launched our campaign with a donation of $20,000, but we must now find another $45,000.

"Many of the students at Harbord were Jewish during World War II," Rubin adds.

He spoke of Jewish heroes such as Lou Somers, a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force who allowed his crew to bail out but went down with his plane after it was shot down over Holland. The plane was not found for 25 years.

For more information on the Harbord Remembers campaign, visit its website www.harbordclub.com or call Rubin at 416 483 0985.

**The *We Remember* monument to be erected at Harbord Collegiate Institute in memory of fallen soldiers of World War II, created by Morton Katz.**

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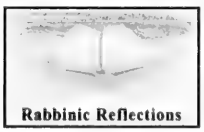
# Intellectual knowledge and spirituality

By RABBI DAVID CADOCH

The "celebration" of Shavuot has recently concluded. When we speak of celebration, however, we usually mean special rituals and customs similar to those of Passover, Sukkot, Purim and Chanukah.




In each of these Jewish holidays, there is a definite, established celebration through various rituals and customs. On Shavuot, there is the custom of staying up all night and learning Torah. There is, as well, the custom of partaking of dairy dishes to symbolize that the Torah permitted us to use a product from a live animal.

By biblical law, we are forbidden to eat any substance from a live kosher animal unless it has been ritually slaughtered by the prescribed Torah method of shchitah. Torah law specifically permitted us the use of milk from a kosher animal. Hence we have the custom of eating dairy and this way declaring our adherence to what Torah law has permitted us.

We also have the obligation to recite the Ten Commandments since Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai (Matan Torah). In some communities, it is the custom to throw water at the rabbi of the synagogue as a symbol of recognition, for the rabbi represents the live teaching of Torah. Water has always been the symbol of Torah as it flows in every place, even in the most hidden crevices.

Rabbi Akiva's moment of enlightenment came after he had observed the way drops of water can erode a hard stone. Puzzled by this enigma, Rabbi Akiva posed an interesting question: how is it that something as soft as water has the power to erode solid rock? This question is at the heart of many spiritual quests.

When one speaks of spirituality, the connotation is usually of practices used to transcend the normal course of everyday living. At least this is the goal of all Eastern religions. What does Torah Judaism have to say about spirituality? Is it a state of being? Is it an intellectual pursuit? I'm going to attempt to answer this somewhat complex question in a simple and concise manner.

The foundation of Torah Judaism is its emphasis on study, as the Talmud explains in Kiddushin 40b.

The sages were together in Nia's house in Lod one day, debating the question of the relative importance of study and practice. Rabbi Tarfone said that practice was most important, while Rabbi Akiva said that study was more important. The rabbis finally came to an agreement and said that learning Torah is greater, for learning leads one to do mitzvot.

The Torah in Parshah Eikev (Deut. 5, 1) says: "And Moses called unto all Israel and said to them, 'Hear O Israel the statutes and judgments that I speak to your ears this day, that you may learn [study] them and observe to practise them.'"

In other words, spiritual practices can only be reinforced by learning them. On the other hand, practices devoid of learning are not enough, as this leads to many errors and misinterpretations.

The willingness to accept the Torah, through study leading to practice, is the essence of Shavuot. Unless one has accepted the Torah for oneself, HaShem's giving the Torah remains a pure intellectual pursuit, as any secular subject is and not a spiritual fulfilling experience.

*Rabbi David Cadoch is a student of HaRav Aryeh Leib Baron and a member of the Rav Baron's beth din, as well as a member of the Rabbinical Council of America.*

# Kids must be safe – at all costs

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Virtually all of us see our children as the precious core of our lives. The commitments and sacrifices made for kids, and made with a full and willing heart, are testimony to this fact. And yet, it has become increasingly clear that, in some cases, there has not been sufficient vigilance with regard to ensuring the most basic right our children can expect from us – simple protection from harm. To compound the problem, this lack of safety has occurred in the one place where it should least happen: our schools. In the guise of education comes anger, intolerance and even abuse.

Recent reports out of New York and other places have painted disturbing portraits of children in Jewish schools being sexually abused by their teachers, and in some cases by trusted rabbinic figures. The natural response is to view such occurrences as tragic but limited in scope and certainly not indicative of a larger pattern of concern.

The dark end of the spectrum of sexual abuse may be relatively restricted, but I do not know of accurate statistics, and I suspect that we should not be overly confident, as many of these incidents are covered up. We need to remind ourselves of a basic reality of many schoolroom situations, which is their fundamental imbalance of power. In the eyes of a child, especially a young one, a teacher has control, even in the supposedly lax environs of modernity.

And with this power comes enormous responsibility. Almost every day in some classroom, there are adults transferring all sorts of unwanted baggage onto children without a requisite self-analysis about their behaviours. Why are the kids in my class subject to my anger and criticism? What did I fantasize that my life as a teacher would be like? Do difficult students disappoint me in ways that make me want to strike back at them? Or, conversely, do I use children to fulfil needs that are inappropriate, be they a need for power or emotional gratification, not to mention more perverse desires?

All teachers "lose it" at some point, and in and of itself that is no crime. Teaching can be highly stressful, but that is all the more reason to have some kind of reality check in place – colleagues, administrators, a professional school structure – to keep teachers both supported and, when necessary, monitored.

And in the case of teachers who actually molest children, it would be a grievous error to think of them as lonely introverts creeping around in alleyways. That is the stuff of movies. In real life, as Rabbi Yosef Blau of Yeshiva University has pointed out, "abusers are often charismatic and talented. Victims are afraid to come forward convinced that no one will believe their accusations."

Parents, schools and Jewish communities must recognize the problem in our midst and not be afraid to admit what we cannot properly assess. At some point, this means aligning with professionals who are experienced in these matters. The reputation of a teacher is not a small thing, and besmirching it is a grave matter indeed. But the traumatizing of children trumps all other considerations, and they must be safe at all costs.

Jewish Life

***Everyman* by Philip Roth, Houghton Mifflin Company.**

# 'Everyman' leads a bleak, selfish life

**Books**
***Bernard Baskin***

How do we confront the reality of our death? The most common approach is denial. In one way or another, we all do this.

We plan our projects, stretching indefinitely into the future. We believe, every day, that "tomorrow will be another day." We act and feel as if we have all the time in the world. Of death we simply say, "It will come when it comes." We put off the truly important until we "clear the path" and "put out a few fires," take care of the urgencies. But the path is never clear, and the fires keep burning and someday there is no tomorrow.

Philip Roth's novella is about a man who fears death. The unnamed protagonist of *Everyman* (the title is drawn from the tradition of the morality plays of the middle ages) receives his first inkling of death at his father's funeral.

As the mourners begin, in accordance with Jewish tradition, to pack the grave with dirt "all at once he saw his father's mouth as if there were no coffin, as if the dirt they were throwing into the grave was being deposited straight down on him filling up his mouth."

The author's "everyman" is a financially successful advertising man, but a hapless victim of multiple illnesses who desperately attempts to hold on as his health deteriorates. His troubles begin with a hernia operation at the age of nine and continue over the years with quintuple bypass surgery, a renal artery angioplasty and an obstruction of the left carotid artery, to name but a few.

The good people around him – his brother, a daughter, a nurse – seem only to remind him of the depth of his failure. He is a man gripped by the pain of his own mortality and nothing, not even periods of good health, can allay his fears.

In old age – burdened with the onus of failure and knowledge of the inevitable – he remembers and longs for the lost days of his youth. "For the tubular sprout that was his body and that rode the waves from way out where they began to build, rode them with his arms pointed like an arrowhead and the skinny rest of him following behind like the arrow's shaft, rode them all the way in to where his rib cage scraped against the tiny sharp pebbles and jagged clam shells… and he hustled to his feet… and went lurching through the low surf… into the advancing, green Atlantic, rolling unstoppably toward him like the obstinate fact of the future."

As in other Roth novels, the protagonist must choose between importunate urgings of sexuality and sane behaviour. He marries three times: an early match does not work out and a seemingly successful second one comes to an end with his frivolous infatuation and marriage to an irresponsible and immature young model.

He retires to a condo life on the Jersey shore to take up his long-cherished ambition of painting and teaching art. But soon it all turns to ashes. Death looms and life sputters out to its lonely conclusion.

In this short, superbly written allegorical work Roth chooses to depict a secular, unexceptional man whose bleak and selfish life has been devoid of the substance of spirit or the rich opportunities that life provides. Emerson would have it otherwise. "To leave the world a little better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, to know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived – that is to have succeeded.

# World Zionist Congress, Pt. 2

**By MARK MIETKIEWICZ**

Should Israel establish "additional means of marriage and divorce" outside the framework of the official religious bodies?

Should Jewish communities around the world celebrate a Hebrew Language day?

Those are two of the resolutions that will be voted on as delegates from around the world converge in Jerusalem next week to attend the 35th World Zionist Congress. **[http://tinyurl.com/n26fo]**

Although the issues facing this Congress are important, they aren't causing a stir throughout the Jewish world. But criticisms of irrelevance aren't new. Ismar Schorsch, former chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, wrote in 1997: "This week I will leave for Israel to attend the World Zionist Congress along with 37 other delegates from MERCAZ, the official Zionist party of the Conservative movement in the United States. Despite the overblown rhetoric that will be heard in Jerusalem, no one should imagine that this congress is a matter of any consequence." Schorsch criticized a system in which only a small fraction of eligible American Jews actually voted. **[http://tinyurl.com/lkpqa]**

Eight years later, the numbers continue to fall, in the United States at least. About 108,000 voted in 1997. That dropped to 89,000 in 2002 and just 76,000 this year. "It's regrettable that the number of votes for the elections decreased again," Seymour Reich, past president of the American Zionist Movement told *The Forward*. "Somehow, the Zionist movement has to become more meaningful to world Jewry." **[http://tinyurl.com/nf84k]**

The Congress of the Jewish People website does a good job explaining the somewhat arcane system that includes both voting and non-voting delegates. You can also take a look at the composition of the powerful American delegation in which the Reform movement received 55 voting delegates, the Religious movement got 35 and the Conservative movement had 32. Smaller parties shared in the remainder of the 23 American delegates. Delegates from other Jewish communities around the world range from 190 in Israel, 23 in France and 19 in Canada to one each in Austria, Peru and India. **[http://congressofthejewishpeople.com/]**

You can take a look at the breakdown of how the voting went in Canada **[http://tinyurl.com/p3gcm]**, the United Kingdom **[http://tinyurl.com/o5ycs]** and Australia. **[http://tinyurl.com/r92eq] [http://tinyurl.com/n26fo]**)

What actually happens at a Congress? You can download and read through the final resolutions from the 34th Zionist Congress from June 2002. **[http://tinyurl.com/pckdx]** But you may prefer to watch some narrated slide shows to get a feel of that meeting. While the first slide show focuses on the opening ceremonies, the one from the following day takes on a much more sombre tone. Proceedings started with two minutes of silence after a suicide bombing in Jerusalem took the lives of 19 people and injured 74 others. **[www.isracast.com/slides/openingnight.swf]**

What about this year? Given the criticisms about the lack of interest by the general Jewish community, it makes sense that the 35th Congress is "The Zionist Movement – Innovation and Revitalization." **[http://tinyurl.com/n26fo]**

And what will those hundreds of delegates be talking about? The 60-page Draft Resolution Booklet contains the resolutions to be considered this year. Here's a sampling:

• To recognize "the multi-faceted nature of the Jewish People and… work to place equal status to all the streams of Judaism."

• "To encourage Jewish youth to consider Israel as their homeland through aliyah, as a fulfilment of the Zionist ideal and as the strength of the Jewish people."

• In light of the "appalling" number of people killed in traffic accidents in Israel (451 in 2003), there should be strict enforcement of the use of hands-free cellphones, helmet requirements for all motorcycle and bicycle users, and mandatory use of child restraints in all moving vehicles. **[http://tinyurl.com/ra55v]**

Voting on those and the 113 other resolutions will conclude by the time the 35th Congress wraps up next Thursday.

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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# Beth Hatefutsoth plans $30 million overhaul

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Israel's Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, in Tel Aviv, is embarking on a $30 million (US) overhaul and expansion.

On June 29, Beth Hatefutsoth launches its capital campaign of fundraising, which is to take place over five years.

At the event, the late Andrea (Andy) Bronfman will be honoured with the Distinguished Honorary Award of Beth Hatefutsoth for her contributions to the museum. Past recipients of the award have included Elie Wiesel and Israel's fifth president, Yitzhak Navon.

"We think we should be able to [reach our goal] only if we are able to enrol the Jewish community leadership, in key communities, in the leadership of our body," said Yefet Ozery, director of resource development and overseas relations of Beth Hatefusoth.

Included in the official project proposal is a $5-million (all figures US) renovation plan aimed at upgrading and redesigning permanent exhibitions. The $2.2-million renovation of the museum lobby and ground floor will feature a new ticket counter and a computerized information centre connected with the museum's multimedia archive.

With the modernization of all five of the museum's multimedia resources, "you'll be able to retrieve a film or photo that is in our database or maybe even information about your family genealogy," Ozery said.

He noted that people respond beautifully to what they see at Beth Hatefutsoth, however, "we realize that we have to be on par with the modern technology. [We want to make the museum] more high-tech and interactive."

The museum's expansion is expected to begin as early as 2008.

It is starting the expansion with a $2-million grant from the Claims Conference against Germany, to be used for the upgrading and modernization of permanent exhibits, Ozery said.

Beth Hatefutsoth was established in 1978 and exists to convey the story of the Jewish People from the time of their expulsion from Israel to the present.

It is co-partnered with the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Keren Hayesod (United Israel Appeal), and supported by the government of Israel, the Jewish Agency and the Claims Conference.

A new wing – the Abraham and Edita Spiegal Family Building of Contemporary Jewry – is to be created as part of the museum's expansion. It will focus on the diversity and richness of modern Jewish life.

In addition, the International School for Jewish Peoplehood Studies will be created along with the Jewish Peoplehood Resource Center.

"What we are trying to do [with this school is to] expose generations to Jewish communities spread all over the world," Ozery said.

"We have to know of one another and what's happening in other communities and make that connection. We want Toronto educators and Israeli educators there, dealing with Jewish issues of concern."

The school will work with various agencies including Israel's Ministry of Education and Culture, the Jewish Agency, Partnership 2000, Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, the Israel Defence Forces, Foreign Ministry training programs and Jewish education frameworks in the Diaspora as well as universities and colleges worldwide.

In 2003, Beth Hatefutsoth was in dire need of funding.

One of the reasons for the funding crisis was the intifadah, which reduced the number of visitors dramatically, Ozery said. During that time, Beth Hatefutsoth saw its visitors fall from 200,000 a year to 60,000. Currently, the museum has about 100,000 visitors, and Ozery is optimistic that this figure will increase by 50,000 in 2007.

In 2005, the Knesset passed the Beth Hatefutsoth Law, declaring the museum a national institution for Jewish communities in Israel and the Diaspora. That ensures the museum will receive $6 million annually from the Israeli government.

Also in 2005, Russian businessman Leonid Nevzlin, who later became chairman of the museum's newly established board of governors, promised to donate $5 million over five years to the institution. "He made it possible for us to expand, to develop, to reach out to communities, to offer programming and to do many other things," Ozery said.

"The international board of governors is also our way of saying we need to evolve, as a centre of Jewish communities wordwide."

The former mayor of Tel Aviv, Shlomo Lahat, is the chairman of the museum's board of directors.

Ozery said the younger generation will determine the direction of the Jewish people.

"You have to be able to keep teenagers and the younger generation interested. It's crucial to our existence. Their understanding of what binds us together and what a Jew in Montreal, Toronto and Tel Aviv have in common [is important]," he said.

"You want them to be interested. And [we] won't be able to achieve that unless [the centre] is interactive and interesting."

For more information, visit www.bh.org.il/information/BethHatefutsoth.asp.

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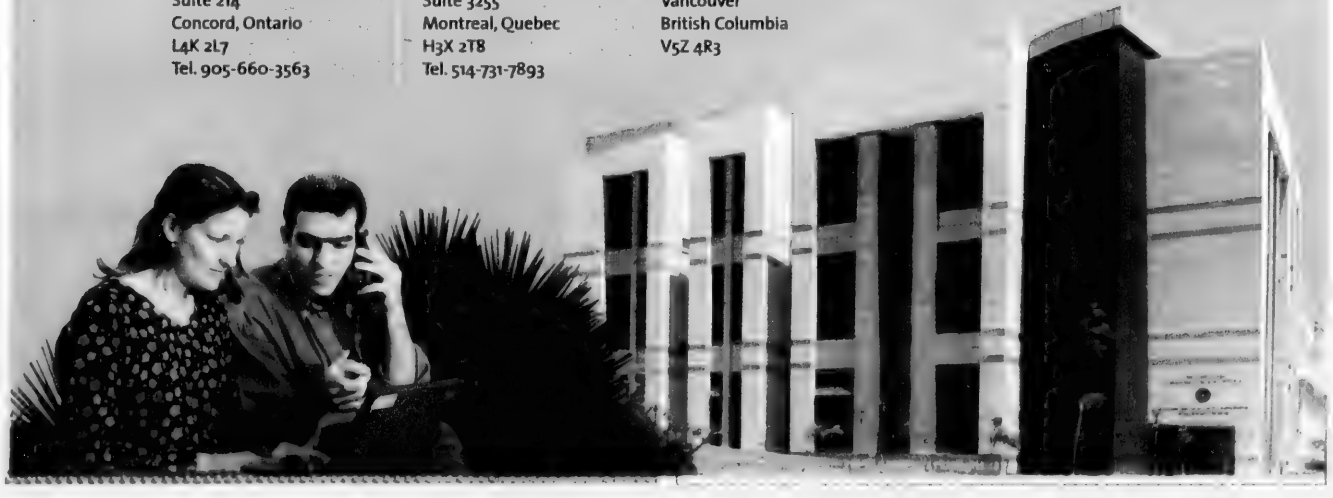

# Former chief rabbi of Israel urges Jews to unite

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Just days before his devastating second stroke in January, then-Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon called Rabbi Israel Meir Lau to discuss a government position he had in mind for him in the Kadimah party, the former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel told a Toronto audience last week.

Sharon asked for Rabbi Lau's help addressing two issues: the disconnection between Jews in the Diaspora and Jews in Israel, and the disconnection between Israeli youth and Jewish tradition, said the rabbi, who is now chief rabbi of Tel Aviv. He was speaking to a crowd of almost 1,200 people at the third annual Spirit of Community dinner held by Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre at Vaughan's Renaissance Parque Centre.

According to the rabbi, the then prime minister said they would speak again about a title and what his position would be. Sharon, however, has been in a coma since Jan. 5.

That conversation explains why he accepted the invitation to Toronto, extended by Rabbi Yisroel Landa, executive director of the host group, said Rabbi Lau, a child survivor of Buchenwald concentration camp. Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre addresses exactly those two issues, he explained.

A secular Israeli living in the Diaspora needs a connection to Jewish tradition "more than in Israel," said Rabbi Lau, who was born in Poland in 1937 and immigrated to Israel in 1945 with his brother on a ship for orphaned children. "He needs to be sure that his continuity is promised, that his grandchildren will be Jewish, as he is."

He urged his audience "to live in peace and friendship," united against 21st-century "common enemies" including violence, poverty, cancer, AIDS and "all kinds of weapons." Jews in particular, "who taught the world monotheism," must set an example, he said.

"When we are together, we can offer our hands to the rest of mankind – all the religions, all the races, all the nations, all the civilizations – telling them we all belong to the same father in heaven."

Rabbi Lau made no reference to reports that he is a likely candidate for the next president of Israel. At least one other speaker alluded to them, but did not name the position explicitly.

In a brief, pre-dinner interview, during which he would accept no political questions, the rabbi discussed relationships between Jews and non-Jews, and those of Orthodox Jews with non-observant and non-Orthodox Jews.

Earlier, Rabbi Lau had told the guests at a VIP reception that the precept "*Ve'ahavta l're'acha kamocha*" ("You shall love your neighbour as yourself") is "the most important rule of ethics of Judaism."

Expanding on that thought, the rabbi – who continues to meet with Muslim leaders – told *The CJN* that Jews should "respect" non-Jews, but he cautioned against "involvement," explaining that intermarriages "threaten the very existence of the Jewish future.

"We, the Jewish people, have to follow the footsteps of our ancient fathers, and there is no conflict between us [and] the rest of the people in the world. Just the contrary, we have to find the bridge of moral and ethics which belong to all mankind and not to look for the differences."

To Jews who are "[still] secular," he said, "we open our hearts, we offer our hands, and we embrace all of them with the hope that they will come [to understand]… that knowledge of God will make full the world."

For non-Orthodox Jews – Conservative and Reform, in particular – the answer is "the same," he said. "We are open to everyone to continue the chain, and we have our laws as they are in Shulchan Aruch, the Jewish code. We are not permitted to change a law which was given by God at Mount Sinai 3,300 years ago."

Although the rabbi has been lauded for his longtime interfaith efforts with Muslim leaders, he said there has been little progress in building bridges.

"Unfortunately, the moderate leaders are too quiet and the fundamentalist leaders are too noisy, and I'm afraid the moderate, who are the real leaders, are a little bit hesitant – I'm speaking in very strict understatement… because of the noise of some fundamentalist spiritual leaders."

This year's dinner honoured businessmen Shlomo (Sam) Cohen and Eli Swirsky, co-founders of the Torgan Group, a commercial real estate company.

Among the politicians and dignitaries at the dinner were Israeli Consul General Ya'acov (Cobie) Brosh and Vaughan Mayor Michael di Biase, who told the crowd a building permit for the Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre was "on its way." The community centre currently operates out of rented premises on Centre Street in Thornhill. Rabbi Eliezer Gurkow of London, Ont., was the MC, and Moshe Ronen, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, introduced Rabbi Lau.

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262 Ridley Blvd. (Avenue Road & Wilson)
10:00am – 12:00noon 6 volunteers required
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11 Ordinance Street (King & Strachan)
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6 St. Joseph Street (Yonge & Wellesley)
9:30am – 12:00noon 6 volunteers required
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5. HELPING THE HOMELESS
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412 Queen Street East (Queen & Parliament)
10:00am – 12:00noon 20 volunteers required
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10:00am – 12:00noon 6 volunteers required
If you enjoy the outdoors, join the Evergreen Foundation at Downsview Park where we will be doing a variety of activities including mulching around trees, watering and pruning trees, as well as weeding the area.

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4600 Bathurst street Lipa Green Building (behind the BJCC)
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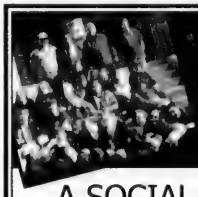

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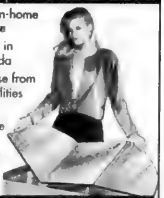
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The Graduation Ceremony will be held on Monday, June 19, 2006 at 8:00 pm at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto

Greater Toronto Area

# York Region shul receives Torah

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Or Hadash, the only synagogue in northern York Region, now has a second Torah scroll.

The Torah was donated by Arthur and Rayetta Solomon and their family. Arthur and Rayetta's son Donald and his family are members of the congregation.

"It is very important for the life of our congregation. To see a family donate a Torah to a small congregation is something that we don't see very often," said Cantor Martin Steinhouse, spiritual leader of the Reform congregation in Newmarket, Ont.

"There is a passage in the *Shema* that tells us that we have to teach the Torah to our children, so in essence we're to pass it down, from generation to generation. [The ceremony] was an example of grandparents passing the Torah down from them to their children, to their children's children, who we then hope, at some point, will pass down to their children the teachings of the Torah."

The Torah is estimated to be around 300 years old and was purchased from a congregation in Ontario that closed its doors "within the last five years," Steinhouse said.

The 13-year-old Or Hadash is affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism and has a membership of 60 young families, 75 per cent of whom were at the dedication, Steinhouse said.

The celebration began at 9 a.m. May 28, at a park at Wayne and Howard drives.

"We paraded around Wayne and entered our area where we formed a big circle and danced with the Torah, singing wonderful songs. We then proceeded into the sanctuary and brought the Torah in, under the chupah," he said.

Steinhouse said the procession caught the attention of a Jewish couple shopping at a paint store nearby.

"They saw us walking into the parking lot [of the plaza where Or Hadash is located], and when they saw us and what we were doing, they decided to join us, which I thought was quite interesting," he said.

Steinhouse said having a second Torah scroll is important.

"There are times during the year when we read from more than one Torah," he said.

For example, at Simchat Torah, "we read from the end of the Torah and then we immediately begin Bereshit, the beginning of the Torah.

"And on Yom Kippur afternoon, we read Bereshit at the beginning of the Torah, but yet, in the morning service, we read from another part of the Torah."

**Cantor Martin Steinhouse, of Or Hadash Congregation in Newmarket, dances in the synagogue's parking lot with the congregation's newly received 300-year-old Torah scroll. [Jenna Rosman photo]**

York Region's Jewish population of about 60,000 includes Newmarket's 740 Jews, and Steinhouse said it's growing by leaps and bounds.

"Judaism doesn't just stop in Thornhill, Richmond Hill and the City of Toronto. Judaism is vibrant and it's really [thriving up north]," he said. "Our congregation is such that most families come to every event that we have, be it services or a social. Everyone knows everyone else. It is just a very warm and caring group of people. Everyone is made to feel welcome the minute they walk through the doors."

Or Hadash also has religious education classes for children from five years old to bar or bat mitzvah.

For more information on Or Hadash, visit the website at www.orhadash.org or call 905-898-2220.

## Omission

In a photo caption for the launch of the Women of Vision Tribute Dinner (*CJN*, May 25), one of the honorees was not mentioned. Rose Ziner will also be honoured at the tribute dinner in November. *The CJN* regrets the omission.

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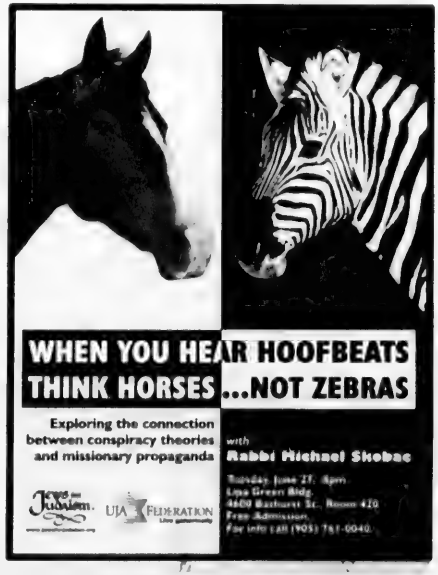

# CUPE's Sid Ryan obsessed with Israel

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

The recent vote by the Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) to boycott Israel was met with a torrent of criticism in the media. Perhaps the strongest case against the CUPE decision – and against Sid Ryan, president of CUPE Ontario – was made by Michael Coren on his talk show *Michael Coren Live* (CTS, June 2.)

Coren, who actually considers Ryan a friend and regularly features him on his show, nailed the hapless CUPE Ontario boss time and again for both his ignorance of basic facts and his hypocrisy in singling out Israel for special censure.

In letters to both the *Globe and Mail* (June 2) and *National Post* (June 3), Ryan defended the boycott by arguing that Israel was in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which, according to him, require Israel to leave territories occupied since the 1967 war "immediately."

Ryan is utterly wrong. Resolutions 242 and 338 were passed in 1967, in recognition that Israel had fought a war of self-defence, and that any withdrawal from territories would occur only in the context of peace and security guarantees from Israel's Arab neighbours. This is what Israel has been trying to achieve since Camp David I (1978), which resulted in a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979. It later made peace with Jordan in 1994. Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians during the Oslo period (1993-2000) were subverted when then-Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat rejected Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's and U.S. president Bill Clinton's offers of Palestinian statehood at Camp David II (summer 2000) and in the subsequent months.

The point is that Israel has long been involved in a process of achieving peace as stipulated by UN resolutions 242 and 338. That Ryan insists otherwise and that CUPE Ontario insists that Israel refuses "to recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination" reveal their abysmal ignorance of history.

On the Coren show, Ryan insisted that Israel was deliberately trying to oppress the Palestinians. Even more offensive were his attacks on "the [Jewish] lobby" for threatening CUPE Ontario staff.

"The Jewish lobby is quite rabid in terms of the comments they're making to my staff, threatening my staff, calling them racists, bigots," Ryan said.

When Coren challenged Ryan to explain who precisely he was referring to by the monolithic Jewish lobby, Ryan tried to sidestep the question, vowing that "this lobby will not push me one inch, not one inch."

Coren replied: "Look at what you've done… You've just said 'the Jewish lobby' is physically threatening your staff. That, I could argue, is actually quite a racist thing to say."

Coren was equally strong in criticizing Ryan's description of Israel as an "apartheid" state – a term favoured by those bent on delegitimizing Israel. Coren noted that there are Israeli Arabs who sit in the Knesset – and that, in fact, such MKs have been on Coren's show. Coren also stressed that, while they're not without grievances, Israeli Arabs enjoy full democratic rights and freedoms, including membership in labour unions. Indeed, he noted, they enjoy rights in Israel that they would not have under the Palestinian Authority or other Arab regimes.

None of this made the slightest impression on Ryan, who only wanted to talk about Israeli policies in the West Bank. And here again, he was back to the canard about the Jewish lobby: "If you listen to the [Jewish] lobby groups… they lead you to believe that somehow all Palestinians are terrorists."

For the record, the Canada-Israel Committee supports Palestinian rights, including the right of self-determination in a state of their own – depending, obviously, on the Palestinian leadership being truly committed to peacefully living alongside Israel as a Jewish state (which also means giving up their claim, which CUPE Ontario endorses, of a "right of return" to Israel – a prescription for Israel's destruction).

However, the Palestinian Authority is now governed by Hamas, which wants to eliminate Israel and rejects all previous agreements, including UN resolutions (such as 242) that call for peaceful reconciliation.

So why doesn't CUPE Ontario call for a boycott of the Palestinian Authority, or a boycott of China over Tibet, Russia over Chechnya, or Iran for saying that Israel should be "wiped off the map?"

Ryan is clearly obsessed with Israel and all its imagined faults. That became apparent in his irrational defence of CUPE Ontario's terribly misguided boycott, and in his utter refusal to be swayed even "one inch" by the facts.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*


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# Ryan responds to his critics

**Continued from page 5**

Ryan responded to his critics in a column in the *Toronto Star*, saying that the vote "to support an international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel has to be seen in the context of our union's overall policy in the Middle East and our history of union democracy and social justice."

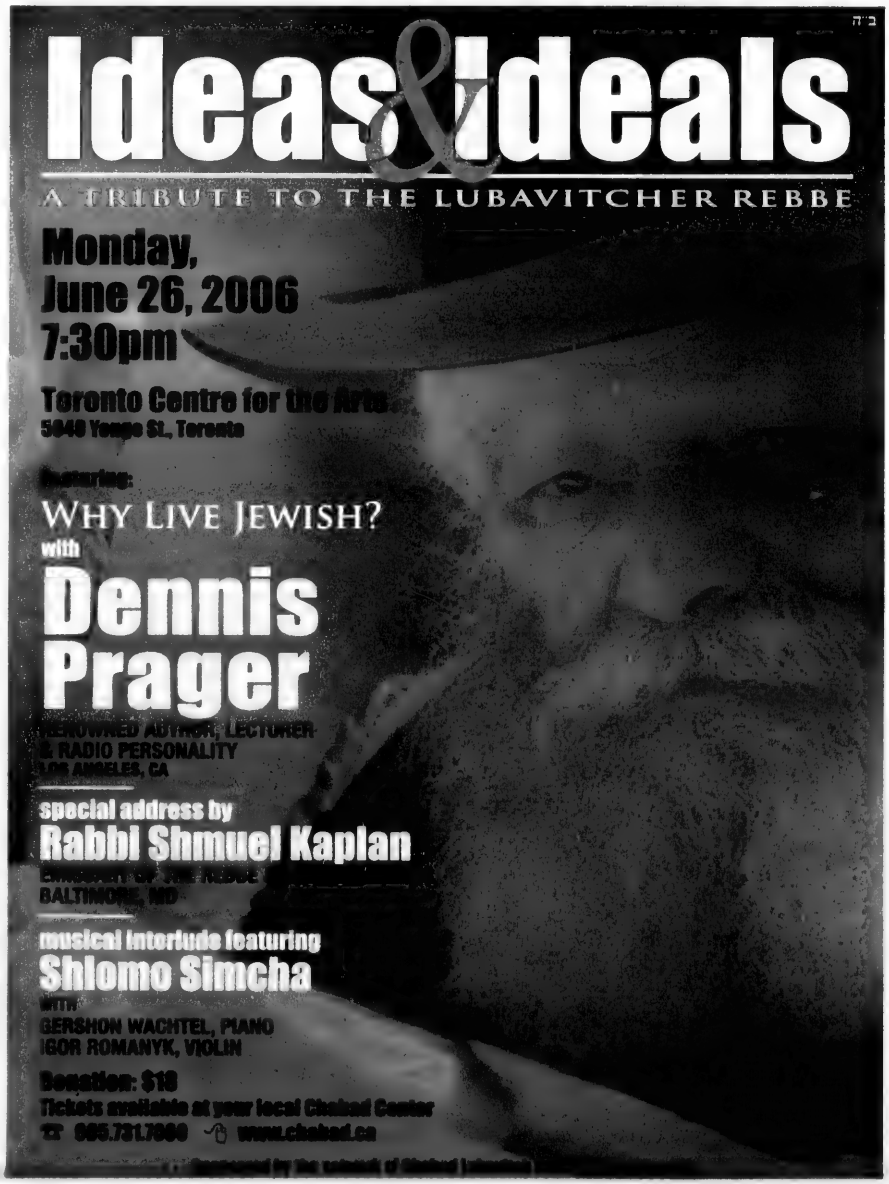
The CUPE resolution was intended to "draw attention to [Palestinians'] inhumane suffering… through a peaceful form of protest against the policies of the state of Israel, which are clearly contrary to international law."

His *Star* column accused Israel of "debasement and dehumanization" of the Palestinians and said international sanctions and Israeli security restrictions were increasing Palestinian poverty and hunger.

He said construction of Israel's security wall – deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice – amounted to a unilateral creation of a border and a land grab, and he said expansion of "illegal settlements in the West Bank" violated UN resolutions.

"So, frustrated like so many millions who support a negotiated and just peace in the Middle East, CUPE members exercised their right to introduce policy resolutions to their Ontario division convention."

CUPE Ontario was supported by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (CSATU), an umbrella organization that represents 1.2 million workers. Its president, Wille Madisha, published a letter saying, "as someone who lived in apartheid in South Africa and who has visited Palestine, I say with confidence that Israel is an apartheid state.'"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# שישאר ביינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

### לאמא באהבה

קטע ששלח לי חברי פרופ. בוב ברנט מפילדלפיה, קטע שגרם לי, כמו אולי לרבים מיכם לדמעה קטנה בקצה העין:

"אחרי עשרים ואחת שנות נישואין הציעה אשתי שאצא עם אשה אחרת לארוחת ערב וסרט... היא אמרה:"אני אוהבת אותך, אך אני יודעת שגם שהאשה הזאת אוהבת אותך וגם היא היתה רוצה לבלות איתך קצת זמן איכות". האשה שאשתי התכוונה אליה היתה אמי, שהתאלמנה לפני תשע עשרה שנה, אך לחץ העבודה ושלושת ילדנו גרמו לביקורים נדירים בלבד שלי אצלה.

באותו ערב, כשצלצלתי אליה להזמינה היא נבהלה ושאלה:"מה קרה? הכל בסדר? והילדים?"

" פשוט חשבתי שיהיה נחמד שנצא ביחד, רק שנינו", עניתי.

אחרי מחשבה קצרה היא ענתה: "זה ישמח אותי מאוד".

כשנסעתי לקחת אותה ביום ששי הייתי קצת עצבני. גם היא היתה קצת מתוחה, וחיכתה ליד הדלת כשהמעיל כבר עליה. היא היתה לבושה בשמלה שאותה תפרה ליום נישואיה האחרון לפני מות אבי. היא חייכה:"סיפרתי לחברות שאני יוצאת עם הבן שלי והן התרשמו עמוקות". אמא כרכה את זרועה בשלי כאילו היתה אשת הנשיא. במשך הארוחה שוחחנו על דא ועל הא, שום דבר מיוחד. דיברנו ודיברנו עד ששכחנו ללכת לסרט.

כשהחזרתי אותה הביתה היא אמרה: " אשמח ללכת איתך שוב, אך רק בתנאי שאני אשלם".

"איך היה הערב שלך? " שאלה אשתי כשחזרתי, ואני הודיתי לה על חוכמתה.

כמה ימים לאחר מכן נפטרה אמי מהתקף לב שקרה כל כך בפתאומיות, שלא יכולתי לעשות שום דבר עבורה. כמה שבועות מאוחר יותר קיבלתי בדואר מעטפה ובה העתק של קבלה מאותה מסעדה שבה סעדתי לאחרונה עם אמא, ובפתק המצורף היא כתבה: " שילמתי את החשבון מראש. לא הייתי בטוחה אם אצליח להגיע; בכל אופן שילמתי עבור שתי מנות-אחת לך ואחת לסוזי אשתך.... מעולם לא תדע כמה משמעותי היה הערב ההוא עבורי"

באותו רגע הבנתי כמה חשוב לומר בזמן "אני אוהב/ת אותך", ולתת לאלה שאנחנו אוהבים את הזמן ותשומת הלב שלה הם ראויים. שום דבר בחיים אינו חשוב יותר מאשר המשפחה. תנו להם את הזמן שלו הם ראויים, כי דברים שכאלה אינם יכולים לחכות "לזמן המתאים"....

### שלמה כהן-יקיר הקהילה

בשבוע שעבר נערך האירוע השנתי של קהילת חב"ד בנוכחות אלף ומאתיים אנשי הקהילה הישראלית והיהודית של טורונטו. הערב הוקדש למספר אנשים שזכו בתואר " יקיר הקהילה" על תרומתם לקהילה הישראלית. שלמה כהן, יום, בתה, ממציא, הוא דוגמא לאלה שמדברים מעט ועושים הרבה. ובקהילה שבה מצפים רבים לכיבודים, שלטים ושאר דברי הלל על כל תרומה של עשרים דולר, ממש מרענן למצוא אנשים כמו שלמה שעושים את שלהם בשקט ומתעקשים להישאר באלמוניותם. ממש כדברי הכתוב " מי שבורח מן הכבוד- הכבוד רודף אותו".

חשוב לציין שקהילת חב"ד חרתה על דגלה את הדאגה לצרכי "מהגרים יהודיים מישראל", ללא כחל וסרק, ללא התנצלויות וצקצוקי לשון. ואפילו רחוק אדם מהחוויה היהודית של חב"ד-אי אפשר שלא יתרגש מהרב לנדא שסיסמתו היא "אהבת חינם". ובימים שבהם מלאה הארץ שנאת חינם, כן, גם בין יהודים- אהבת החינם של הרב לנדא מהווה עבורי מקור השראה. אבל שישאר ביינו.

On Campus

# Yiddish language needs a boost, say educators

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Interest in Yiddish education is dwindling and the 1,000-year-old language and culture is no longer widely esteemed.

That was the conclusion panellists at the closing panel of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies' (ACJS) conference, The Futures of Yiddish Education and Culture in Canada, came to recently.

Yiddish was once the language of the masses and is now the language of a small minority of people, said Keith Weiser, professor of Jewish history at York University's School of Jewish Studies.

Weiser was speaking to an audience of about 100 people at York University on May 30.

He cited Hebrew University in Israel as the only university to still conduct Yiddish graduate programs in Yiddish. Columbia University no longer incorporates Yiddish interaction into its graduate program, said Weiser.

He noted that people "do not know a language until fully exposed and brought into the culture" and said one problem faced when learning Yiddish is, "Where you speak Yiddish, you speak English."

Weiser, who received his doctorate from Columbia University in 2001, said it's important to be "fully immersed" in the language of a people, rather than learning solely from a textbook.

"[At Columbia University] we were exposed to a wide range of Yiddish-speaking people," he said.

Weiser said eastern European Jewry was an "integral part of European history" and should be considered and studied as a civilization.

Marc Kates, Yiddish instructor at Bialik Hebrew Day School, the only Jewish school in Toronto to teach Yiddish, regrets that once his students enter high school, they will be unable to attain a full understanding of Yiddishkeit.

"I was once told math and science are at the top of the list [as being the most important subjects in school], while Yiddish was at the bottom," he said. "French was only a smidgen above Yiddish."

Kates said he feels as if he's in a "battle against naysayers of Yiddish," who do not deem Yiddish to be a legitimate subject for study.

Others featured on the panel included Janie Respitz Ben-Shach, president of the Jewish Public Library in Montreal, and Ethal Cooper, a Yiddish instructor and former director of the UJA Federation Committee for Yiddish.

Ben-Shach, who studied Yiddish at Hebrew University, said that while the Jewish Public Library in Montreal is no longer "steeped in Yiddish," as the Yiddish-speaking population ages, it's still a "top priority." She said that the library's five-times-a-year Yiddish Café nights have been successful in attracting the younger generation.

Ben-Shach has taught Yiddish to students at Montreal's Jewish Peoples Schools and Peretz Schools (JPPS) and said it's important to "immerse [youth] in the culture" in order for them to have a broader understanding of Yiddish.

Cooper said the UJA Committee for Yiddish has tried to establish a Yiddish theatre in Toronto, in order to play a role in the community and "foster" the language and culture, but so far "we have not been as successful as we would like to be."

Following the panellists' discussion, members of the audience responded from the floor.

"There is no support for Yiddish," said a woman who is a performer of klezmer and Yiddish music. "The only people to support are colleagues and acquaintances." She argued that in order for the Jewish population to have a sense of Yiddishkeit, they have to be "Jewish and proud."

"Our [Jewish] culture is so rich, it's world class," she said.

Following her, a member of the audience said there is a "disdain" for Jewish culture, and said it has to be made "hip" or "cool" to be appreciated.

"We must not deprive children of 1,000 years of Jewish history," he said.

Earlier that evening, Irving Abella, York University professor and author of six books, including the award-winning *None Is Too Many*, received the 2006 Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award and a young klezmer group, Pomegranate, performed.

**BBYO CONVENTION:**
**BBYO recently held its annual spring convention at Camp Northland. Dozens of Jewish teens from across Toronto gathered for a fun-filled weekend of athletic, social, and Jewish cultural programming, as well as a special farewell to graduating members. Pictured standing, from left, are Josh Lankar, Daniel Covent, Edan Kelner, Matt Cott and Adam Ehrent; sitting are Jason Mortfield, left, and Jamie Goodman; and lying down is Tyler Berman.**

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

Mazel Tov
GILA and JONATHAN
on your engagement and upcoming wedding.
The Ashtor and Hillel families are thrilled

**Happy Father's Day to Loren Freid, the best daddy in the world. I love you, Emma-Belle**

**Mazel tov to Dr. Jerod Gollant & Samara Salomon on your recent engagement. Love, Carole & Eric Gollant and Karen & the late Joe Salomon.**

**Mazel tov to Pearl & Lloyd Weiss on your 50th wedding anniversary from all your children and grandchildren. We love you.**

**Happy 66th anniversary to Frank & Yetta Lean - our loving parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. We wish you continued health and happiness! Love, your family.**

**Happy first birthday to Hannah Yael Lipman. Love Mommy, Daddy, Sammy, Matthew and the gantze mishpachah.**

**Mazel tov to Miriam & Oren on the birth of Jasmine Levy on March 20, from proud grandparents Michael & Elaine Levy, Fred & Debbie Granek.**

## SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

**Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4**

JNF
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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
416-638-7200

# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

**What's New deadlines: Monday, June 12, is the deadline for the June 22 issue, and Monday, June 19, is the deadline for June 29. NOTE: The deadline for the July 6 issue is Wednesday, June 21. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 236, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, June 15

**ANIMATED FILM FEST**

Join the Winchevsky Centre for a Jewish Animation Celebration, with films from around the world including *Slide* (Canada), *Fallout* (Israel), *Your Name in Cellulite* (Canada) and *The Nuclear Physicist Gives His Son a Haircut* (United States). 7:30 p.m. Members $4, guests $6. 416-789-5502.

**KIDDUSH AND HAVDALAH**

Nishma presents **Rabbi Aaron Selevan** on "Halachic Issues of Shabbat: Kiddush and Havdalah." 8 p.m. at the home of **Joel** and **Lisa Jakobovits**, 52 Theodore Pl. 416-630-0588

## Saturday, June 17

**HALTON-PEEL SHUL**

Join B'Nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue, for its monthly Shabbat service at 10 a.m. followed by kiddush and lively conversation. For information, e-mail bnaishalom2004@yahoo.ca or call **Judi** at 905-469-4344.

## Sunday, June 18

**ZAREINU MOVEATHON**

Join the 9th Annual Zareinu Moveathon at Earl Bales Park and help children with physical and developmental disabilities. The event features 50-k and 100-k master bike rides, a 20-k family ride, a 10-k run and a 2-k family fun loop. Moveathon Fair, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., has carnival games and free live entertainment. For information or registration, call 416-661-1800 or visit www.moveathon.com.

## Tuesday, June 20

**CHUG HATANACH**

**Rabbi Phillip Brumer** will lead the study group in a discussion of *The Book of Proverbs*, Chapter 15. Beth David Congregation at 8 p.m.

**SHOW, SHARE AND KVELL**

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meets for its year-end closing event. Members will showcase their work of the past year. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim. For information, info@pomegranateguild.ca.

## Wednesday, June 21

***OLD MEN AT MIDNIGHT***

Shaarei Shomayim presents **Harriet Morris** leading a book discussion about **Chaim Potok**'s *Old Men at Midnight* at the home of **Farohk** and **Dalya Hakimi**, 46 Forest Wood. 8 p.m. RSVP, 416-789-3213.

## Other News

**TCHAI ART SHOW**

The TCHAI Art Show featuring 17 female artists is raising funds for Jewish Women International's programs to end violence against women. June 21-July 2 at the Papermill Gallery, 67 Pottery Rd. For information, contact 416-630-9313 or visit jwicanada.com.

**CLIENT/VOLUNTEER TEA**

The Senior Support Program at Baycrest Centre is holding its Annual Client/Volunteer Tea on Thursday, June 22, 1:30-3 p.m. Clients and volunteers meet face-to-face for food and entertainment. 416-785-2500, ext. 2247.

**FAMILY LAW & WEALTH**

Join Temple Sinai Foundation for "Family Law: Myths and Realities, Protecting Your Wealth" with **Howard M. Carr**. Thursday, June 22, 7:30-9 p.m. RSVP to 416-487-4161, ext. 220 or audrey@templesinai.net.

**SHOP FOR THE SHUL**

Anshe Minsk Congregation hosts a barbecue and silent auction Sunday, June 25, 12-5 p.m. 12 St. Andrew St. 416-595-5723.

**Continued on page 27**

Baycrest
Enriching Care
Enhancing Knowledge
Enlightening Minds

**Community Day Centre for Seniors**

**Adding Life to Years**

**The Day Centre offers a welcoming club-like atmosphere with social, recreation and educational activities.**

The Day Centre includes three "Clubs" for: the well elderly and physically frail; those with mild cognitive impairment; and those with moderate to severe cognitive impairment who require a safe, secure environment.

**Each Club offers:**

- Activities in several languages
- Escorted round trip door to door transpsortation
- Full course hot kosher lunch & snacks (COR)
- Counselling/support and education
- Health promotion/wellness programs
- Special activities related to holidays and observances
- Respite for caregivers
- Access to Baycrest clinics

**Call: 416.785-2500, ext: 2223**
**or visit our website at www.baycrest.org**

Baycrest
Enriching Care
Enhancing Knowledge
Enlightening Minds

We cordially invite
you to attend the

**Annual Meeting**

of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care (Baycrest)
and The Baycrest Centre Foundation

**Thursday, June 22, 2006**
**3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Winter Garden,
Apotex Centre,
Jewish Home for the Aged
3560 Bathurst Street,
Toronto

The Annual Meeting
will be immediately
followed by the
**Baycrest BOARD*walk***
www.baycrest.org/boardwalk

Please help Baycrest
acknowledge this year's recipients of the:

**Chair's Proud Partners Award**
**The President's Award for Innovation**
**The President's Award for Leadership Excellence**
**The Donald T. Stuss Award for Research Excellence**
**Special Recognition Award**

Baycrest's By-law No. 22 will be presented for approval
By-law No. 22 modifies By-law No. 20 to add the Chair
of the Baycrest Centre Foundation as an ex officio member
of Baycrest's Board of Directors.

**RSVP 416 785 2500 x6218**

Geriatric Health Care System · Research Centre for Aging and the Brain · Centre for Education on Aging · Baycrest Foundation

## What's New

**Continued from page 26**

### MEMORY AND AGING

**Dr. Nicole D. Anderson**, assistant professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at University of Toronto, will present "Memory and Aging" at the Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital information session Wednesday, June 28, 2-3:30 p.m. Learn what is normal memory loss and what isn't as we age and learn specific techniques for remembering day to day things. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374 to register.

### AUDITION CALL

Medina Theatre Ensemble holds an audition for a performance of *Second Time Around* by **Henry Denker**. They are seeking actors age 45 to 70. The staging will take place at Earl Bales Park Auditorium on Sunday, July 30, 2 p.m. Audition is Monday, June 26, 7-9:30 p.m. at 15 Hove St. RSVP to **Roselle** 416-633-2057 or **Lois** 416-781-8076.

### GOLF TOURNAMENTS

**BBYO's 12th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held Wednesday, July 12, at Nobleton Lakes Golf Course. Funds raised support the local BBYO leadership training program and the Colorectal Cancer Campaign in memory of **Steve Glickman**. For information, call 416-398-2004, ext. 221.

**Henry's Tournament Fore Health** supporting the **Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital** takes place Thursday, Aug. 3, at Angus Glen Golf Club. For information, contact **Cindy Goelman** at 416-586-8203 or cgoelman@mtsinai.on.ca or visit www.mtsinai.on.ca/henrysgolf.

### SHAAR SHALOM SCHOOL

Shaar Shalom Religious School is accepting registration for 2006-2007. Its new Thornhill location is at Brownridge Public School behind the Promenade Mall. For information, call **Hava Greenberg**, 905-889-4975.

### NEW TO TORONTO?

If you are new to the GTA or know someone who is, make the move a little easer. Shalom Toronto welcomes new residents to the Jewish community with a warm greeting and a gift basket. Call 416-635-5600 or e-mail jinfo@ujafed.org.

### EATING DISORDERS

Eating Disorders of York Region provides services, education and support groups for families and friends of individuals affected by eating disorders. Join them in Richmond Hill Thursday evenings: young adults, 6-7:30 p.m., parents, family and friends, 7:30-9 p.m. For information, call 905-886-6632 or visit www.edoyr.com.

### JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St., #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafes: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual, friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in 2 locations, BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles. Participants or volunteers, call ext 30.

JIAS Toronto offers programs for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison**, ext. 28.

### JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service, 4600 Bathurst St. Information or registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

Developing A Successful Parenting Plan, a workshop for parents wanting to develop a businesslike relationship with their former partners. Tuesday, June 20, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite #313. Call **Shawna**, ext. 215, to register.

Parenting Teens with Challenging Behaviour, a 5-session group for parents who find their teen difficult, dealing with such problems as not following the rules, poor emotional control, poor communication, not being motivated, having school difficulties, alcohol and drug use. Tuesdays, beginning July 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. To register, call **Diane**, ext. 246.

Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour, a 5-session group for parents of children who frequently have difficult behaviour such as temper tantrums, aggression, talking back, not following rules, or trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays, beginning July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call **Diane**, ext. 246 to register.

## FOR SENIORS

**Temple Sinai Senior Club** presents Food for Thought Lecture Series Mondays 2-4 p.m. till June 26. Monday, June 19, **Dr. Rheta Rosen** on "Changing Relationships Between Generations." Members $7, guests $10. 416 221-6375.

**Association of Jewish Seniors** holds its 8th annual To Our Good Health Luncheon, Thursday, June 22, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. Members free, guests $3. Register by June 15, 416-635-2860.

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, June 25; Casino Rama, June 28; Casino Niagara, July 26; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 15, bingo; June 22, movie. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**PAL Seniors Group at Earl Bales** goes to Mohawk Casino and Raceway, Wednesday, June 28; *High Society* at the Shaw Festival, Tuesday, July 11. Tickets, 416-398-2424.

### WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn with **Phil Fields** on "Understanding Basic Requirements to Well-Being as We Age." Tuesday, June 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. $5, non-members $7. RSVP, ext. 2275.

### BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Computer Rama Wednesday, June 21, 1-3 p.m.

Spend the day at Betel, Thursday, June 22 with Stories from the Heart, at noon; Fun with Yiddish, 1 p.m. – members $2, non-members $4; and Komedy Kabaret, 2:30 p.m.

Israeli Etrog Club meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

**Theresa Tova** inagurates Jazz at the J, Wednesday, June 21, 8 p.m., at the Al Green Theatre. $22 in advance, $28 on day of performance. 416-872-1212, 1-800-461-3333 or www.ticketking.com.

Toronto IsReal Dance Festival, June 30, July 1 and 2. Tickets on sale now.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music presents the final performance of Opera Sundays, June 18, 1-5 p.m. in the Koffler Loggia. For information, call ext. 228.

Centre Camp, Toronto's largest Jewish day camp has a few summer spaces remaining. For program and registration information, call **Jen Peters**, ext 378.

**EMUNAH SCHOLARSHIPS: Each year Emunah Women of Toronto awards two scholarships to students planning to spend a year studying in Israel. This year's winners, both graduates of Ulpanat Orot, are Tirtza Spiegel, who will study at Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim and received the Louis Manpel Award, and Miryam Spiegel, who will study at Midreshet Lindenbaum and received the Dorothy Zeifman Award. Seen, from left, are award committee co-chair Pessy Weitzner, Miryam Spiegel, Tirtza Spiegel and award committee co-chair Roberta Newman.** [Rebecca Ansel photo]

**ONE FAMILY FUND VISITS LEO BAECK: Grade 7 and 8 students at Leo Baeck Day School's Holy Blossom campus recently met with two Israeli victims of terror, Yossi Zur, left, and Eitan Rado, who spoke to them about One Family Fund and the support it gives to victims of terror and their families.**

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22*

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

## BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David Rodness | May 29/06 | 19 Terra Cotta Cres |
| Earle Freeman | May 28/06 | 40 Collinson Blvd |
| Jacqueline Edelson | May 27/06 | 205 Cummer Ave |
| Joseph (Joe) Garfinkel | May 30/06 | 89 Millersgrove Dr |
| Fannie Caplan | Jun 1/06 | 429 Walmer Rd |
| Miriam Deckallo | Jun 3/06 | 640 Roselawn Ave #400 |
| Betty Chousky | Jun 2/06 | 25 Canyon Ave, #1806 |
| Hy Baltzan | Jun 2/06 | 3560 Bathurst St (Apotex) |
| Millie Goodman | Jun 2/06 | 111 Avenue Rd, # 201 |
| Melanie Blum | Jun 4/06 | 623 Coldstream Ave |
| Bess Bernamoff | Jun 3/06 | 55 Ameer Ave, # 703 |
| Lois Levy | Jun 5/06 | |
| Sylvia Frohman | Jun 3/06 | 1035 Eglinton Ave W, # 318 |

## Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fuksbrumer, Regina | June 2/06 | 160 Westmount Blvd |
| Bermanski, Adam | June 2/06 | 306 Finch Ave E |
| Edson, Robert | June 1/06 | 131 Beecroft Rd |
| Drewnowsky, Helen | June 3/06 | 2 Cedarspring Grove |
| Grajner, Chil | June 2/06 | Private |
| Gondos, Elisabeth | June 4/06 | 1 Canyon Ave |
| Horowitz, Israel Menachem | June 5/06 | 70 Pleasant Blvd |
| Goodman, Sheree Lynne | June 5/06 | 1710 Heritage Way |
| Ragimov, Fania | June 6/06 | 6250 Bathurst St |
| Shvarts, Michael | June 5/06 | 215 Olive Ave |
| Patton, Tina | June 7/06 | 33 Elmhurst Ave |
| Podolsky, Zelda | June 6/06 | 76 Playfair Ave |
| Rubinoff, Jean | June 7/06 | 418 Castlefield Ave |
| Goodman, Ethel | June 7/06 | 3636 Bathurst St |
| Caspary, Betty | June 7/06 | Private |
| Kirshner, Ruth | June 7/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Leslie, Jean | June 8/06 | Private |

**A Father's Day Tribute for**

**J. EDWARD BRESLIN** (1910-1995)

You are still ever present - and always will be.

Your legacy of love and wisdom shines down upon us.

We hear your voice, we see your eyes, we feel you all around us.

You are our strength, our inspiration, you are our loving father.

*Your Loving Kids,*
*Stephen, Perry, Cindy, Blake*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**MICHAEL BENJAMIN** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 18th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**

Dufferin St., 1 km north of Major Mackenzie
Community Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**BEN JAVASKY** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 18th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Clanton Park Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

**The Holtzman Family**

would like to thank our family and friends for your outpouring of love and support at the loss of our wonderful

**Willy Holtzman** ז"ל

*Your kind expressions of sympathy and generous donations have touched our hearts deeply.*

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS

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**Kramer, David** ז"ל (age 57), passed away peacefully in his home on Friday, June 2nd, 2006 in Toronto, Canada. Dearly beloved husband of Desre (Dee) Kramer, brother of Ryan and Susan Kramer and brother-in-law of Tessa and Harris Kershnar, Peter and Mallory Edinburg, Lindy and Michael Goldstein and Vivienne Kramer. Donations in his memory may be made to the Tammy Letner Palliative Care Unit at Mt. Sinai Hosptal.

**EDELSON, Jacqueline Perle (nee Singer)** BA, MSW

Peacefully in her 84th year at Sunnybrook Hospital on Sunday, May 28, 2006. Founding director of Wagman Center at Baycrest and pioneer in the special care of mentally impaired elderly. Jacqueline, devoted wife of the late Howard Edelson. Loving mother of Jeff Edelson and Lynne Watson, Miriam Edelson and Andy King, Abbe Edelson, and step-mother of Tom Edelson and Rachel Loden. Dear sister of Edgar and daughter-in-law Faye. Loving grandmother of Kaitlyn, Sarah, the late Jake, Emma and Claire Sadly missed by niece Anne and nephew Jonathan. A memorial service will be held in the future. If desired, donations may be made to Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care 416-785-2875.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**RUTH KIRSH** ז"ל

beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister & aunt
will take place

**Sunday, June 18th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Clanton Park Synagogue Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

**Subscribe to**

The Canadian Jewish news

The family of the late

**Barbara Frances Grimson** ז"ל

wishes to acknowledge that the second yahrzeit will be observed on Friday, June 16th, 2006.

*To the world you were special;*
*to us you were the world.*

**ALEF'S FAIRLAWN MONUMENTS**

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# Ahenakew's hate crime conviction thrown out

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

A Saskatchewan judge has thrown out the hate crimes conviction of former native leader David Ahenakew and ordered a new trial.

Queen's Bench judge C.J. Laing overturned the conviction after finding the trial judge failed to adequately consider a defence contention that Ahenakew did not wilfully intend to promote the hatred of Jews.

Ahenakew was convicted in July 2005 by a Provincial Court judge based on statements he made to an assembly of native leaders in December 2002 and in comments he made shortly afterward to a reporter from Saskatoon's *StarPhoenix* newspaper. Ahenakew called Jews "a disease" and told the reporter "the Jews damn near owned all of Germany prior to the war. That's why Hitler came in, that he was gonna make damn sure that the Jews didn't take over Germany or Europe. That's why he fried six million of those guys."

Ahenakew appealed the conviction, with defence lawyer Doug Christie arguing Ahenakew's interview with the reporter was not intended as a public statement. He also contended the evidence showed Ahenakew's remarks did not show he had planned in advance to promote hate.

Laing found Ahenakew was an experienced public spokesman and would have known his remarks would be published.

But Laing concluded, "With respect to whether [Ahenakew] was 'wilfully' promoting hatred against people of the Jewish faith... the trial judge did not... consider all of the evidence surrounding the making of the statements."

Laing found the trial judge did not consider that some of Ahenakew's remarks were prompted by a request for an interview by the reporter, that the interview lasted around three minutes, that Ahenakew cut the interview short, that he hung up when the reporter called him later and that he twice said he did not want to continue talking about Jews.

Canadian Jewish Congress, which had intervened in the case to argue for the validity of Canada's anti-hate laws, said, "We respect the judicial process and have every confidence in the Crown to make appropriate choice as to whether or not it will appeal [the] decision, or proceed directly to a new trial."

# Winnipeg shul celebrates 100th anniversary

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — On May 28, members and supporters of the Talmud Torah-Beth Jacob Synagogue sat down to a dinner celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Beth Jacob shul.

It was an evening of remembering, with the president of the north Winnipeg congregation, Percy Golubchuk, rereading the speech in Yiddish that he originally read as a youngster almost 40 years ago at the dedication of the opening of the second Beth Jacob building on Matheson Avenue. The shul moved there after the land on Schultz Street that the original synagogue stood on was expropriated by the city in 1966.

"I grew up at the Beth Jacob shul," recalled Golubchuk whose grandfather, Jacob Telpinsterin, was the shul's vice-president at the time of the dedication of the Matheson building.

Harold Buchwald, the evening's guest speaker, recalled that his grandfather, Max Buchwald, joined Beth Jacob when he moved from Winkler, Man., to Winnipeg in 1920. Max Buchwald remained a member of the shul until his death in 1934. His funeral was held at the synagogue.

"When I look around this room, I see the history and the memorabilia," Buchwald said. "It's exciting for those of us who appreciate living history."

He cited as an example a memorial stone at the front of the synagogue with the inscribed names of the members of the board of directors of the Winnipeg Hebrew Free School circa 1920.

The congregation moved into its present building – a converted former movie theatre on Main Street – in 1998 after the community sold the old building, which also housed the Talmud Torah School and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate. The two schools were moved to the new Asper Jewish Community Campus in south Winnipeg, where they became part of Gray Academy.

The synagogue members were able to take the shul's stained glass windows with them and install them inside the new building, along with the stone plaques from the original synagogue.

Buchwald's talk related to the founding of the Beth Jacob, and he compared them to three individuals – Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizman and Eddy Jacobson (U.S. president Harry Truman's Jewish former business partner) – who were instrumental in the founding of the State of Israel.

They were individuals who were "the right persons, in the right place, at the right time," he said.




## Toronto Hadassah-WIZO

**Toronto Hadassah-WIZO recognizes the following new life members:**

Susan Wilson
Brenda Cooper
Miriam Lieberman
Hyla Korn
Sarena Seidman
Alexandra Satok
Jacqueline Satok
Halle Cohen
Gail Berman
Jenna Zucker
Michelle Apple
Corrie Gancman
Valerie Krusner
Tracy Handler
Annette Filler
Gillian Lesser
Alla Levit
Kris Brannan
Shawna Akerman
Trish Armel
Lisa Fineberg
Jenna Bresge
Tamar Bresge
Adina Bresge
Elissa Podolsky
Elissa Reiken
Glennie Brown-Mandel
Pamela Freedman
Fern Glicksman
Risa Miller
Risa Mintz
Shelley Rosenblatt
Robin Singer-Turack
Maureen Tartick
Carolyn Weiss
Vanessa Stein
Rachel Hannah Bloom
Anne Goldman
Shawna Swartz
Shelley Goldenberg
Wendy Goldman
Rhonda Wolf
Rochelle Zwicker
Lesley Steyn
Shirley Warner
Andrea Black
Hedy Matyas
Sari Sherman
Gail Harris
Lexi Maister
Mara Shapiro
Tikka Smiley
Roberta Sinyor

**Can you imagine thousands of young children and teens depending on you? Can your volunteerism turn their dreams into reality? Join the largest Jewish Women's Zionist organization in Canada, and impact the lives of at risk youth in Israel. Call the office at 416.630.8373 for a chapter that fits your needs.**

**Toronto Hadassah-WIZO gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following major donors:**

**Esther and Irving Matlow:** Upgrade electronics labs at Nahalal Community and Comprehensive School (High School)

**Dr. Jerome Giblon:** Enrichment Program for Integrating Ethiopian New Immigrants into the Israeli Army, in Memory of beloved wife Shirley

**Ilse Seetner:** Computers at Nahalal Community and Comprehensive School, in Memory of beloved husband Sam

**Mazel tov to our latest members of the Kroft Bar/Bat Mitzvah Honour Roll:**

Hayley Goldsand Jacob Klugsberg

**Funding programs for disadvantaged youth:**
Summer camps for teens at risk, arts and dance programs, sports teams. **Call the office or email us at info@hadassahwizoto.ca to join our honour roll and participate in the selfless act of tzedakah.**

Cutting the ribbon at our permanent Bazaar depot. **It's never too early to think Bazaar:**

**October 25, 2006, Direct Energy Centre (formerly NTC)**

Visit our new website at: **www.hadassahwizoto.ca**

Coast to Coast

# Operation Last Chance launched in Canada

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

In the 20 years since Justice Jules Deschenes urged legal action against Nazi war criminals living in Canada, the federal government has managed to remove only a handful of perpetrators.

Three war criminals have left the country voluntarily or were deported since the current war crimes program was initiated in 1995. In all, Canada has brought 21 cases before the courts – the last, about two years ago. Eight have lost their citizenship.

Last week, Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff was in Ottawa to announce the launch of Operation Last Chance, a program of the Simon Wiesenthal Center that was initiated four years ago to spur investigations and prosecutions of Nazi suspects in nations that had been ignoring the issue.

With perpetrators aging, it's time to introduce the program to Canada in the hope it will uncover onetime Nazi collaborators who should be brought to justice, Zuroff said.

Under the program, the Center will open a special hotline to take leads and will offer $10,000 (US) for information that facilitates prosecution and punishment of each Nazi war criminal, Zuroff said.

Operation Last Chance was introduced in Canada because "efforts [here] are so poor," he said.

Employing a soccer metaphor, Zuroff said, "We're now in injury time. It's now or never."

Operation Last Chance was launched at a rally on Parliament Hill on June 6 – the 62nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Addressing the gathering, Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker said, "The theme of this rally is to call upon Canada, as well as other countries in the world, to do whatever is necessary to apprehend and bring to justice some of the remaining 10,000 Nazi war criminals that are still alive, and at large, throughout the world.

"In an international community and society that over the past few years, having learned the lessons of the Second World War, Yugoslavia and Rwanda, has done so much to bring an end to the impunity of international war criminals – especially with the creation of an international criminal court headed by Canada – we must all, first and foremost, do whatever is possible to root out those criminals, however old they may be and however long they have been hiding in Canada and elsewhere among small communities."

Joining Baker as honourary chair of the event were MPs Irwin Cotler, Mac Harb and Susan Kadis; former NDP leader Ed Broadbent; Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day; Turkish Ambassador Aydemir Erman; and Polish Ambassador Piotr Ogrodzinski.

The Center's *Sixth Annual Report on the Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals*, released recently, gave Canada a grade of C.

"Believe me, that's being overly generous," Zuroff said. "I could easily have given Canada an F."

The only factor preventing a failing grade is the existence of a government office that is ostensibly addressing the presence in Canada of Nazi perpetrators. Canada's legal processes must be "streamlined" to be effective, but there appears an absence of "political will" to address the issue, he said.

"That's the only explanation for this," Zuroff continued, noting the United States has a similar suspects profile and also employs civil remedies to remove them, but it has won more than 100 cases, deporting 54 people.

"The passage of time does not diminish the guilt of the perpetrators." If governments place a statute of limitations on prosecutions, "It's like saying you can get away with genocide," he added.

Terry Beitner, director and general counsel of the Department of Justice's war crimes unit, defended the current program. "We're bringing forward the matters with the best possible speed in light of the circumstances and the facts in each case," he said.

"We receive new allegations all the time. These files have not gotten easier. If anything, with the passage of time, it's more difficult to work up these files."

Beitner said suspects uncovered by Operation Last Chance would be evaluated in the same way as other suspects.

Around the world, the year spanning "April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, has seen a dramatic increase of 320 per cent in the number of convictions of Nazi war criminals," the Center's report stated. Most of that is attributable to successful prosecutions in the United States (28) and Italy.

"Italy has begun an energetic campaign and they convicted [in absentia] 10 Germans for their roles against civilians," Zuroff said.

While Germany refuses to extradite the suspects, its government is now considering whether to follow up the Italian cases with its own domestic prosecutions.

Since its introduction, Operation Last Chance has uncovered several high-profile suspects.

Zuroff said the Center is calling on Hungarian survivors with information about mistreatment and persecution of Jews in Budapest from Oct. 15, 1944, to Dec. 25, 1944 – the period corresponding to Lajos Polgar's stint as head of the Hungarian Arrow Cross, the Hungarian fascist party. Anyone with information is asked to contact Zuroff in Israel at 011-972-2-563-1273/4/5, or the Center's Toronto office at 416-864-9735.

*With files from Diane Koven in Ottawa.*

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# Sleep Apnea? Can't Use CPAP? Know Someone Who Snores?

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If you or someone close to you suffers from snoring, an oral appliance is recommended by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

Current guidelines (revised Feb. '06) now indicate that oral appliance therapy is appropriate for mild and moderate sleep apnea and is endorsed as a secondary treatment for severe apnea, when CPAP is not an option.

Dr. Les Priemer, a Toronto dentist has been educating and treating patients for over 11 years on the alternative of appliance therapy for people with snoring and sleep apnea. *"Many patients are glad to have an alternative to CPAP"* he says. *"This success makes my work very satisfying."*

Several months ago, Dr. Priemer's practice embarked on a consumer education campaign to inform the public about oral appliance therapy. *"Public awareness plays a very important role in choosing the correct therapy for these conditions."*

CPAP remains the gold standard of care, especially for severe sleep apnea, but for those who can't tolerate the machine, oral appliance therapy is a recognized alternative.

*"We continue to receive calls every day from people who have read our brochure, seen our advertising, been referred by a health professional or who are looking for an alternative to a CPAP machine. Family members have even encouraged their loved ones to seek treatment as this affects them as well."* says Priemer.

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Dr. Les Priemer

An oral appliance is recommended for someone with mild to moderate or even severe OSA (obstructive sleep apnea) and who prefers it to CPAP, cannot or won't use CPAP.

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Endorsements stream in from patients whose quality of life has been changed with oral appliance therapy. *"They're so happy with their appliance"* says Priemer.

Joanne, wife of patient Stephen Bishop writes: *"We can't believe the difference! (My husband) never really believed that his snoring was as bad as I said, until a couple of years ago, he went on a boys' ski vacation and his buddies couldn't even believe the noise levels. We've tried breath right strips, different pillows, even herbal inhalants; he's seen an ear/nose specialist. I've spent the last 4 years poking, pushing and getting him to roll over so the snoring would stop momentarily. A snoring husband is one of the top reasons women can't sleep.*

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Patient Pauline Hogarth writes: *On total evaluation the positive success of the appliance far outweighs any discomfort I may feel from wearing it and it's with much gratitude to Dr. Priemer that I'm able to continue living days with energy rather than a feeling of tiredness and irritability.*

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Consta-***what***?

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By "epicentre", we don't just mean "near the centre"; we mean that if you

*(L to R) Marketing Managers Beth Bokser and Reesa Soto with General Manager Harry Rosenberg at opening press event*

yell loud enough, your children or grandchildren will hear you. Though with the manifold pleasures of living at Constantia, chances are the only yelling you'll do is to celebrate your arrival there.

In practical terms, says Marketing Manger Reesa Soto, "for most of our residents, living at Bathurst and Centre means living within five kilometres of at least one family member."

It means your children and grandchildren won't have to *schlep* to visit you. It also means they won't have an excuse for *not* visiting. Oi! And the ample and immediately accessible onsite free parking means they'll have no reason to "love you and leave you."

Designed and built with a view to serving the needs of the GTA's Jewish community both today and in the future, Constantia is owned and operated by Chartwell Seniors Housing REIT, Canada's leading builder and administrator of retirement residences. Chartwell's preeminence in the field stems not merely from its size, but from the ethos of caring that starts at the very top and emanates

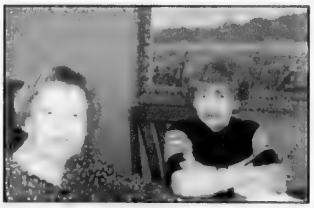
*Equally attractive inside and out, Constantia has been an instant hit with residents*

through the ranks. Says Chartwell Vice Chair and President Stephen Suske, "My commitment since entering this business has been to ensure that all of our facilities would be good enough for my Mother." (His Mother did, in fact, live in a Chartwell residence in her later years).

Echoing these sentiments, Soto and fellow Marketing Managers Beth Bokser and Elaine Ross demonstrate a commitment to caring and a passion for personal service that goes far beyond any marketing slogan. These are people who don't just talk *tachles*, they *live* it. "This isn't just a job, it's a pleasure," says Bokser. "When residents thank us, we feel guilty...it's *we* who should be thanking *them* for the privilege of helping them."

As Chartwell's newest residence, Constantia boasts the kind of amenities that will fulfill the most ambitious wish list. What does Constantia offer? What *doesn't* it offer? All the state-of-the-art features you'd expect plus a few you wouldn't, like a wireless pendant for each resident to ensure 24-hour emergency communication.

Constantia is equally attractive inside and out. The beautifully landscaped grounds are connected by a walking path that encircles the building. The indoor common areas include comfortable lounges, an activity centre, a greenhouse, a library, billiards and games rooms, a spa, a fitness centre, a beauty salon, laundry rooms on each level, and not one but two massive-screen theatres that would be the envy of the MGM Grand. (You've heard of Hollywood North but haven't actually *seen* it? It's here).



*Kibbitzing rules: comfort and communing with kindred spirits foster joie-de-vivre*

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Jewish enough that in addition to the usual mainstream activities like lectures, computer classes, tea socials, daily fitness and shopping excursions, Constantia's activity calendar reads like that of a shul group. From challah baking to Yiddish class (Yiddish class?? Are you learning it or *teaching* it??) to a Kabbalat shabbat service led by Cantor Ron Graner, to Jewish holiday observances, Constantia's Jewish environment provides a seamless transition from your current lifestyle.

*Marketing Mgr. Elaine Ross*

Last but not least, Jewish enough that kibbitzing is always in evidence at the dinner table, at tea, in the lounges, in the hallways, in the beauty salon, in the theatre rooms ... in short, wherever residents congregate.

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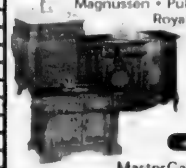

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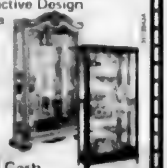

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# Website monitors swastika, gang and anti-police graffiti

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
*Special to the CJN*

**HAMILTON** — Hamilton resident Nathan Berman runs a website to show friends and family members the sights of his city.

While the photos are of parks and buildings, he is not boasting about them.

Berman's website Hate in Hamilton monitors swastika, gang and anti-police graffiti in the city's public places.

"I go along the Escarpment Rail Trail every nice day and looking at [the swastikas there] is like being hit in the stomach," he said.

"My friends and family come here and they say, 'You should leave.' They're nervous about taking a walk."

So for more than a year, Berman has maintained members.porchlight.ca/nberman/swastikas.htm.

He accepts tips from residents, takes photos and informs Hamilton Police Services of the sightings.

Last July, he reviewed the locations with police, who he says have been diligent in having the swastikas removed. He reports on swastika clean-up on his website.

In 2005, Berman's website reported 16 locations with swastika graffiti in Hamilton.

Swastikas are a threat not only to Jews but to homosexuals, as well, he says. "It's a death threat. I live here, I walk outside."

According to the Hamilton Police Service Hate Crime Unit 2005 Statistical Report, there were 25 swastikas reported in the city that year and eight were found to be hate motivated.

In 2004, the public reported 28 swastikas.

Sgt. Steve Hahn of the Hamilton Hate Crime Unit says he knows graffiti is underreported, which makes statistics hard to keep. He also said rates can fluctuate, with graffiti increasing in the wake of a related national or newsworthy event. Hahn says that for graffiti to be considered a hate crime, there must be evidence it was motivated solely, or in part, by bias or prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age or gender.

Swastikas were found in parks, at schools and in other areas in Hamilton. Police found no discernible pattern and a large portion of the sites had other unrelated grafitti.

"A swastika on the sidewalk is tantamount to hate. It's an offence, but it's not a hate crime," Hahn says. "It hurts, it hurts bad, but it's not a hate crime."

Len Rudner, national director of community relations for the Canadian Jewish Congress, says a swastika on a synagogue or a mosque is clearly an act of hate but on a newspaper box it's not necessarily.

"It's certainly more difficult to prove hate per the terms of the Criminal Code of Canada. Now if Elie Wiesel were on the cover of the paper that day, you could say it was hate. So the police have to be cognizant of context."

Part of the hate crime unit's mandate is to educate the public at schools or places of worship.

"Graffiti hurts everyone. I think education can resonate with those people who might have thought of committing a hate crime," Hahn said. "But we have a long way to go.

"Where does hate begin? It starts around the dinner table. We have to nip it in the bud there and then.

"We will never be able to eradicate it. There will always be intolerance."

Rudner says it's important the public sees the police responding to vandalism.

He points out that in London, England, employees remove graffiti regularly, because they found if they did not, it multiplied.

"The message [of hate graffiti] is, you are not welcome here, you are in danger here, you are not like the rest of us and get out," he said.

"[Hate] graffiti is corrosive to civil society. It's the antithesis of free speech. Free speech brings us together, hate speech drives us apart."

In 2005, the Hamilton Hate Crimes Unit received 113 reports of incidents including graffiti, compared to 124 in 2004. Of these, 39 were classified as hate crimes. This was a 35 per cent drop compared to 2004, when 60 hate crimes were reported.

Fifty-nine per cent of incidents involved race, while 10 per cent were motivated by religion.

**BREAKING GROUND: The groundbreaking for the new Chabad Romano Centre, on Bathurst Street just south of Teston Road, took place June 4. Pictured, foreground from left, are Chabad of Richmond Hill director Rabbi Mendel Bernstein, Yair Shemesh, Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert, Thornhill MP Susan Kadis, Mario and Nadia Romano, David Chapley, and Stan Grunzeweig.**

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## Palestinians may have caused Gaza beach deaths, Olmert says

**BY HERB KEINON**
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz indicated Sunday that Friday's blast on a Gaza Strip beach that killed seven civilians may have been caused by the Palestinians and not the Israel Defence Forces.

Peretz told the weekly cabinet meeting that he had established an investigative committee, headed by a major-general, that was to present its findings this week.

Peretz said the panel's preliminary findings showed the Ghalia family was not killed by a shell fired by IDF ground forces or by the Israeli Air Force. Peretz said that one of six artillery shells fired by the IDF was unaccounted for, but that there was a gap between when the shells were fired and the time the Palestinians said the shells landed.

Senior officers said Sunday that they had received new information indicating the blast was caused by an "internal Palestinian incident" and was not related to Israeli artillery fire.

A Palestinian bomb planted on the beach or a Qassam rocket that went astray, senior officers said, might have been the cause of the explosion. The officers said Navy and IAF fire had been ruled out, and while the landing spot of one of six artillery shells fired close to the time of the incident had yet to be found, it was unlikely to have caused the blast.

The IDF said the timeline of the incident and the artillery fire did not match. In addition, the closest any one of the six shells landed to the beach was 200 to 250 metres away, while a shell usually only strays from its target a maximum of 30 metres.

Maj.-Gen. Yoav Galant said the army had proof its cannons were not responsible for the blast, since IDF fire was suspended 15 minutes before the explosion on the beach. But other officers spoke more cautiously, saying it was still too early to vindicate Israel in the deaths of the innocent Palestinians.

Hamas operatives arrived at the scene of the blast moments after the explosion and were spotted collecting shrapnel, the army said. "It might be that they were trying to conceal evidence that would have put the blame on them," an IDF source explained.

At the cabinet meeting Peretz told the ministers that some 40 Qassam rockets were fired at Sderot and nearby communities over the weekend, and that Nati Angel – the Sderot man seriously wounded by a Qassam Sunday morning at a school near the city – was a "personal friend." Peretz lives in Sderot, where he used to be mayor.

"We will work to protect our citizens, and the IDF is prepared to operate against all the [terrorist] organizations," he said. Peretz also told the cabinet that in the 24 hours ending Sunday, Hamas had openly fired rockets at Israel, and that starting a few days earlier, Hamas had become involved in the firing of rockets, both directly and indirectly.

"I stress in the clearest way possible that we will act against all those engaged in terrorism, including Hamas, with all the means at our disposal," Peretz said.

Olmert opened the cabinet meeting by expressing Israel's "deep regret" over the beach incident and saying that Peretz had set up an investigation. "Of course the exact details and the conclusions of the inquiry will be made public," he said.

Olmert, who stressed he was not apologizing because the facts were not yet clear, said past experience had shown that myths could be created that were divorced from the facts.

He was referring to Muhammad al-Dura, the 12-year-old Palestinian boy killed during an exchange of fire between the IDF and Palestinians in September 2000. Images of Dura hiding behind his father and then being shot and killed were beamed across the world, with Israel widely blamed for his death until researchers three years later brought ballistic evidence that the shots could not have been fired by IDF soldiers.

Regarding the Gaza beach incident, Olmert said it must be made clear that Qassam rockets, designed to maim and kill Israelis, have been fired from Gaza continuously over the past few weeks.

"This firing is very serious," he said. "It strikes at the fabric of life in communities in southern Israel and threatens peoples' lives… This is an unending series of terrorist attacks designed to strike at civilians."

Olmert also strenuously defended the IDF's actions. "I reject outright any and all attempts to impugn the army's morality. The IDF is the most moral military in the world. There has never been – and there isn't now – a policy of attacking civilians. I support the IDF commanders and soldiers who are working to halt the attacks on Israeli citizens in the southern part of the country."

He added: "At the same time, we will continue to act with full force against the firing of Qassam rockets and we will not refrain from operations that could thwart rocket firings, anywhere and in any situation, as necessary."

## Hamas likely to increase violence, expert says

**By YOAV APPEL**
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Hamas will find it difficult not to resume attacks on Israeli targets given the current circumstances, says Ephraim Inbar, head of Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

After a 16-month self-imposed cease-fire, Hamas' stature has been weakened while other Palestinian terrorist groups have carried out attacks, increasing their popularity, Inbar told the *Jerusalem Post* Sunday.

But recent events have helped Hamas by turning public attention away from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' controversial call for a referendum on the "prisoners' document" that called for a Palestinian state within Gaza and the West Bank, and from increasing violence between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah party.

But Hamas faces a dilemma as it struggles to pay government workers' wages and gain international legitimacy in the eyes of western countries, while its grassroots domestic supporters find "a battle against Israel popular," Inbar said.

"[Hamas] wants respect," Inbar said, "but what it really needs is money."

The latest onslaught of Qassam rocket attacks from inside the Palestinian territories is likely to lead to an Israeli military escalation, Inbar said, adding that more Israel Defence Forces ground operations inside the Gaza Strip would be inevitable. One scenario would see Israeli forces regain control of former Israeli settlement areas that abut Gaza's northern boundaries and are currently being used as Qassam rocket-launching areas.

Ely Karmon, a senior researcher with the Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Herzliya agrees that Hamas' threat to renew attacks within Israel must be taken seriously.

Hamas has set a precedent by following through on similar threats in the past, he said, referring to a spate of suicide bombings that followed Israel's killing of the group's key bomb-maker, Yehiya Ayyash, in 1996.

And while Hamas' actions are certainly aimed at sabotaging Abbas' attempt to obtain a consensus through the referendum, the group is also influenced by larger regional players such as Iran and Syria, where Khaled Maashal, the Hamas leader-in-exile is located.

But with no inclination to be forced into a compromise with Fatah or to work toward a comprehensive peace deal while avoiding an internal Palestinian civil war, the group's only option is to turn to armed conflict with Israel, Karmon said.

In Hamas' current position, a military escalation with Israel would not be in the group's interest, however, and a large Israeli ground operation in the Gaza Strip, while costly to both sides, would be devastating to Hamas, he said.

Nevertheless, Hillel Frisch of the Begin-Sadat Center argued that a return to previous levels of violence is not inevitable, and Hamas, under pressure from both Israel and Fatah, may opt to maintain its harsh rhetoric and inaccurate Qassam rocket fire but avoid an overall escalation.

"They'll buckle under an Israeli and Fatah onslaught," Frisch said, and Hamas can't afford Israeli attacks on its leaders, many of whom now hold ministerial positions in the Palestinian government.

However, while some experts argue that the group may have used its "time-out" to further amass arms and explosives, Frisch said Egyptian authorities have cracked down on smuggling routes into the Gaza Strip recently, as Egypt has become more wary of Palestinian military capability.

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# Canada-Israel prostitution ring alleged

*CJN News Services*

**JERUSALEM** — Police in Israel say they have uncovered a prostitution ring that may have included trafficking Russian-speaking Israeli women to Canada. Three arrests were made last week in the case.

Tel Aviv police became suspicious when they noticed ads in Russian newspapers offering women up to $10,000 (US) a month for work as escorts in Canada. Police allege the women were sent to Canada as part of an international network that is active in Russia, Israel, Canada and the United States.

The alleged ring recruited dozens of young women who were subjected to degrading interviews and nude photographs. Some were sent against their will, said Israeli police spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld.

Insp. Glenn Hanna of the RCMP said in Toronto there would be no charges of human trafficking. The UN definition of the offence requires that the victims be coerced, while it appears the women sent to Canada were not forced and came knowing what was expected of them. He said the cases have been turned over to Toronto police for investigation.

Announcement of the Israeli ring came the same day the U.S. State Department issued a report on human trafficking that blamed Israel for not doing enough to stop the practice.

Rosenfeld said Israel had stepped up its efforts to stop human trafficking. "There is a decline [in Israel] in the numbers of those who are involved and dealing today with the buying and selling of women," he said.

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# *Argentine court to study bombing coverup*

**By JOE GOLDMAN**
*JTA*

**BUENOS AIRES** — An Argentine court is studying a possible coverup in the investigation of the 1994 bombing of an Argentine Jewish centre that killed 85 people.

This week, the court began inspecting the events following the July 18, 1994, bombing at the AMIA Jewish social service building in Buenos Aires.

That attack, and the March 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed 29 people, remain unsolved.

The main AMIA court investigation ended almost two years ago with the entire case being thrown out by a special tribunal that had spent three years hearing the evidence. This trial was reportedly the longest and costliest in Argentina's history.

A few weeks ago, an appeals court upheld that decision and opened up a judicial process to investigate the original failed investigation of the AMIA bombing.

Now a federal court will begin to try to unravel the mystery of whether there was a coverup after the bombing – and whether it reached into the highest levels of the government of former president Carlos Menem.

Among those who were ordered to testify in this new proceeding are an ex-federal judge, Juan Jose Galeano; two of the original prosecutors; the former chief of the Argentine intelligence service and two of his top assistants; and Ruben Beraja, then president of the main Jewish political organization, DAIA.

Court officials will not rule out possible interrogations for Menem and two or three of his top ministers.

The questioning is expected to centre on why Galeano apparently paid a suspect $400,000 – from intelligence service coffers, whose expenditures must be approved by the president – to change his testimony and finger other defendants, why evidence went missing or was altered and why films of interrogations were burned with the knowledge of the judge, the prosecutors and some lawyers involved in the case.

***Will not rule out interrogations of Menem***

Galeano was forced to resign from his court post earlier this year in the face of an impeachment trial concerning these charges.

Pablo Jacoby, the lawyer for Memoria Activa, one of three organizations representing families of the victims, said this new investigation "could prove to be very important if in the testimony we can find out who gave the orders to point the case toward a specific theory. We now know that the central focus of that original investigation was a setup," he said, referring to the fingering of a group of Buenos Aires provincial police officers.

While underscoring the importance of this secondary investigation, Jacoby said there are still hopes for advances in the central investigation, now under a new prosecutor, and reiterated that Memoria Activa plans to go ahead with its presentation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Washington in October.

"Some basic questions remain unanswered in this case and we will bring those to the court. For example, why did the government have no contingency plan for disasters, why are the intelligence service files on the AMIA case not open to public scrutiny, how could public funds be utilized to pay off witnesses without public knowledge and a number of other matters," Jacoby said.

A spokesperson for AMIA called the new court investigations "coherent" and said the next logical step would be calling Menem and former interior minister Carlos Corach to give testimony in the case.

However, a DAIA spokesperson complained publicly that the new investigation is not addressing the most important question of who bombed the AMIA building.

# Russia urges Israel not to attack Iran

**By HERB KEINON**
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Russia sent messages to Israel through U.S. intermediaries recently, voicing opposition to a possible military attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, the *Jerusalem Post* has learned.

While Israel and Russia have good relations and a direct line of communications, the Russians chose to use the United States to deliver this message of military restraint out of a belief that Jerusalem pays closer attention to messages from Washington.

According to assessments reaching Jerusalem, while the Russians don't want to see Iran get the bomb, they believe this may still be a decade away and that in the meantime diplomatic efforts might succeed in keeping Tehran from reaching that point.

Moscow is concerned any military conflagration would eventually spill over the Russian-Iranian border into the Caucasus, central Asia and even Chechnya, and be detrimental to Russian interests.

Washington, according to these assessments, does not believe that Russian opposition to United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iran is motivated by anti-American sentiment, but rather by the belief that a military action in Iran would severely destabilize the region.

The Russian concern, according to these assessments, is that UN sanctions would be the start of a "slippery slope" leading inevitably to military action, just as was the case with Iraq.

One source of Washington and Moscow's different tactical approaches toward Iran stems from different assessments regarding when Iran may "go online." While Washington is closer to Israel's position that the point of no return is when the Iranians have mastered the technology to create a bomb, for the Russians "D-Day" is when the Iranians have actually built a bomb.

Since the Russians believe this may be some five to 10 years down the line, they feel there is more time to exhaust the diplomatic approach. Despite this, the Russians, according to recent assessments, were taken by surprise at the pace of the Iranian nuclear program, and did not believe they were as far along as is apparently the case.

According to assessments reaching Jerusalem from Washington, the United States has no intention of either allowing Tehran to enrich uranium on Iranian soil or to assist it in building civilian nuclear capabilities. These assessments contradict press reports this week claiming that the diplomatic package presented to Iran last week and supported by the United States leaves open the possibility in the distant future that Tehran would be able to enrich uranium on its own soil.

According to a *Washington Post* report, this concession – along with a U.S. promise of aid for Iran's civilian nuclear energy program – would be conditioned on Iran suspending its nuclear work until the International Atomic Energy Agency determined that the program was peaceful. In addition, Iran would also need to convince the UN Security Council that it was not seeking a nuclear weapon, a process that administration officials were quoted this week as saying could take as long as 30 years.

But according to the assessments reaching Jerusalem, Washington has no interest in letting Iran enrich any quantity of uranium, because even the enrichment of a small amount would necessitate research and development that could eventually allow Tehran to master the technology needed to create nuclear weapons.

These assessments say that it would also be extremely far-fetched to imagine the United States assisting an Iranian civilian nuclear program. The United States remains in favour of a Russian proposal of a joint Iranian-Russian venture in which Russia would enrich the uranium on its own soil on Iran's behalf. This is a model that could be adopted elsewhere as well, as rising energy prices are expected to propel other countries into the development of nuclear energy.

***Israeli budget passed***

Israel passed its 2006 state budget. The $61 billion (US) package was approved by the Knesset after a six-month delay. The 35-22 vote was a coup for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who has been facing growing opposition from his biggest partner in the coalition government, the Labor Party. The budget increases spending in almost all areas of the civil service, with the notable exception of the Defence Ministry, which had its funding cut by 1.1 per cent.

***Sweden labels Golan wine***

Sweden is labelling Israeli wines produced in the Golan Heights as coming from an occupied territory. The wines will be labelled by the country's alcohol monopoly as being made in "Syrian-occupied territory," *Yediot Achronot* reported. The CEO of the Golan Heights Winery blasted the move. "We will continue to sell the wines with the Golan Heights label because this is where the wines comes from," Shalom Blayer said. "Whoever doesn't like it can refrain from buying the wine."

***PMO spokesperson resigns***

A veteran spokesperson for the Israeli government has stepped down. Ra'anan Gissin, who was frequently the face of Israel on television, where he often sparred with pro-Palestinian pundits, ended his tenure with the Prime Minister's Office last week. A successor was not immediately named. Gissin was close to former prime minister Ariel Sharon.

***Parkinson med approved***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved a drug developed in Israel to treat Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative brain disorder. Azilect, which is now available to patients, is the first Parkinson's medication with a once-daily dosage. Professors at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa worked with the Israeli pharmaceutical firm Teva on the drug.

***Israel treats Palestinians***

Israel is paying for the medical treatment of a Palestinian girl wounded during an Israeli air strike in Gaza. Maria Aman, 3, suffered serious injuries in a missile attack last month on a Palestinian terrorist in Gaza, and has been receiving treatment in Israel's Sheba Hospital ever since. Three of her relatives were killed in the strike. Defence Minister Amir Peretz said the government would underwrite her treatment after it emerged that further funding was unavailable. The Peres Peace Center has also offered to help pay for Aman to remain under long-term Israeli care, which will likely be received at Jerusalem's Alyn Pediatric Hospital. One of her uncles was wounded in the Israeli strike and is also receiving treatment in Israel.

***Counterattacks to increase***

Defence Minister Amir Peretz ordered the Israel Defence Forces to step up the targeted killings of Palestinians involved in Qassam rocket attacks on Israel, just hours after three rockets struck the western Negev last Thursday. One woman was treated for shock after a rocket landed at the entrance to Kibbutz Gevim. Another landed near a factory in Sderot. No injuries or damage was reported.

***Olmert off to Europe***

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is on his first official European tour. Olmert set off Sunday for London, where he was to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair. On Tuesday, he was to continue to Paris for talks with French leaders. Olmert is expected to try to muster support for his West Bank withdrawal plan and press European leaders to maintain a tough line against Iran's nuclear program. His visit also coincides with European Union discussions on a new proposed mechanism for funnelling money to Palestinian Authority civil servants who have gone unpaid since the West imposed an aid embargo on the Hamas government.

*JTA and Jerusalem Post*

# Boycott condemned as McCarthyism

**Continued from page 1**

"We believe that such academic boycotts are counterproductive and retrograde. Far more can be obtained through dialogue and academic co-operation," he said.

The boycott motion approved by NATFHE was only effective for three days due to a merger between NATFHE and the Association of University Teachers, a smaller union, which took place earlier this month. NATFHE had indicated that the new body would not be bound by the decision.

Last year, the Association of University Teachers (AUT) voted to boycott Haifa and Bar-Ilan universities, charging them with complicity in Israel's "suppression of the Palestinians." The council of the association reversed the decision after objections by leading scholars and academic organizations.

Following NATFHE's boycott vote, University of Haifa president Aaron Ben-Ze'ev said the university strongly condemned the boycott decision.

"Any attempt to connect politics and academic research is pure McCarthyism," Ben-Ze'ev said. "The university will continue working in collaboration with its colleagues in Israel, Britain and elsewhere, in order to protect the principle of academic freedom," he said.

Gerald Steinberg, director of the interdisciplinary program on conflict management and negotiation at Bar Ilan University and a member of the IAB executive committee, added that "such political actions... destroy the academic process since we will no longer be able to trust the objectivity and professional detachment of academics who are involved in 'silent boycotts,' the journals they edit, and the peer review processes in which they participate."

# *IDF said inept dealing with foreign press*

**Continued from page 1**

managed to win over the local press. Rather, this highlights the fact that the army's PR wing is directed mainly toward public opinion in Israel.

By contrast, the total failure of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to counter the Palestinian propaganda campaign in the foreign press that began immediately after seven members of one family were killed at a Gaza beach last Friday proves that after so many years of media warfare, the military still prefers to rely on the Foreign Ministry when it comes to the international media.

The IDF spokesperson's unit has officers who are fluent in a wide range of languages and responsible for contact with the hundreds of foreign reporters working in Israel, but the higher command of the unit doesn't seem to see such contact as crucial.

The photographs flashing on TV screens around the world of 12-year-old Huda Ghalia searching frantically for her parents in the sand after the explosion on the beach, only to find their bodies, caught the army by surprise. It took 24 hours before official Israeli sources began saying, at first almost apologetically, that there was a possibility that the explosive that had torn apart the Ghalia family might not have come from an IDF artillery shell but from a Palestinian device instead.

By then, of course, it was too late. The images of Huda, expressing better than any words the extent of Israeli "brutality," had already transformed the Palestinian version of the events into incontrovertible fact. Whatever Israeli spokespeople were saying at that point seemed like a lame attempt at covering up.

There is no excuse for this delayed reaction. The IDF employs advanced reconnaissance and radar equipment around and over the northern Gaza Strip. Land, air and sea-based devices constantly monitor and record activity there, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) continually hover above – even more so when the army is attacking a certain area. So if six artillery shells were fired in the vicinity of the beach at about the time the family was blown up, there must be footage, perhaps from a number of angles.

The IDF knew there were Hamas members doing something suspicious on that beach almost immediately. It had the pictures to prove that they were tampering with evidence. The army also had no conclusive proof that it was indeed a stray shell that had caused the carnage. The obvious thing would have been to release the footage as soon as possible to the foreign press. It might not have convinced anyone outright, but it might have been enough to cast a serious degree of doubt on the Palestinian narrative, enough to hold the fort until a more exhaustive investigation had been carried out.

Even if the results had then shown that it was an Israeli shell that hit the family, the IDF would still have come out as more honest and humane. But after the military was so slow on the uptake, the fact that the evidence now seems to be pointing at the Palestinians seems almost useless.

The IDF spokesperson's unit has soldiers stationed within the advance command posts from which the battles against the Qassam missiles are being directed. They should have been busy feeding headquarters in Tel Aviv with the relevant information. The officers in Tel Aviv should have been demanding it of their own accord, but as one officer in the unit said on Sunday, "No one was even thinking along those lines. It's just not part of their consciousness, and that's why we lost the golden opportunity during the first few hours."

The IDF has proven inept in the past at dealing with the foreign press. It took months before the army put out an official version of the death of 12-year-old Palestinian Muhammad al-Dura, proving he had been killed by Palestinian gunfire. By then, he had become an international icon for Israel's cruelty towards children.

A couple of years ago, the IDF tried to use footage taken from a UAV of terrorists using a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine ambulance to ship Qassam rockets, only to fall flat on its face when it was actually a stretcher being loaded into the ambulance. That perhaps has made the army wary of revealing what it knows, or thinks it knows, but one failure shouldn't become an excuse.

The IDF has the equipment, resources and manpower needed, not only to fight the war against the Qassam-launching gangs, but also to wage the propaganda war. No one else can do it for the soldiers. They are in a unique position to understand what is going on in the field and have direct access to the compelling photos that would make for great TV images if they were released on time.

If only Miri Regev cared as much about getting Israel's story onto CNN as she does about tomorrow's headline in *Yediot Achronot*.

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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

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The band performs at the Hava Nagila Banquet Hall, 1118 Centre St., Thornhill, June 22, 8 p.m. as part of a North American tour. $55. 416-987-3201. www. ShlomoBar.com.

* * *

**String Ensemble in Concert:** Toronto-based conductor and composer **Joseph Aminian Lerner** is founder of **Tonal Virtuosi Orchestra**, a 15-piece string ensemble specializing in contemporary tonal music that gave its first concert at the University of Toronto in February and is preparing to give another concert this week.

It performs "Prelude to Summer," a program of **Mozart**, **Dvorak**, **Purcell**, **Barber**, **Lerner** and **Minthorn**, at CBC Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. W., on Thursday, June 15, 8 p.m. The concert is hosted by radio personality **Alexa Petrenko** and features **Senya Trubashnik** on oboe, and soprano **Deirdre Fulton**. Tickets are $25.

"Our orchestra does not receive grants," Lerner said. "The orchestra's existence and flow of life depends on the ticket sales. We need the community's support through their attendance in our concerts."

For tickets, call 416-205-5555 or visit www.glenngouldstudio.com. More details at www.tonalvo.com.

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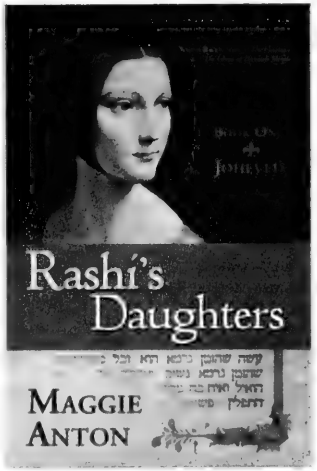


**Spotlight on Rashi's Daughters:** California author **Maggie Anton's** first novel, *Rashi's Daughters: Joheved*, won three book awards recently at BookExpo America in Washington D.C. The first of a proposed three-volume family saga, the book focuses on the eldest daughter of Salomon ben Isaac, the great 11th-century scholar known as Rashi.

At a time when most women were illiterate, Rashi taught Talmud to his daughters. While Rashi is famous for his extensive Talmud commentaries, almost nothing is known about his daughters besides their names and those of their husbands and sons. The novel explores the personal and intellectual lives of these women, who were also vintners, midwives, merchants and mothers of the next generation of talmudic scholars. Published by Banot Press.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• Mariposa Festival 2006 requires volunteers before its festival in July. To help production manager **Dave MacMillan** build stages on June 17, contact him at thedaver@sympatico.ca. To help with poster distribution, please contact ED@mariposafolk.com

• The Canada International Scientific Exchange Program presents a concert with **Paul Brodie** and **Erica Goodman**. Hart House, University of Toronto. Wednesday, June 21, 8 p.m. Admission $20; Inner Circle tickets, including pre-concert garden party (7 p.m.) and charitable receipt, $50. Cisepo chair is **Arnold Noyek**. 416-978-8849, www.uofttix.ca.

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# CISEPO holds musical fundraiser at Hart House

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

The Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO), which aims to foster Arab and Israeli co-operation through education, research and health initiatives, is holding a musical fundraiser at Hart House.

CISEPO operates a program in Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian communities that involves the early detection and treatment of infant heredity deafness. The organization runs a surgical, scientific and medical exchange program, among other exchange programs, and youth smoking prevention in the Middle East is the subject of one of its research projects. CISEPO also builds healthier communities in Canada, and has worked with aboriginal communities that require water purification.

The concert, featuring saxophonist Paul Brodie and harpist Erica Goodman, takes place at 8 p.m. on June 21 at Hart House on the University of Toronto campus.

Brodie, who was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 1994, is known worldwide. He is a skilful player of four types of saxophones – the piping soprano, the alto, the tenor and the booming bass – and is conversant in classical, folk and jazz idioms.

Goodman, a Juno Award winner, has performed extensively in Europe, Japan, throughout Canada and the United States, and has performed for Queen Elizabeth II, former prime minister Pierre Trudeau and former U.S. president John F. Kennedy.

With the concert at Hart House, CISEPO hopes to raise awareness of the organization. The funds raised from the event will go to support the organization's efforts to improve the quality of life for children in the Middle East and build healthy communities in Canada and the Middle East, said CISEPO founder and chair Arnold Noyek, an ear, nose and throat specialist at Mount Sinai Hospital and a professor at the U of T.

Over the past 11 years, CISEPO has quietly and effectively worked across borders and beyond politics and conflict to help children in the Middle East. "It has been one of Canada's best-kept secrets, and also one of its greatest humanitarian, scientific and educational successes," said Joseph Mapa, president of Mount Sinai Hospital.

"Its success is based on Canadian values, expertise and programs, such as Ontario's recent initiative to [give] hearing [tests] and treat all newborn babies as needed."

Harvey Skinner, chair of Public Health Sciences at the U of T, said the creation of co-operative networks builds much-needed bridges of trust and confidence between Arab and Israeli academics, physicians, scientists, hospitals, universities and societies.

"This special concert will herald a message of hope, that CISEPO and Canadians are doing something pioneering on the ground in the Middle East and effectively tackling significant public heath issues."

CISEPO, which is based at the Department of Public Health Sciences at the U of T and the Peter A. Silverman Centre for International Health at Mount Sinai Hospital, is affiliated with many universities and hospitals across Canada.

For more information about CISEPO, call Arnold Noyek at 416-978-4460 or visit www.cisepo.ca.

General concert admission is $20 and inner-circle tickets, which include a pre-concert garden party, are $50. For tickets, call 416-978-8849 or visit www.uofttix.ca.

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# Some TJFF films available on DVD

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
*Special to The CJN*

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival had another successful run in May, and as program co-ordinator for the festival, I've received quite a few questions regarding what films are available on home video or DVD.

Actually, a few of the films are available, including *Paper Clips*, which has come out on a two-disc DVD set that includes a number of bonus features.

This film about a group of middle school students in Whitwell, Tenn., creating a memorial to the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, was shown four times at this year's festival and each screening was sold out. It is now available on DVD for home viewing, but it may require you to place a special order with your video retailer or a trip to the Internet to obtain a copy.

Several of the films in the highly successful Rhythm & Jews series have also been released on home video.

These include Trevor Nunn's acclaimed presentation of the Gershwin classic, *Porgy & Bess*. This production was performed by the Glyndebourne Opera and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

*Brooklyn Babylon*, the 2001 drama set during the time of the Crown Heights riots and which depicts a fictional romance between an Orthodox Jewish girl and a black Rastafarian musician, should be available in many of the better video stores in the city.

You can also look for *Somewhere Over the Rainbow: Harold Arlen*, a documentary about the life and times of Jewish composer Harold Arlen, who wrote such memorable songs as *Stormy Weather* and *Blues in the Night*, as well as many other songs that became identified with African-American singers and musicians.

Other films in the Rhythm & Jews series available on home video include *Godfathers & Sons*, *Paul Robeson: Here I Stand* and *Blue Note*.

But one word of warning. Although all of the above films are available, that does not mean that video stores will carry them. In fact, the only way to get most of these films is to ask the video store to order them for you or to go online at www.amazon.com or www.amazon.ca and order them there.

This may also be the case with several other films we showed at the festival this year.

*We Want the Light*, Christopher Nupen's documentary about the relationship between Jews and Germans, as seen through music, is available by calling the film festival office at 416-324-9121 and leaving a message there. We have received a limited number of copies of the DVD.

*Knowledge Is the Beginning: Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra* is available at better video stores or online.

The Lee Grant documentary about the relationship between Kirk and Michael Douglas, *A Father... a Son... Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* is also available on DVD.

Other films will be coming out on DVD throughout the year, including *Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic* and *39 Pounds of Love*.

Films that receive commercial theatrical runs usually come out on DVD some six to 12 months afterward, so you can watch for such films as *Only Human* and *La Petite Jerusalem* (*Little Jerusalem*) to arrive in stores at the end of the year or early 2007.

The bad news in all this is that the film I have received the most requests about, *Gloomy Sunday*, is not available on DVD anywhere and I don't know when it will become available. The latest news I have received is that the film may be released in theatres in Toronto in the near future.

Watch the pages of *The CJN* or subscribe by e-mail to the News & Schmooze newsletter (click on the newletter at www.tjff.com) distributed by the Toronto Jewish Film Festival and I'll update you from time to time.

Arts & Travel

# Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

### FRESH BREAD AT ISRAEL MUSEUM

"Bread: Daily and Divine," a new exhibition at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, explores the role of bread in secular traditions and religious rituals in the three major monotheistic religions. The exhibition features a wide variety of breads alongside archeological artifacts, holy vessels, works of art, films and ethnographical tools relating to the bread-making process.

Both Judaism and Christianity assign an essential function to bread in their ceremonial meals celebrating the main rites of passage during the year. In Islam, bread has acquired an almost sacred status in daily life, and is commonly referred to as "God's blessing."

"We are not always aware of the myriad hidden meanings that our daily slice of bread may convey," said exhibition curator, Noam Ben-Yossef. "The process of bread-making, from kneading dough and letting it rise, to shaping and then baking it in the oven, resembles an ever-renewing miracle. Above all, bread represents the dawn of civilization. It was in order to make bread that humans learned to domesticate grain and fashion the first pots."

"Bread: Daily and Divine" stays fresh at the Israel Museum through Oct. 15.

* * *

**Upswing in Israel Tourism:** Tourism to Israel jumped 30 per cent in the first four months of 2006 as compared to the same period last year, according to new figures released by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

Israel welcomed 695,000 visitors from January through April. Tourist traffic from North America surged 34 per cent, with 174,000 visitors from the United States and 17,591 from Canada.

"Thirty per cent growth in tourism is encouraging, and only emphasizes the need for further investment in the industry to realize our goal of bringing three million visitors to the country this year," said Tourism Minister Isaac Herzog.

* * *

**Two Czech Festivals of Note:** The Boskovice 2006 Festival, July 13 to 16, is aimed at saving and maintaining the Jewish quarter of this small town in southern Moravia, and features many cultural events. Tourists may visit the Jewish cemetery and view an exhibition on the picturesque Jewish quarter of Boskovice in the synagogue. Details at www.unijazz.cz.

Trebic, a town forever linked with Jewish culture and proud of its UNESCO-listed sites, invites visitors to the third annual Samajm Festival of Jewish culture, July 31 to Aug. 5. Details at www.kviztrebic.cz.

* * *

**Lower Manhattan Synagogue:** The historic 1887 Eldridge Street Synagogue was the chief beneficiary of an awards dinner held in New York recently that raised more than $1.2 million (US) to complete a restoration of the national historic landmark. The evening featured a live auction and a musical performance by Woody Allen and his New Orleans Jazz Band.

The first great house of worship built in America by east European Jews, the Eldridge Street Synagogue is a vibrant arts and cultural centre that hosts public programs exploring the American immigrant experience and Jewish heritage. Several tours are offered each week of the Lower Manhattan edifice. For details, visit the website www.eldridgestreet.org

* * *

**Israeli Film Fest in Ottawa:** The Canadian Film Institute, in association with the Embassy of Israel and the Israeli Cultural Forum, launched the 2006 Israeli Film Festival in Ottawa last week. Six films, representing the best of contemporary Israeli cinema, are being screened at Library and Archives Canada, this month. The films are: *Campfire* (June 11), *39 Pounds of Love* (June 14), *Year Zero* (June 18) and *Out of Sight, Green Chariot* and *Like A Fish Out of Water* (June 25).

* * *

**Canadian Travel Briefs**

• Foreign Affairs Canada offers a smart-travel guide, *Bon Voyage, But...*, to alert travellers to the risks of travel during the hurricane season in coastal regions of the southern United States, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The hurricane season extends from June 1 to Nov. 30. *Bon Voyage, But...* is available free of charge in both print and online formats at www.voyage.gc.ca.

• A Canadian icon, Toronto landmark and engineering wonder, the CN Tower marks its 30th anniversary on June 26 with a special public event. Visitors and residents of Toronto are invited to a celebration of this milestone from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and to ascend the Tower for a special admission price of "3 for $30." Details at www.cntower.ca.

• The 2006-07 *Ottawa Visitor Guide* is a free, 100-page key reference guide of Ottawa and area, detailing attractions, accommodation options and events, with feature articles and maps. The guide also includes 28 discount coupons to selected restaurants, attractions and tours when paid for with a Visa credit card. Obtain a copy of the guide by calling 800-363-4465 or visiting www.ottawatourism.ca.


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# Holocaust history solid work of scholarship

***The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*** **by Michael Berenbaum, the Johns Hopkins University Press, paperback.**

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., is one of the finest institutions of its kind.

So when a book bears its imprimatur, attention must be paid.

Thirteen years ago, *The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* was published, and it was then hailed as a comprehensive account of an unprecedented crime.

**The deportation of Jews from Lublin, Poland.**

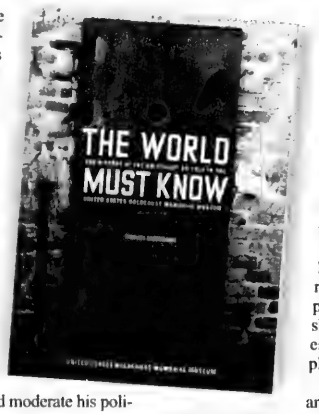
Recently, this extremely useful volume was reissued in a revised paperback edition. The author, historian Michael Berenbaum, was a project director at the museum, and served as president of Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

The updated edition contains new photographs, redrawn charts, an expanded bibliography and a new section on the Holocaust in Greece. But in all other respects, *The World Must Know* is the same solid work of scholarship.

In the main, it unfolds in chronological order, beginning with the emergence of Nazism in Germany, which was home to a fairly prosperous and assimilated Jewish community.

Berenbaum cites the noxious views of the famous composer Richard Wagner to illustrate the deep-seated anti-Semitism that was at the bedrock of German society in the 19th century. "I hold the Jewish race to be the born enemy of pure humanity and everything noble in it," he once said in a typical remark.

Sentiments such as these, combined with Germany's ignominious defeat in the wake of World War I, were no doubt a factor in the rise of Adolf Hitler, who turned to politics after failing miserably as an artist.




As Berenbaum reminds us, Hitler was not elected, but appointed. The man who catapulted him to the chancellorship, President Paul von Hindenburg, hoped that Hitler would end the political chaos and moderate his policies.

What a miscalculation!

The Nazis, hell-bent on revamping Germany and persecuting its Jewish citizens, never had any intention of accommodating themselves to the Weimar Republic. As Josef Goebbels, Hitler's future propaganda minister, said, "We come as enemies."

Racism was the central and pervasive theme of Nazi ideology, as Berenbaum demonstrates at length. It shaped social and foreign policy and, tragically, engendered the Holocaust.

But Berenbaum does not actually deal with the Holocaust until page 64 of this 250-page book.

Before reaching the core of his narrative, he dwells on the Nazi economic boycott against Jews, the book burnings, the nature of Nazi propaganda, the "science" of race and the 1935 Nuremberg laws, which stripped Jews of their citizenship, defined racial identity and forbade sexual relations between Jews and Christians.

Berenbaum sums up Kristallnacht, the turning point in Hitler's anti-Jewish crusade, in a page. But his analysis is tight and cogent.

He reminds us, if a reminder is even needed, that this nationwide pogrom, a prelude to the Holocaust, was anything but spontaneous, as the Nazis never tired of publicly claiming.

Just before midnight on Nov. 9, 1938, the chief of the Gestapo, Heinrich Muller, dispatched a telegram to all police units letting them know that "in shortest order, actions against Jews and especially their synagogues will take place in all of Germany."

The state-inspired violence triggered another exodus of Jews from Germany, and Berenbaum takes note of this massive migration.

Writing of the fate of Jews in Nazi-occupied western Europe, he says that it differed from country to country and depended on three factors: the degree of control exercised by the Nazis, the history of the Jews in the region and the behaviour of the local population.

Interestingly enough, the Nazis confined Jews to ghettos only in eastern Europe, and in a chapter on that topic, Berenbaum says that Polish and Russian Jews were completely ghettoized by 1942, when Germany made its fateful decision to murder the Jews of Europe en masse.

His observations on the Warsaw and Lodz ghettos include comments on the Jewish Councils, the bodies whose authority derived from the Nazis.

The heroic 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising is given ample space, as are other ghetto revolts. In the face of overwhelming odds, Jews scarcely had a chance. But, as Berenbaum observes, "Resistance was its own reward."

In remarks on Jewish partisan activity, he delivers the doleful verdict that, while Jewish fighters were treated as equals and with respect in countries such as the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, they could expect little help from the non-Jewish population in Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Inexplicably, he does not offer an explanation why this was the case.

As might be expected in a book of this calibre, Berenbaum's chapter on the death camps, from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Sobibor, ranges far and wide. What they generally had in common, apart from being located in Poland, was that they were near major railroad lines.

Which brings him to a still-painful issue: Why was Auschwitz not bombed by the Allies?

Allied aircraft dropped tons of bombs on subsidiary camps in the vicinity, but spared Auschwitz. Berenbaum addresses the matter, but does not really answer his own question.

He devotes quite a few pages to slave labour in the camps, where conditions were brutal and prisoners often worked 11-hour shifts with a minimum of sleep and almost no food.

Prominent German companies, notably BMW, I.G. Farben and Daimler-Benz, availed themselves of such workers on an entirely voluntary basis.

Only two nations under Nazi domination, Denmark and Bulgaria, resisted demands for the deportation of their Jewish citizens, and Berenbaum wisely discusses these exceptions to the rule.

He also pays tribute to Zegota, a Catholic organization in Poland that aided Jews by providing them with safe hiding places, money and false identity papers.

The book does not end with the liberation of the concentration camps and Nazi Germany's downfall. Berenbaum analyzes the post-war Nuremberg war crimes trials, the flight of displaced Jewish refugees and the 1946 pogrom in Kielce, Poland.

The photographs scattered throughout *The World Must Know* are sharp and clear and usually chilling. They add an extra dimension to a book worthy of any good library.

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# Medical miracles do happen

By VIVIAN ROSENBERG

Who said miracles don't happen? Especially scientific ones!

On April 21, 2005, I received a telephone call at 10:20 p.m. from Toronto General Hospital: "Vivian, we have two lungs waiting for you. Please get here ASAP."

Immediately, excitement and joy suffused me. With my husband at my side, I had only one quick task before leaving for the hospital – to phone my three sons.

On April 21 this year, I celebrated the first day of my second birthday. Literally, I had received a gift of life. It has been an amazing, exciting and most humbling experience.

My journey here commenced in 1985 when I was diagnosed as having emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a pernicious illness that often moves slowly but rarely stops. Fortunately, my case was managed by wonderful doctors at Toronto General Hospital, and I was able to keep working for some time in a challenging and enjoyable career.

Over the years, however, I had a number of infections, and in March 2000, I was hospitalized and wound up on supplemental oxygen 24 hours a day. Having to leave work was terrible. But, after crying in my tea for the proverbial 15 minutes, I decided the oxygen tank was my best friend, and so it was for the next five years. It went everywhere with me – to family, friends, movies, dinners. Over those five years, I grew steadily weaker, more susceptible to life-threatening infections, and I was hospitalized many times.

In January 2005, I was told I had less than two years to live. My options were a transplant or what the medical experts called a lobectomy, which involved cutting away the diseased tissue of the lungs, leaving whatever remained of the good tissue. The surgeon told me it could buy me some time, with a possible transplant down the road, which didn't look or sound to me like the famous yellow brick road.

Research shows that 10 per cent of patients don't survive lung transplant surgery and 20 per cent do not survive the first year. Still, those numbers sounded like pretty good odds to me and I went for broke! I did not even question the seriousness and risks.

I had a comprehensive medical assessment and was put on the transplant list. The assessment phase, including myriad tests, was my introduction to the level of detail and comprehensiveness of this astonishing program. I was immediately enrolled in the hospital exercise program three days a week, walking the treadmill, lifting weights, pedalling a bike, all while dragging my best friend – six to eight litres of oxygen.

What followed was no less than a scientific miracle that still evokes tears of deep gratitude and appreciation for a dedicated, highly competent transplant team at Toronto General and a family and friends who were always there for me.

I was one of the fortunate ones. From the time I was placed on the transplant list, my wait was a relatively short two months, six days and 10 hours – not that I was counting. In the hospital, my family was told that I had been at the end of my disease, an idea that somehow had never crossed my mind.

On April 21, when they wheeled me into surgery, I was overjoyed and excited, while my poor husband felt utterly bereft, terrified he would never see me again. Thankfully, seven hours later, he did see me. The surgeon told me it takes one hour to remove a lung and one hour to put one in. That would be four hours, and presumably the additional three hours were for plumbing and administration.

My hospital stay was 18 days, and I was on a respirator. The physicians and nurses were truly remarkable and extraordinarily competent and compassionate. How often have we heard of a surgeon visiting a patient up to three times a day for a chat and check-up? My surgeon did just that.

Nursing was one-on-one. A vivid memory of my first day post-surgery is of my nurse, Graham, tenderly combing my hair, telling me how well I was doing, while he kept a sharp eye on the computer at my bedside listing my vital statistics. His humanity brought a deep rush of tears.

My hospital stay was almost pain free and always positive, despite many ups and downs. I was probably flying high, fuelled on steroids and pain killers, but who cared? The excitement of being taken off supplemental oxygen made me euphoric. The staff had me walking almost immediately – me, who could barely walk up a short flight of steps days earlier.

The day of my discharge I was told to report to the hospital exercise room the very next day! And I did, albeit in slow motion. What followed is almost too fantastic to relate. I was given my own private telephone number where I remain in contact with my own nurse co-ordinator. It also gives me constant access to a transplant team of caring physicians at the top of their field. Care was and remains a mere telephone call away, without a "your call is important to us." There literally isn't a crack to fall between.

Throughout my experience I was most fortunate to have a loving family and dedicated friends from whom I drew enormously sustaining strength. I felt as if I was literally ensconced in a warm security blanket of protective loving care. This was my sustenance.

The transplant team at Toronto General is considered one of the best in the world. The staff continue to push the envelope in research and develop new methods and treatments to improve procedures currently in use.

While there has been profound joy in the many lives saved so also have tears been shed at the loss of life, particularly of those on the waiting list who just didn't have the strength to hold out till their turn came. Some waits are horrendously long, particularly for kidneys.

In Canada, we have one of the lowest rates of organ donation among industrialized countries. There is a continual need for a campaign of greater awareness. Organ and tissue transplantation includes heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and corneas. Transplantation is an area that is constantly growing in its ability to save and extend lives. Many leaders of the major religions are strongly urging their community members to sign donor cards to save and extend a life.

So what is life like for me today? In the early months, there were endless clinic visits with exercise in the gym three days a weeks. Medically, there are what I choose to call "blips," and I deal with them as they come. I now take more than 20 pills daily, many quite powerful, but hey, no more puffers. There are CAT scans, X-rays, MRIs and endless vials of my blood taken. Phone calls advising me of results always follow, keeping me fully informed. Thankfully, the dust is starting to settle, and fewer visits are needed.

My life has changed dramatically since the surgery. I can climb subway stairs without gasping, stay up late, shop for groceries, dance and visit with family and friends. In the past, these activities of daily living were difficult, and many times, impossible. Where would I be today without the life-saving thoughtfulness of my donor and his or her family? There certainly would not have been a second chance for life. Strict confidentiality prevents me from knowing anything about my donor. With a need to express my profound appreciation, I wrote a long letter of thanks, through the hospital, to the donor's family, telling them of the gift of life they had given me. My hope was to give some meaning to their tragic loss. We have so much to be proud of in our medical accomplishments, but we can't sit on our laurels. Please sign your donor card, talk about it with your family, circle of friends and colleagues. Keep the topic on the radar. Spread the word. You literally have the power to save lives!

My transplant has enabled me to re-engage with the many beautiful and exquisite gifts life bestows upon us. There is volunteer work and the hope of returning to some part-time work. I savour the sun and the wind on my face. My grateful heart, deep humility and tears of gratitude have not dissipated. I never take for granted my citizenship in the very civil society of Canada, the country that has made all this possible.

Who said miracles don't happen? I celebrate life every day.

*Vivian Rosenberg lives and now breathes and moves much more easily in Toronto.*

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515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW SERVICES
550 WORKSHOPS


## Forest Hill

Real Estate Inc. Realtor

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

### CENTRAL PROPERTIES

**54 ALEXANDRA WOOD! FAB 50X132'!**
$1,165K! Just N/Glencairn! Build Your Dream In This Most Sought After Local! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**REDUCED! UPPER VILLAGE HOME**
50 x 125.58 ft, Centre Hall Plan, 3 Bdrms, 3Bths, Finished Basement, Garage, Eat-in Kitchen. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**120 ABBEYWOOD TRAIL! 4+1BDRM 4BTH!**
$788K! Leslie/York Mills! Mn Fam+Lau+2Pce! W/O Bsmt! 60 x 120'! Motivated! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**PRIME UPPER VILLAGE – TUDOR STYLE** SOLD
Great Curb Apple! Backing onto Greenbelt, Main Floor Family Room, 3 Bdrm, 3Bth. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**CHRISTIE/ST. CLAIR – JUST RENOVATED**
3 Self contained Units, Bamboo Flooring, Halogen Pot Lights, New Kitchens, New Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**ARMOUR HEIGHTS-GREAT OPPORTUNITY**
3bdrm/2bath on beautiful 53'lot. Live in, renovate or build new. $535,000. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

**PALM DR. 56 FT LOT $529,000**
9 room split, formal dr+lr, family size kitchen with w/out to huge deck. Family room, sep entrance. Rose Simon*416-226-1987

**BATHURST/SHEPPARD – $479,000 - FAB** SOLD
Bungalow. 3bdrm/2bath rec room & Beautifully finished basement with Potential in-law suite. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

### BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

**THORNHILL WOODS - FULLY FURNISHED 4BDRM HOME**
Over $100K in Upgrades, was Model Unit, too Many Extras to List. Adam Feldman* 416-488-2875

**9 CARLUKE CRES! BAYVIEW/FIFESHIRE!**
$749K! Dare To Compare! Fab 4+1Bdr, 4Bth! Mn Fam+2Pce! Gorgeous 72x115'! Impeccable! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**MILL POND – IMMACULATE HERITAGE ESTATE**
4Bdrm Home on Cul-de-Sac, Finished Bsmt, Sunfilled Brkfast Area & more. Adam Feldman* 416-488-2875

**2952 BAYVIEW AVENUE! CHOICE 43X118!**
$539,900! N/Sheppard! Prime Bldg. Lot Facing The Park! Much New Dev't In Area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**BATHURST-FLAMINGO $489,900. WONDERFUL**
Family home on quiet crescent. Hardwood on main, professionally finished lower level. Heddy Blaug** 416-226-1987

### CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

**$649,000 – 150 HEATH STREET WEST**
Grand Marble Foyer, 2 Bdrm, 2 Baths, 24 Hr Security, Valet Parking + 2 Parking Spaces. Gary Mitchell** 416-488-2875

**EXECUTIVE $599,000 2BDRM+DEN**
Magnificent Penthouse/Great 180 South city views. Bayview & Sheppard, 1600 Sq.Ft. Patricia Altman* 416-226-1987

**WALMER RD – HEART OF FOREST HILL**
2Bdrms, 2 Bths, 2 Parking Spaces, Fab Views, Approx 1500 Sq Ft, New Parquet Flrs Thruout. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**247 HILLHURST BLVD! RARE CONDO!**
$349K! E/Bathurst! Seldom Available 3+1Bdrm, 2Bth, Mn Flr Ste! Walk To School/Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**500 GLENCAIRN AVENUE! STUNNING!**
$389K! Total Reno 2Br, 2Bth! Amazing Hi-Tech Kosher Kitchen! 2 Car Prkg! Walk To Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**2 COVINGTON RD/BATHURST/LAWRENCE** SOLD
$274,900 – Renovated 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Suite, Open Balcony, 1 Parking, Locker. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**BATHURST/SHEPPARD CONDO $235,000**
4pce baths. High ceilings balcony, locker, 5 appl. Steps to TTC, subway. Best buy. Ruth Silver* 416-226-1987

**ORIOLE/KILBARRY CO-OP APT $224,900**
Charming 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Eat-in Kitchen, Hardwood Flooring Thru. Faithe Sverksy** 416-488-2875

**115 ANTIBES DR - STUNNING 2BDR 2BTH**
Condo $220,000, upgraded. Great location. Bright, spotless Georgina Koltai* 416-226-1987

**2 NEPTUNE DR - $159,000! AT BAYCREST!**
Amazing 1Bdr, 1Bth Suite! Incredible Seniors Bldg W/Fab! Amenities! Immediate Possession! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

### RENTAL PROPERTIES

**1ST AD! 102 BLOOR ST W! $1,195/MTH!**
E/Avenue Rd! Outstanding Yorkville Bachelor Suite With Balcony! Geoffrey Korn*/Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

****Associate Broker** *** Sales Representative**

**www.foresthill.com**

**LYTTON PARK–NEW LISTING**
**$1,289,900 – 8 Forest Wood.**
Luxury 4 Bdrm., Family + Den with finished Bsmt.
*Shows like a model.*
**Denise Abraham 416-485-2299 C/B PinnacleR.E.**

## REAL ESTATE Section

### 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HK

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LTD. BROKERAGE

**PRESTIGIOUS OLD THORNHILL**
Dramatic custom home located on fabulous south facing lot with inground pool. Featuring 5+2 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, walk-out lower level. Extensive use of granite and marble. 3 Car garage & more. $3,180,000. Michelle Schipper ** ext. 289

**COUNTRY IN THE CITY * YORK DOWNS**
Exceptional park-like setting. 1½ acre treed ravine lot home built for owner in 1956, circular drive, prime location. Asking $2,499,000. To view please call Natalie Kopman* ext. 315

**UPPER VILLAGE**
New custom home approx. 3700 sq. ft. + finished lower level. Gourmet kitchen with high end stainless steel appliances. Main floor den & family room, 5+1 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, sumptuous master en-suite. Sunfilled with soaring ceilings & hardwood floors thruout. Great attention to detail, top quality finishes and workmanship. Stunning! Chaim Talpalar* ext. 266

**AVENUE ROAD & LAWRENCE**
Fabulously appointed 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home. Upgraded throughout! Granite countertops in modern kitchen, marble baths, hardwood flrs. Exceptional value! Elise Stern* ext. 538

**1ST AD – DESIREABLE AND POPULAR AREA**
2 Storey, 4+ bdrms, large principal rms, 3 baths, fin'd bsmnt, walk to synagogues, shops, transportation. Lovingly maintained. Priced to sell $699K. Paula G. Bernstein* ext. 228

**1 + 1 AT 268 RIDLEY BOULEVARD**
Tridel built & managed. Includes 1 locker, 1 parking spot, cac, outdoor pool, exer/party/billiards rooms. Steps to TTC, shopping & restaurants. 10+++. Heidi Nelson* ext. 400

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LES AARON
Sales Representative

**BATHURST/WILSON**
**$484,900**. Detached, 2 storey, 3 bdrm, 4 bath home on 55x120' lot. Absolute character and charm. Hardwood on 1st and 2nd floors, renovated kitchen, w/out to deck and backyard, finished basement, private drive. Close to shopping and TTC

**LESLIE/SHEPPARD**
**$414,900**. Fabulous 3+1 bdrm, 2 bath bungalow on [illegible]0 lot! Large eat-in kitchen, h[illegible] floors, plaster mouldings, wood fireplace, large finished basement with high ceilings Loads of storage. Great value. SOLD

**HARBORD & BRUNSWICK - FOR LEASE**
**$3,900**.Lovely 2 storey, 3 bdrm + tandem home on 30x134 lot. Absolute character & cha[illegible]ained fin. basement. Reno'd kitchen. Priv. drive for [illegible] Hardwood on 1st & 2nd flrs. Wainscotting. Enormous backyard. Available July 1st. LEASED

Forest Hill REAL ESTATE INC. • REALTOR

**416-785-1500**
**www.LesAaron.com**

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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### FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

COLDSTREAM GEM!

**LUXURIOUS** custom-built executive home in highly desirable location! Spacious 3,800 + sq. ft., 5 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite foyer, gleaming hrdwd. floors, main floor library + laundry room, close to TTC, subway, shops, schools. $1,199,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**3000 BATHURST CONDO — REDUCED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE!** Renovated & decorated 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, modern kitchen, limestone floors, marble counter, built-in bookcase & closet organizers, sandblasted glass doors. **ONLY $281,500 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**PRESTIGIOUS CORTLEIGH PARK**

**AFFORDABLE LUXURY!** Custom 3,700 sq. ft. + finished basement with its own kitchen. 5 + 1 bedrooms, 6 baths, main floor library and family room, both with custom built-in bookcases. Dream French country kitchen. palatial bathrooms, gleaming hardwood floors on both levels. Designer decor & luxurious upgrades throughout. Steps to Cortleigh Park! $1,679,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER OF RECORD

### SOLD FOR 100% OF ASKING PRICE

**Ground floor retail, 2nd floor apts. in high traffic Bathurst / Glencairn area!** TTC right at the door, close proximity to shops, schools, amenities. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — ATTENTION BUILDERS!** Building lot with 51.25 ft. frontage, only $429,000. **ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / RANEE**

Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. Only $699,000. Also available for rent @ $3,500 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — BUSINESS FOR SALE**

**INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS KOSHER RESTAURANT FOR SALE** in high-traffic Bathurst / Lawrence area. **ONLY $329,000 INCLUDING EQUIPMENT — ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**JUST LISTED**

Bathurst & Steeles. Magnificent large 3 bedroom home, 3 baths, modern townhouse, renovated kitchen, upgraded bathrooms, high ceiling, finished basement, laundry, garage. Only **$325.000.**

**BEAUTIFUL MASTER PIECE RAISED BUNGALOW**

9 years new. Prime Vaughan. Large 3 bedroom, 2 baths, huge kitchen, family area room, 9 ft. ceiling, heated 2 car garage, huge cold room, breathtaking landscape. **$549,000.**

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**LUXURY REAL ESTATE IN OLDE THORNHILL**

$1,799,000 5+3 bdrms, 8 baths, w/out bsmt, 100' x 308'
$1,649,000 5 bdrms, loft, 6 baths, 3 w/outs, 100'x150'
$1,429,000 4+2 bdrms, 7 baths, fin bsmnt, 150' x 140'
$1,299,000 gorgeous 100'x 308' mature treed lot
$729,000 mature treed lot 100'x180', rentable bungalow

$1,679,000 custom, SOLD IN 5 DAYS baths, 100' x 145'

**ALVEAR PALACE, 1 CORDOBA DR., THORNHILL**

State of the Art custom designed magnificent condos for sale from $312,000 – $950,000. By appointment only.

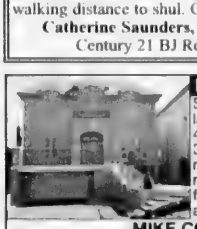
**CONDOS @ BATHURST/CLARK & BATHURST/CENTRE**

$239,900 2 bdms, 2 baths, eat-in kit., 2 lockers, 1 pkg.
$299,000 2 bdrms, 2 baths, lr/dr comb. reduced 10K!

### *LAKE SIMCOE*

With over 5,000 sq. ft. of finished space, this home boasts quality & design. The main level welcomes you with gleaming hardwood floors with inlay design, a stunning entrance as seen in Better Homes Magazine, as well as customized ceilings in every room. This home is located amongst million dollar & waterfront properties. Backing onto golf course with water access & walking distance to shul. Offered at $799,900.

**Catherine Saunders,** *Sales Rep.,* **1-888-712-9994**
Century 21 BJ Roth Rity Ltd. Brokerage



**BATHURST/LAWRENCE**

Spectacular new custom built large 47' x 131', 2 storey, approx. 4,000 sq.ft., 5 bdrms, 6 baths, 3 kitchens, fin bsmnt apt., lrg rec room and separate nanny's suite, main floor library. Superb quality finishings. **A MUST SEE!!!** By appt. only. Offered at $1,295,000.

**MIKE COHEN,** Sales Rep.
**Homelife Bayview Realty Inc.** Brokerage **905-889-2200**

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The Canadian Jewish news

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**905-764-7111**

**OLD FOREST HILL**

Elegance & grandeur. 5 bdrm, 3 baths, family room, 12' ceilings, lrge garden, w/o from kitchen, 2 car gar. See it-love it!

**NEW WESTMINSTER & CLARK**

Great 3 bdrm townhome, 3 baths, super location.

**CORNER UNIT**

131 Torresdale at Bathurst. Elegant 2 bedroom + den condo. Fully furnished. Great view. Bring your key & open the apt. Gorgeous.

**BATHURST & WILSON**

1 bdr+den condo, prkng, appl, ask $203,000. Immed. poss.

CENTURY 21 HERITAGE GROUP

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

**SEIDMAN**
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
**416-633-7373**

**YONGE/CLARK CONDO**

Large 2 bedroom + den, huge lv & din, walkout to balcony, 2 parking, move-in condition.

**SHEPPARD/WILSON HEIGHTS**

6 room bungalow + fin bsmnt, next to commercial plaza, lrg lot, double garage, great location.

**FAYWOOD/SHEPPARD**

4 bedroom bungalow, living & dining comb, finished basement, 2 car garage, steps to all.

**416-633-7373**

# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

**Paul Slavens**
REAL ESTATE INC. BROKERAGE

RESULTS
RESULTS
**483-4337**

**FINE PROPERTIES**

**PRIME FOREST HILL - $2,395,000.**

Stately Tudor Stone Residence. Grand centre hall plan. Restored & updated. 6 bdrms. Spacious principal rms. Elegant oak library. Well appointed family rm. 4 fireplaces. Master w/dressing rm. & ensuite. 2nd fl. balcony overlooks fabulous courtyard. ***Ron Chichora/ *Elaine Kehoe**

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**LOWER VILLAGE - $2,695,000.**

Custom designed 4-5 bedroom, 5 bath home completed in 1990. Formal living room, separate dining room, gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops. Main floor library + family room. Multi fireplaces & skylights. Luscious landscaped grounds with inground Betz pool. ***Edith Weiss/*Barbara Kaplan**

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**LAWRENCE PARK - $2,375,000.**

This exquisite home is a masterpiece of taste & perfection. Spectacular kitchen. Master w/fireplace, balcony, his & her dressing rms. 3rd floor guest suite. Beautifully landscaped gardens & pool. ***Carol Cotton/ *Donna Taylor**

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**COUNTRY SETTING - $2,095,000.**

Custom designed, 6 yrs. new on quiet cul-de-sac. 5 bdrms., 8 baths. Open concept- great flow for entertaining. Finished lower level. Fabulous landscaped, fenced yard w/pool & waterfall. Backs onto ravine. ***Richard Sherman**

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**FOREST HILL RD. - $1,775,000.**

Elegant centre hall plan with formal living rm.w/fireplace. Separate dining rm. Updated kitchen. Powder rm. Family rm/library. 6-7 bdrms. Central air. Double garage. *Edith Weiss / *Judy Nathan

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**CHIEFTAIN CRES - $1,595,000.**

SOLD

Fabulous reno'd home boasts 5+2 rms, 6 baths, gourmet kitchen. Main fl. family rm. Huge living & dining rms. Exceptional landscaped lot w/stunning pool area. *Betty Cohen/*Donna Taylor

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**AVENUE RD/ LAWRENCE - $1,229,000.**

Beautiful 4 bdrm., 5 bath residence. Totally renovated. Main fl. family rm. & powder rm. Great lower level w/walk-out to fully fenced yard. *Shawnee Slan/**Richard Sherman

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**BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $1,139,000.**

Brand new 4+ 1 bdrms., 5 bath residence. Custom kitchen + breakfast area. Main fl. family rm. + powder rm. Finished lower level. Double garage. **Richard Sherman / *Erica Binder

• • •

**SHERWOOD PARK - JUST LISTED**

$789,000. Exceptional renovated property. Legal 2 family home or potential for single family residence. Walk-out . Sundeck. 205 ft. fenced yard with access to park. *Linda Rose

• • •

**YONGE / YORK MILLS - $698,000.**

SOLD

Large, bright & spacious Leg[illegible]ex located across from park in desirable St. Andrews Area. Finished lower level. Central air. Double garage. ***Ron Chichora**

• • •

**PRIME LEASIDE - $650,000.**

Warm & inviting 4 bdrm., 3 bath home. Master w/ensuite + walk-out to balcony. Walk-out from kitchen to large deck & garden. 2 skylites. Lovely entertaining flow. Private drive. ***Marlene Federman**

• • •

**AVENUE RD / LAWRENCE - $599,000.**

Detached 3 bdrm., 2 bath home in John Wanless School District. Original wainscotting. Leaded glass windows. Fireplace. Finished lower level. Large rear deck. Private drive. ****Susan Lee**

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**BATHURST / WILSON - $379,000.**

Well maintained bungalow with [illegible]ate entrance to finished lower level. Private drive & garage. Close to schools, transit & shopping. ***Darren Slavens**

• • •

**PROMENADE MALL CONDO - $245,900.**

Beautiful & spacious 2 bdrms. + solarium. Ensuite laundry. Tandem parking for 2 cars. Walking distance to Promenade shopping & library. ***Lena Rauchwerger**

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* Sales Person **Broker

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## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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Century 21 BJ Roth Realty Ltd.
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Direct 705-796-3564

**BELLE EWART**

**$2.2M** - 87' lake frontage, 6 bdrms, 6 baths, perm. dock, dble wet boathouse.
**$1.1M** Approx. 93' lake frontage, 4 bdrms, 1 bath.
**$539,000** 50' lake frontage, 4 bdrms, 4 baths. Walking distance to shuls, close to all amenities, 40 min. from Toronto.

**MARTY BROMBERG**
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## 15 HOUSES FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Clark,** 3 bdrm., fin. bsmt., walking distance to Shul & school, avail. end of Aug. Call Leon 416-388-8918.

**Bathurst/Clark,** 3 bed., 3 bath., Avail. July 15th, on a private cul de sac. Newly renovated. Beautiful! 905-881-7476.

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**3000 Bathurst St.**
**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitch, solarium, prkng Shabbas elevator, just reduced, must sell at under market price. $ 275,000. Zidner Realty
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**SUPERB CORNER UNIT! PROMENADE CIRCLE** – over 1400 sq. ft., NE exposure, 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, lots of upgrades, eat-in kitchen, large balcony, 2 parking spots, 1 locker - $359,000
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Royal LePage Partners Realty
416-229-4454

**BATHURST & LAWRENCE**

***New Listing!***

'THE ENCORE' immaculate 2 bdrm/2 bath 959 sf, 5 appliances, balcony, pkg, locker. $279,900

**KAREN G. ANTHONY,** B.A.
Sales Representative
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ROYAL LEPAGE R E S LTD
Johnston & Daniel Division

## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Wilson,** new 2 bedrm, 2 bath, stainless appl., granite counter, washer/dryer, parking, many upgrades. 416-989-5208.

**Bath./Sheppard,** a/c, 2 bdrms., 2 baths/den, new kit., lge. balc., pool, ex. room, sauna, close to shuls, shops. Suits quiet single/couple, no pets/smoking. Avail. July 1. $1250/mo., incl. cable, util. & pkg. 416-636-5167.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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**FANTASTIC VIEWS!**
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**1 Bedrooms starting from $950, 2 Bedrooms starting from $1200**

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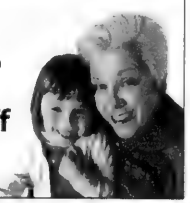

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Suites available immediately.
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Sabbath Elevator. TTC at your door. ***Call...***
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Great living at this immaculately maintained building. *Its nothing like you have seen before.* Large, bright and newly refurbished suites with oversized balconies, breathtaking views and shabbat elevator. Indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi. 1 & 2 bedrooms from only $950. Please Call
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**OPEN HOUSE every Sunday 10-2**

**BATHURST-SHEPPARD**
***ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.***
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, pool, ravine setting.
6 Apts. per flr.
416-960-3238 - Bus.
416-631-5377 - 416-631-0388 - Supt

**Bathurst/Atkinson,** 1 bdrm. furnished bsmt. apt., cable, internet included, etc. Close to Shul, $700., no pets/smoker. Suites single. Call 905-731-6415.

## 123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT

**Week July 15-22** avail. at Aruba Phoenix Dlx Beach Resort. Sleeps 4. $495. 905-771-5097.

## 125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

**BOCA LAGO COUNTRY CLUB FULLY RENO'D.** exec. twnhse. ***Take advantage of high Cdn. exchange rate!*** Fabulous 2 bd. +den/opt. 3rd bd., 3 new full baths, mn. flr. fam. rm. (glass-encl.), lake view, new maple & granite kit., wood flrs. throughout, located on the fairways with 2 Champ golf courses. No mandatory membership. ***LIVE YOUR DREAM!*** $319,000. U.S. **Call Jill Golden Rltr., Nestler Poletto Realty Inc., Office 561-451-9200, Cell 954-298-8513.**

**FLORIDA CONDO FOR SALE**

Beautifully furnished, tiled, 2BR/1.5BA w/enclosed patio in Century Village Deerfield Beach. 1 block to synagogue! Next to heated pool & short walk to clubhouse. Move right in! **Asking $114,990! Call Katie Piliero, Dubman R.E. (954) 608-7969 or e-mail delegate@comcast.net**

**Urgent! N. Miami,** new constn. Magnificent beachfront, 24th fl., top features & amens. Must sell immed. Now USD465K. 678-781-4860. More on www.BrachasHomeTeam.com

## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Boca Raton, Cent. Village.** Nicely & fully furn. 1 br. 1 1/2 bath. ground flr. $1600. US/mo., 4 mos. min. Seasonal, 305-255-3985.

**Miami Sunny Isles, Winston Towers,** lux. conv., 1 bdrm., 2 baths, walk to beach, June 1st to Sept. Weekly or monthly. $500. US/wk. 305-935-1755.

**Fort Lauderdale Beach,** Las Olas Blvd./A1A/Oceanview. 1500 sq. ft., 2 bdrms, 2 baths., resort like pool, sauna/spa, large exercise room, covered parking, 24hr. gated security, short walk to beach, non smokers only. Available Sept. onwards. $4000. US/month. Call Julie 416-725-3918.

## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Century Village, Boca Raton, Florida,** brand new corner 2 bdrm., 1.5 bathroom. Kosher granite kitchen. Yearly/seasonal. Call 1-718-972-2009.

## 190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

**Mt. Tremblant,** 5 bed., 2 bath. Sleeps up to 14. Pool, tennis, close to beach and village. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Short term. 1-866-955-9961.

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Need someone who is computer literate, can type, do banking, approx. 4-5 hrs./day, refs. Call 416-223-3849.

**OUTSIDE SALES AGENT,** up to $250K/yr. Offer Canadians tax programs to reduce and recover up to 50% of income tax dollars for 2006 period. Contact 1-416-286-1976 or uwilson@sympatico.ca

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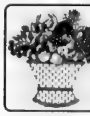

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## Israel & the Jewish World

**DEAD SEA RISING: The group of champion Sumo wrestlers visiting Israel on a goodwill tour made a stop at the Dead Sea. Other bathers at the resort were delighted at the sight of the floating wrestlers.** [Israel photo]

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# Winnipeg athlete invited to try out for Winter Olympics team

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Geoff Rosenbaum grew up in an athletic family. His sister, Trisha, has been around the world as a member of Canada's national ringette team. Older brother Michael has excelled in baseball, softball and Tae Kwon Do.

Rosenbaum's field of dreams has been track and field – but that is about to change.

The pentathlete is one of a number of Canadian summer athletic stars who have been recruited by the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) to try out for the XXIst Winter Games in Vancouver in 2010. He's being considered for a possible spot in bobsleigh or skeleton racing.

The recruitment of Rosenbaum and other Canadian summer athletic stars to switch to winter sports represents a sea change in the COC's thinking. Rather than sitting back and waiting for athletes to come forward, the COC's aggressive new "Own The Podium" program aims to find athletes, test them and train them.

The 29-year-old Jewish Winnipegger has been competing in track and field events since high school. "I ranked best in high school in the decathlon [consisting of hurdles, long jump, sprints, high jump, shot put, discus, pole vault and javelin]," Rosenbaum said.

At the University of Manitoba, his principal event was the pentathlon, consisting of the 60-metre and 1,000-metre hurdles, the high jump and the long jump and the shot put. Three years ago, he finished sixth in the competition at the Inter-University Games.

Last year, he chose to compete in the Maccabiah Games in Israel instead of the Canadian university competition. He finished third in both the 110-metre hurdles and the 4 x 100-metre event. He finished fifth in the long jump.

But Rosenbaum is very excited about the possibility of competing in the Winter Olympics, even though he has never tried winter sports before.

He's been approached to try out for either the bobsleigh or skeleton team. It seems that he is the ideal size for skeleton racing. He and other recruits were scheduled to head to Regina last month to be tested for strength, conditioning and psychological makeup. A chosen few will be invited to train in Calgary for the Canadian national team.

"I'd really like to make the team," Rosenbaum said. "I'm slowing down in track, but this is something new. Actually, it's really recharged my batteries."

Rosenbaum has a degree in physical education and is currently working on his master's in sport biomechanics. He has one year of university track and field competition to look forward to.

Looking to his career following university, Rosenbaum would most like to coach, but he is considering other options, including sports prosthesis design or teaching phys-ed.

# Pro baseball league planned for Israel

**BOSTON, Mass.** — Israel. The land of milk and honey… and artificial turf? As a further indication that the globalization of baseball is upon us, a Boston-based group announced recently that it's set to launch a professional baseball league in Israel. Opening day has been pegged for June 22, 2007.

"We have been working hand-in-hand since last summer with members of the Israel Association of Baseball – Israel's official baseball federation – to establish the foundation for the league," said founder Larry Baras. "The Israel Baseball League [IBL] is ready to take its place among the professional baseball leagues of the world."

The IBL has been able to attract impressive leadership to steward its march toward opening day.

Among the league's principals are Daniel Kurtzer, former U.S. ambassador to Israel and to Egypt, who will serve as its first commissioner, and Dan Duquette, former general manager of the Boston Red Sox, who will serve as the league's director of player development. Its advisory board includes Smith College professor Andrew Zimbalist, a respected baseball economist; Marvin Goldklang, minority owner of the New York Yankees and owner/operator of six minor league teams; and Marshall Glickman, former president of the NBA's Portland Trailblazers.

The IBL has notified Major League Baseball's office of the commissioner that it intends to apply for inclusion in the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

"From the way the rules have been established, if a player is eligible to be a citizen of a national team through ancestral descent, that player can receive dispensation from the WBC to play for that team," Baras said. "As such, we plan to recruit Jewish major and minor leaguers to play under the Israeli flag [similar to the way players Mike Piazza and Lenny Dinardo played for Italy in the 2006 WBC], as they are eligible to become Israeli citizens by virtue of their lineage."

Baras envisions six teams, playing 48-game schedules, with no games on Friday nights or Saturdays. The season, which would run from June to August, would allow college players to play between semesters, and Jewish players from U.S. colleges are welcome to play.

Though Israel is not widely known as a baseball country, the sport is not new to the Jewish state.

"Currently, there are over 2,000 players in Israel who regularly don baseball hats, cleats and gloves and play ball frequently. Israel has national teams that play in international tournaments and has sent several players to American colleges to continue their playing careers. Israel's first baseball field dates back to 1979, a veritable field of dreams located smack in the middle of wine country, with vistas as far as the eye can see," Baras said.

In addition to manning IBL rosters with Israeli-born players, teams will largely be stocked with players who have previously played at the minor league or collegiate level in the United States. To the degree possible, these players will be of Jewish extraction.

In terms of entertainment value, baseball in Israel will follow the lead of U.S. minor leagues by offering a broad variety of on-field promotions between innings and before and after games.

"This is going to be must-see entertainment in Israel the likes of which it has never witnessed before," Baras stated. "It will be geared to be wholesome fun for the entire family that will transcend the mere playing of a baseball game, as enjoyable as that in itself will be."

Kurtzer, the former ambassador, has long been a proponent of baseball finding a home in Israel. "For too long, there has been a dearth of recreational activities in Israel, especially for its youth. And nothing can be more fun than watching and cheering on your hometown baseball team," he said.

Duquette plans to establish a bona fide baseball academy in Israel. "We intend to run camps and clinics throughout the country for players of all skills, ages, sexes, and denominations. A baseball field can be a great place for people to come and learn a sport together," he said. Among the goals of the academy will be to develop homegrown IBL players. Duquette's sports academy in Massachusetts will serve as the IBL's official U.S.-based training centre.

The league plans to begin play in existing soccer stadiums and baseball fields that will be retrofitted to better accommodate pro baseball. Talks have already begun with several potential franchise sites.

"Once the first couple of franchises are set, it's off to the races. We will start selling tickets and bringing in sponsors," said Baras. A campaign to raise funds from potential investors has already started.

For more information, visit www.israelbaseballleague.com.

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# Thinking about kids

Sandie Benitah
20Something

For the first time in my life, I experienced baby envy.

It happened when I met a girlfriend of mine for coffee and saw what a yummy mummy she had become.

She's the first of my friends to be pregnant, and while I've always sat on the fence over whether or not to have children of my own, I have to admit, seeing the glow in her eye and hearing her talk of possible names made me happy to think that one day, it could be me.

Today, I'm back on the fence and thinking that the only baby I can handle is the one I see in the mirror each day.

And the scary thing is, I know I'm not the only one selfishly thinking of a life of freedom.

A good chunk of my friends are either married or getting engaged. Some of them want children, but the majority of my friends are either waiting or waiting to see if they'll change their mind about having kids or not.

I guess this selfishness must be a trend, because the other day on TV, there was an entire show dedicated to people who call themselves "Think-ers" — "Two Household Incomes, No Kids," thank you very much.

Never mind the cheeky acronym. I would argue these people are indeed the bright thinkers of society.

It's not the stress-free vacations and free-flow of money that I crave. I just want a life without the premature grey hair and wrinkles that having kids inevitably brings.

I've always been taught that having children is a big mitzvah and that the greatest gift Hashem can give me is a baby. But what if I'm just not cut out for it?

My first inkling that kids aren't for me came when I babysat my niece when she was just one year old. The poor baby perched herself by the door and wouldn't stop crying for her mama. No matter how many dolls I played with or lullabies I sang, nothing consoled her. She cried until she threw up, and instead of rushing to clean it up, I too started crying and felt my own food come up. I called my sister and demanded that she come home.

Nonetheless, today, my sisters know there's no one they can trust more than me to take care of their kids.

I don't care if my nephew is old enough to be celebrating his bar mitzvah, when he's with me, he knows he better not leave my sight for fear of what I will do to him. I've learned to relax a bit, though. Now, I try to remember to let go of his hand when his friends are around.

If I have kids, they will probably hate me. They won't be allowed to play hockey for fear they'll get a concussion. They won't be allowed to climb trees for fear they'll break a bone. I even decided they'd be home schooled after I saw what happened at Columbine.

I know. I'm nuts – that's why I'm not having kids!

I always had the strictest parents of all my friends, and my mom always made me understand their position by saying, "I'd rather you cry than I cry." I knew she meant that she loved me so much that any harm to me would hurt her even more.

Somehow, my mom succeeded in raising four girls who – thank heavens have never broken any bones and have never gotten into any kind of trouble.

She, too, was a yummy mummy, having had three kids in her early twenties. But times have changed since then.

Our streets aren't as safe to play in, and our schools are no longer a protected home away from home. The news is full of drama about kids in danger.

Maybe I'm thinking way too much, but for now, I'm too scared to be anything but a Thinker.

## Sweet Potato Salad w/ Orange-Maple Dressing

Dressing
2 tbsp pure maple syrup
2 tblsp balsamic vinegar
2 tsp minced peeled fresh ginger
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 c extra-virgin olive oil
2 tblsp orange juice
1 tblsp fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp cinnamon

Whisk all ingredients in small bowl. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Salad
6 lbs. sweet potatoes peeled, cut into 3/4" cubes
1 c chopped green onions
1 c chopped fresh parsley
1 c pecans, toasted, coarsely chopped
1/2 c golden raisins
1/2 c Sultana raisins

Roast sweet potatoes 30 min. Transfer to large bowl. Cool to room temperature. Add green onions, parsley, pecans, and raisins. Pour dressing over; toss gently to blend. Season to taste with salt and pepper. (Can be made 2 hours ahead. Let stand at room temperature.)

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## About Life

**Dear Ella,**

I have two wonderful girls who are lucky enough to have both sets of grandparents.

My parents see the kids at least one a week and their visit is usually very pleasant for all. My husband's parents, however, do not have the same effect in our home. They respect none of our rules and choose to sneak about and do what they want. Kayla, my eldest daughter, has a tendency to be overweight. We only have healthy snacks in the house, and the girls are fine with that.

When Jerry's parents come to visit, they bring chocolate and cookies. They know we forbid it, and yet they don't care. When our backs are turned, in goes a chocolate, and they encourage the girls to keep it a secret from us. Of course, this is just one example, but the list is long. What should I do?

**Grandparent dilemma**

**Dear Grandparent dilemma**

It truly is a great gift that your children have both sets of grandparents in their lives.

It is not unusual, however, for grandparents to want to spoil their grandchildren. Sometimes they love the kids to the point of it being detrimental. They can't see the bigger picture, as you can. All they want to do is shower the kids with love, and gifts of sweets are their way of showing affection. Is there something you can think of that is not food-related that they could bring the kids? Perhaps a book or a puzzle they could all enjoy together.

I realize this cookie thing is just the tip of the iceberg. The more serious problem is they do not have any regard for your rules, and that can sometimes be dangerous.

Jerry's parents raised Jerry when streets were safer, when kids didn't have so many allergies, when life in general was a little less structured, and he turned out just fine, so they don't see the harm.

I'm sure you and Jerry have already spoken to them, so it's time for action. Let them know that if they don't follow your rules, all visitation will have to be supervised.

Whatever you do, however, never spoil the bond Jerry's parents have with their grandchildren. It is precious and irreplaceable.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN., *email eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

# Fundamentalists in our own backyard

**By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG**

URBAN WRITER

Elie Wiesel recently spoke at a Hillel of Greater Toronto program on the topic "Confronting fanaticism: building moral unity in a diverse society." The *CJN* quoted Wiesel on June 1 as saying, "The fanatic is seduced because [he] believes simply that he is superior… the fanatic believes only his words carry weight and others are empty of meaning and consequence… The fanatic has no questions, only answers… he doesn't have dialogues, only monologues… the fanatic lacks a sense of humour. He can shout, but not whisper."

Wiesel's description of a fundamentalist was enlightening and empowering. By defining fanatics in human terms (and making them real), the Nobel Peace Prize winner ensured that those in attendance understood that they could counter this dangerous movement by acting on their humanitarianism and their ability to make healthy choices. Further, Wiesel's choice of topics made it painfully clear that fanaticism is one of the most dire issues facing humankind today.

When identifying the ills of fundamentalism, however, it's also crucial that we as members of the Toronto Jewish community be courageous enough to look inward as well as outward, accepting that fanaticism exists within the wider Jewish world and, in fact, our very own neighbourhoods. We must be fully cognizant that just as the rise in fanaticism among Christians and Muslims encourages a sense of superiority among some people in these groups, it does the same up and down the Bathurst Street corridor.

Indeed, fundamentalism is alive and well in our community. While Orthodox Jewry in general is in many ways accepting of, and willing to dialogue with, people of other beliefs and denominations, in the extreme corners of the Orthodox community, there is a very real belief among some people that they are the sole gatekeepers of God's words. This is personified through statements we have all heard – that the "goyim" are somehow inferior, and those who are less frum are "even worse."

If we are to use Wiesel's other definition, that the fanatic "believes only his words carry weight and others are empty of meaning and consequence," such extremism can also be found among some virulently secular Jews who think nothing of publicly deriding Israel for its "human rights abuses." They will often speak out in unbalanced and unfair ways, leaving little to no room for healthy debate and discussion. To these fundamentalists, Israel is the one and only bad guy in the Middle East mess – period!

Fundamentalism has existed throughout history, but it began gaining strength in the 1960s alongside the rise of the peace movement, and likely in response to its free spiritedness.

As this trend strengthened, segments of Christianity, Islam and Judaism set about establishing "born-again" movements within their respective religions to attract adherents through emotional and experiential programming and attractions. Within the Jewish world, droves of Jews flocked to join these groups, adding a new dimension to fundamentalism, whereby teachers and students interacted Jewishly in a very superficial manner. Torah learning and practice became simplified and lacking the very essence of what Judaism espouses – that truth comes with 70 different faces and demands complexity of thought and analysis.

Judaism is exquisite in its insistence that we utilize our individuality to dig deeply below the surface of ideas and Jewish expression. In order to do this, we are instructed to be brave warriors of truth and self-examination. Part of this is recognizing that a blustery wind of fundamentalism is blowing through our community, one that inhibits the Jewish people from achieving healthier growth as individuals and as a nation.

To fight fundamentalism is to question freely – like a child at the Passover seder table. It is also to create passionate and challenging dialogue, as well as to laugh hardily and appreciate that superiority only exists within humility, acceptance, and a driving wonderment.

*Avrum@vaahavia.org Sudan?*

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## This Week

### National

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**Students** hold unique Darfur fundraiser. *Page 6*

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### Tribute to Israel

**A look** at the State of Israel in 2006. *Section B*

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# It's back to the future for the Zionist Congress

By DINA KRAFT
*JTA*

**TEL AVIV** — Theodor Herzl launched his vision of a Jewish state at the First Zionist Congress in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland. More than a century later, Israel exists – and so does the congress Herzl launched.

Under the banner "The Dream Still Matters," more than 2,000 representatives from across the globe gathered this week in Jerusalem, from June 19 to 22, for the 35th Zionist Congress to keep the ideological torch alive.

"It's almost like a conscience to the country, the Zionism that will provide the fervour and commitment to allow Israel to grow and allow it to relate to a dream and not just day-to-day existence," said Marty Davis, director general of the department for Zionist activities of the World Zionist Organization, which holds the congress.

Dubbed the "Parliament of the Jewish people," the congress brings together Zionist activists from around the world to vote on topics ranging from civil marriage in Israel to the reduction of social and economic gaps between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens.

The congress debates the policies of the World Zionist Organization (WZO), which helps determine half of the $350-million (US) budget of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The Jewish Agency is involved in immigration and absorption and runs religious, political and educational programs throughout the world.

The WZO has a $13.5-million budget, drawn from money raised by Keren Hayesod – its fundraising arm – and the Jewish Agency.

Zionist federations held elections in their home countries to select delegates to the congress. About 120,000 Jews outside Israel voted in the elections, which chose 750 people who could vote at the congress. Others will act as delegates and observers.

Delegates help choose people for key positions, among them the head of the Jewish National Fund and the treasurer of the Jewish Agency. Zeev Bielski, chairman of the WZO and the Jewish Agency, was expected to be re-elected to his post.

"The problem with elections abroad is that if 120,000 people voted, that means about 11 million did not vote – that is, the vast majority of world Jewry did not participate," said David Breakstone, head of the WZO's department for Zionist activities.

**Continued on page 33**

**Theodor Herzl**

# *Birthright inspires dancer*

**Lisa Oberman**

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

After going on birthright israel in 2004, ballet dancer Lisa Oberman knew immediately where she wanted to pursue her professional dance career.

Now almost 20, Oberman is making aliyah and has joined the Israel Ballet, the country's only major classical ballet company.

"I fell in love with Israel and knew in my heart that's where I wanted to dance," she says.

Joining the Israel Ballet is the culmination of a lifelong dream to dance professionally, says Oberman, who attended the Kirov Academy of Ballet (now the Universal Ballet Academy) in Washington, D.C., and danced with the USA Ballet in Illinois.

"I've been on stage since I was three years old. At four, I played the lead in *Grease*. Going away to a ballet school when I was 16 was the natural thing to do."

Oberman's mother Deborah, says that when Lisa was young, she took her to see Karen Kain in the *Nutcracker Suite*. "She turned to me and said, 'One day, that will be me.' I knew then where her future lay."

Lisa Oberman credits her dance teacher and mentor Tatiana Stepanova, of the Stepanova Dance Academy, for helping her focus on ballet when she was 14.

ge 24

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*Greater Toronto Area*

**Olmert consults with former PMs over Iran — see page 32**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Cotler Backs Rae

**OTTAWA** — Mount Royal MP and former justice minister Irwin Cotler last week endorsed former Ontario NDP premier Bob Rae for the leadership of the federal Liberal Party. "He is a longtime friend whom I respect as a creative thinker and practitioner in matters of federalism, rights, social justice and public policy," said Cotler, a law professor at McGill University and former president of Canadian Jewish Congress. The backing came after Rae was endorsed by former federal health minister Ujjal Dosanjh.

#### New UIAFC President

**OTTAWA** — Ottawa resident Barbara Farber is the new president of UIA Federations Canada, the umbrella group for Canada's 10 Jewish federations. Farber, the first president to live outside Toronto or Montreal, had been UIAFC vice-president responsible for planning and allocations. She succeeds Montrealer Stanley Plotnick as president for a two-year term, UIAFC said. Farber is CEO of the Leikin Group, a real estate development firm, as well as a member of Ottawa's police services board and chair of the Algonquin College Foundation.

#### Funding Renewed

**LONDON, Ont.** — The Ontario government announced last week that it's renewing $200,000 in funding for the province-wide Hate Crimes and Extremism police investigation unit. Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter made the commitment at police headquarters in London, Ont. London police chief Murray Faulkner said the funding is welcome, but should be renewed for more than one year at a time, the *London Free Press* reported. The unit, formed in 2003, includes officers from 10 Ontario cities.

#### Rabbi Faces Protest

**OTTAWA** — Carleton University awarded an honorary degree last week to Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas, over objections about his ties to a group that says homosexuality can be cured with therapy. The Orthodox rabbi sits on the advisory board of the U.S.-based National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality. Carleton University Student Association president Shawn Menard had asked the school's senate not to award the degree, saying it would alienate gay and lesbian students and violate Carleton's equity policy. The rabbi told the *Ottawa Sun* that therapy is controversial, but people should still be free to talk about it.

### WORLD

#### Circumcision Deal Cut

**ALBANY** — New York state health officials and Orthodox rabbis reached an agreement on a controversial circumcision procedure. According to the compromise, signed June 12, mohels who perform the procedure known as *metzitzah b'peh* must sanitize their hands like a surgeon, the *Albany Times-Union* reported. They must also clean their mouths with a sterile alcohol wipe and rinse with a mouthwash containing at least 25 per cent alcohol. Controversy has surrounded several mohels' use of *metzitzah b'peh*, in which blood is sucked directly from the wound. It has allegedly led to babies contracting herpes, including one who died.

#### Trip Boosts Identity

**BOSTON** — Birthright israel alumni identify more strongly with Israel and the Jewish community than peers who applied but did not go on the program, says a study of nearly 3,000 young people who visited Israel on birthright and 1,000 who applied but did not go. It was conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. Birthright offers free, 10-day trips to Israel for North American Jews 18 to 26. About 41 per cent of university students who took the trip in 2002 are now involved with Hillel at their schools, versus 13 per cent of non-participants.

#### Wine Labels Nixed

**STOCKHOLM** — Sweden backed away from a move to label wine made in the Golan Heights as coming from occupied territory. Golan wine will be sold without saying where it was produced, according to Lena Posner-Korosi, president of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities.

#### Islamist Plotters Jailed

**PARIS** — A French court sentenced 25 Islamists for plotting terror attacks in Paris that may have included Israeli targets. The group's leaders received eight- to 10-year sentences June 14, while others got lighter terms. The leaders, who are mostly Algerian, allegedly received terrorist training in Afghanistan or Chechnya.

#### Inmates Get Redress

**BERLIN** — Ex-inmates of Nazi camps in Tunisia can now apply for compensation from Germany after a deal was reached June 13 between the Claims Conference and Germany's Finance Ministry. Germany has committed a total of $276 million (US) to this and several related causes. "It is the first time that the suffering of women and children in Tunisia has been recognized," said Claims Conference executive vice-president Gideon Taylor. A few hundred people are eligible, he said.

#### German Official Meets With Jewish Groups

**OTTAWA** — While in Ottawa for a two-day visit earlier this month that included an appearance before Parliament's national security committee, Germany's State Secretary of Defence Christian Schmidt attended a breakfast meeting at the offices of Canadian Jewish Congress.

The meeting gave Jewish leaders an opportunity to convey their concerns about issues such as the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Germany and threats to Israel by Iran.

Schmidt, speaking informally and taking questions, said German skinheads and neo-Nazis are "a small minority, but a very aggressive minority… this is not only a German phenomenon but, unfortunately, we have this all over Europe."

In addition to Congress CEO Bernie Farber and director of government relations Eric Vernon, guests included Mitchell Bellman, president of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa; Ofir Gendelman from the Israeli Embassy; and Maj.-Gen. Edward Fitch of the Canadian Forces.

The Canadian Jewish news

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# CUPE members picket against anti-Israel resolution

***'This is a biased, one-sided resolution'***

**By JESSICA FREIMAN**
*CJN Intern*

"1, 2, 3, 4, they stole our voices from the floor." That was the rallying cry last Friday at an information picket attended by dozens of members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) outside CUPE Ontario's offices in Scarborough.

Their purpose? To have CUPE Ontario rescind Resolution 50, which calls for a boycott of, and divestment from, Israel unless it recognizes the Palestinian right to self determination. Passed unanimously by 896 delegates at the union's convention last month, it also slams Israel's "apartheid wall," the barrier Israel is building to stop terror attacks originating in the West Bank.

"This is a biased, one-sided resolution. It's full of misinformation and we oppose it vehemently," said Rebecca Soberman, a picketer and member of CUPE local 2063, which includes workers from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services Toronto.

"People have taken myth and put it in front of people to vote on the issue who don't know any better," Soberman said. "Israel wants a two-state solution and has always been working toward peace. Israel is a democracy."

Just as the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education in Britain recently rescinded its call to boycott Israel, so must CUPE Ontario rescind Resolution 50, said a fact sheet distributed by picketers.

"We're hoping that this information picket will show why this resolution should never have gone on the floor for a vote," said Lil Nobel, president of CUPE local 2063, which pulled out of CUPE Ontario and joined CUPE National after a similar vote on Israel four years ago.

The picketers felt CUPE Ontario should never have voted on the resolution because Israel has undertaken "incredible measures... over the last several decades to promote the establishment of a viable, independent Palestinian state," the fact sheet said.

These measures include Israel's disengagement from Gaza last summer and its "dedication to a genuine peace process," it said.

"We don't see why CUPE Ontario should get involved with international politics," Nobel said. "If you're going to put together a resolution, you must look at both sides of the story. What was put on the floor was a biased, one-sided opinion."

Soberman said no politicians have spoken out on behalf of Resolution 50. "We've only seen people supporting our position. Obviously, many people agree with us," she said.

**Continued on page 29**

**Jewish and non-Jewish members of CUPE took part in a picket last Friday opposing the union's anti-Israel resolution. [Jessica Freiman photo]**

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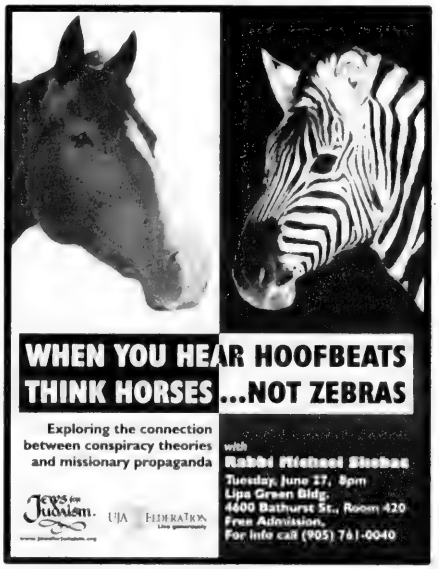


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Greater Toronto Area

# A Swedish editor

*From the editor's desk*

This is the story of Jackie Jakubowski, the editor and publisher of the *Judisk Kronika* (*Jewish Chronicle*), an edgy, provocative bimonthly publication of current Jewish affairs and commentary in Stockholm, Sweden.

In some respects, however, it is also the story of many of the generation of Jews born after World War II, whose parents survived the Nazis' attempt to destroy them and, who, perhaps as a result, engage the world with heightened purpose.

But let us return to Jackie Jakubowski, for it is his story first.

Jackie was born in 1951, 20 minutes before his twin sister, Batya, in Stettin (Szczecin), Poland.

His parents were Polish Jews. His father, Shlomo, was born in Sompolno. He escaped from Warsaw and got as far east as Bialystok, where the Soviet police arrested him and then shipped him to a labour camp in Siberia. Conditions there were hard and horrible, but at least they were livable.

Like many other Polish Jews who survived the war in the Soviet Union, Jackie's father travelled south into the Muslim provinces of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, where he was recruited to fight in the Free Polish Army under the command of Wladyslaw Anders. Illness, however, intervened and kept him in Kyrgyzstan. Jackie's mother, Sara (Ingster), was born in Sosnowiecz Benzin. The majority of her war years were spent in Auschwitz.

Jackie's parents were among the 300,000 Polish Jews still alive in 1945. There had been three million in 1939. They met after the war. Both had returned to what had once been their homes, looking for remnants of their respective families or scraps of information about their whereabouts or their final fate. But there was no one and nothing to find.

They both drifted to Stettin, a relatively large city in the north of Poland near the German border, where they met and married. Five years later, with two young children in tow, ever the wandering, "displaced" persons, they moved to Katowice, in the south central part of the country.

But the war had left many wounds and seared many scars.

Jackie's parents divorced in 1956. His mother took Batya to Israel, where they settled in Kibbutz Givat Hashlosha. Jackie stayed with his father in Poland. But they, too, were destined to leave the land in which they were born. For with the rise of a strong and noisy oppresive government, Shlomo and Jackie moved to Goteborg, Sweden, in 1970. A short while after they arrived, Shlomo died of cancer. Jackie was alone, a stranger in a strange land, without family, without language, without the footings of even minimal communal familiarity.

Jackie Jakubowski

The 19-year-old expatriate Pole, though, was extremely bright, inquisitive, a hungry reader, articulate, cool under pressure and an engaging thinker. To fulfil a dying wish of his father, he enrolled in the faculty of engineering. Indeed, he graduated at the top of his class. But he never actually worked as an engineer. Writing was too deeply embedded into his soul. Even while he was achieving high results in school, Jackie was a freelance essayist for a local daily newspaper on issues of culture and politics. It seemed right therefore, after graduation, to simply continue to do what he loved most to do: write.

In 1980, Jackie was offered a job as a journalist at *Judisk Kronika*. He has been there ever since, although in 1984, he received a scholarship to study at the Hebrew Union college in Los Angeles. After three years, he returned to Sweden with a master's degrees in Judaic studies. Typically, Jackie's novel and precise thinking won him the attention of his teachers and his colleagues. Despite his newness with the English language, his presentation of ideas and the acuity of his insights garnered a first-place reward in a widely contested essay contest on campus.

In 1990, the format and financing of *Judisk Kronika* changed into a bimonthly journal published by a privately owned foundation. Its trademark became and remains to this day, the stylings and thought of Jackie Jakubowski, namely high production values, provocative stories and crisp writing. He is an accomplished writer and essayist who is published widely in Sweden.

Some six million people live in Sweden. The number of Jews there is about the same as in Ottawa, some 15,000 to 18,000. Of late, the Scandinavian countries seem to have lurched decidedly away from Israel in the Jewish state's dispute with the Palestinian Authority. Much of the trade union movement, for example, has adopted pro-Palestinian positions.

It requires no small amount of dedication, conviction and sometimes even courage, to so readily and so reliably pick up the pen on Israel's behalf.

But for the exigencies of fate and the logic of his parents' choices, indeed if there was any logic apart from survival, Jackie could have been born in Israel or in North America, like so many other children of Polish survivors. But his destiny was to land in Sweden, to marry, to raise two children and to be the editor of the publication that defends Israel, that tries to make sense of the celebrations, the sorrows and the history of his people. We and the Jews of Sweden are the beneficiaries.

— *MBD*

SeeJN

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**More than 7,000 people attended this year's Zareinu Moveathon Fair at Earl Bales Park on Sunday. The event featured live entertainment, games, shows and a food festival. Zareinu Educational Centre is a Jewish day school and treatment centre that provides special education and individualized therapies to children with physical and developmental challenges.**

Greater Toronto Area

# Administrators' resistance ends teacher awards

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to the CJN*

Resistance from school administrators and the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education has scuttled an annual parent-run awards program for teachers in local Jewish day schools, organizers told a private ceremony earlier this month.

Since 2002, the Teacher of Excellence Awards have honoured 10 teachers annually, but 2006 will be the final year of the program, its co-organizers and funders Michael Buckstein and Elan Pratzer told more than 70 teachers, nominators and committee members who gathered at Buckstein's home for a presentation ceremony June 8.

"We never planned on stepping on anyone's toes," Buckstein said, adding that he and Pratzer hoped to stay independent of schools and the BJE in order to avoid politics and better represent ordinary parents.

"Who are we trying to do this for?" Buckstein asked. "For teachers to feel good about their important work, and for parents, to take the focus away from critiquing… to focus on what's good."

Buckstein blamed "pockets of resistance" among school administrators and the BJE for the decision to end the program.

Administrators have blocked promotional efforts, he said. While some schools gave out flyers and encouraged nominations, others refused. "Why would administrators come out against it… rather than [try to] make it something positive?" Buckstein asked.

When a principal says, "I'm not prepared to participate," a nomination can't go before the awards committee, because there's no way to distinguish between a teacher who's good for one student or an outstanding one who affects all students, said awards manager Catherine Gitzel.

"Just because you reward one teacher doesn't mean you're saying something bad about another," said Pratzer, referring to criticism that the awards singled out some teachers at the expense of others.

The Toronto program is modelled on one that Buckstein's textile manufacturing company, Barrday, established in Cambridge, Ont., as a philanthropic effort to honour 10 teachers annually in public and Catholic schools.

The reception in Cambridge has been overwhelming, Buckstein said. Schools participate, newspapers offer free promotion, and the local chamber of commerce has thrown itself behind the program, which has grown to include a school of excellence award.

"All cynicism in Cambridge dissolved in year one," said Buckstein, adding that here, resistance only seemed to grow. "Every year, someone else comes out strongly [against it]… It's a sad commentary."

In Toronto, students or parents submitted nomination letters, which were verified with school principals. Then, a neutral committee of 10 people (Buckstein and Pratzer weren't on it) read the letters and chose 10 winners.

***Co-founder hopes awards will continue in some form***

Winners each got an apple and a $1,000 prize. Non-winners received a copy of their nomination letters.

"This is the dream of the Jewish community: Jews across the religious spectrum coming together to honour teachers," Buckstein said.

He said he still believes in the awards and hopes they will continue in some form next year, either under official auspices or at a grassroots level.

Yael Seliger, associate director of the BJE, said her organization had no animosity toward the program, but that school principals as a group "decided they'd rather remain neutral."

The principals were uncomfortable "putting one teacher in the limelight as opposed to the other," particularly based on nominations that might be highly subjective, Seliger said. "We didn't feel we could become an active partner."

She added that the BJE's lack of endorsement didn't imply any "less support and admiration for the teaching profession… we're all teachers at heart."

Uri Korin, director of education at Bialik Hebrew Day School, said Bialik's "opposition [to the awards] was always very clear… We do not highlight the performance of one person."

The school's Labour Zionist philosophy "supports every attempt to excel," but can't embrace an award based on "factors that do not pertain to school performance," such as parent satisfaction, Korin said.

But Gail Baker, principal of the Toronto Heschel School, said she's not only "very, very proud" of 2006 winner Ehud Viner, a Grade 5 and 6 Hebrew and Chumash teacher, she's also been "delighted" to support the awards, especially because she "didn't have to be the one to nominate" teachers.

Despite the fact the awards were not a BJE initiative, Baker said the board could have encouraged administrators to support teachers through the program.

Nominating parents Barbie and Yossi Dukes said Orna Goldberg of Associated Hebrew Schools deserves recognition for transforming their daughter, Bayli, who had previously been negative about Jewish studies, into a student who wakes up in the morning singing Hebrew songs.

Goldberg, a 2006 winner who has been teaching for more than 20 years, often spends evenings on the phone, translating Hebrew stories for English-speaking parents.

She also calls when nothing's wrong. "It's important to hear [that] something wonderful happened today," Goldberg said.

Another 2006 winner, Nicky Kagan, a 25-year-teacher of English and social studies at Bnei Akiva Schools (Ulpanat Orot and Or Chaim), said the awards honour not only individual teachers, but an often-misunderstood profession.

Teachers are "an easy target," because of their long vacations and the perception that "the only time you work is when you're actually standing in the classroom," Kagan said.


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# Heschel students go silent and sleepless for Darfur

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

As students in the Toronto Heschel School's Grade 8 class approach graduation, imminent freedom is not the only thing on their minds.

At a time of year when other graduating students are thinking mainly about themselves, Heschel's 8A class is focused on helping the people of Sudan's troubled Darfur region.

The 14 students in Eli Savage's class recently held a 24-hour fundraiser to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, which has displaced 2.5 million people and killed tens of thousands.

"We wanted to do something to help the people in Darfur, because we felt that their voices weren't being heard. We decided to not either speak or sleep for 24 hours, and had people sponsor us," said Alec Amato, 13.

"The point of not talking was so that we could know what it feels like to be Darfurian, since their voices are not being heard."

The idea to stay awake through the night was derived from the traditions of Shavuot, he said. "We stay up all night on Shavuot because we're thankful for getting the Torah and we study it. We are thankful for what we have, so we stayed up doing the things we like to do."

William Trister, 13, hosted a non-sleepover at his house for the students who chose to stay awake.

"We got the idea for a fundraiser after Stephen Adler, [director of public policy at] Canadian Jewish Congress, talked with us about Darfur," Trister said.

**Toronto Heschel School teacher Eli Savage, back left, stands with some of the school's Grade 8 students who helped raise funds for Darfur: back row, Edan Baltman, left, and Alec Amato; and, seated, William Trister and Rebecca Cowley.**

"When Stephen talked to us, he said that he understands that we're teenagers who are just trying to do our thing, but there are kids who don't even get to become teenagers just because they're living in a certain area. It really put things into perspective," said Rebecca Cowley, 13.

The teens' 24-hour no talking/no sleep-athon raised more than $1,000 for Right to Play, a Toronto-based international humanitarian organization that uses sport and play to help youth in the most disadvantaged areas of the world.

"These kids grow up learning about war, and we want kids to learn not how to shoot someone, but how to shoot a basketball," Amato said.

**Continued on page 7**

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Greater Toronto Area

# Age fails to slow rabbi emeritus

## *She'arim's 2006 honoree completes speaking tours in Germany and Israel*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

The papers, books and computer on Rabbi Erwin Schild's desk attest to the fact that at age 86, the rabbi emeritus of Adath Israel Congregation hasn't truly retired.

With his German-English dictionary at hand, the rabbi was preparing in late May for a two-week, three-city speaking tour in his native Germany. He was also preparing for his weekly study group – "call it 'eclectic Torah.'" Two weeks earlier, he returned from leading a congregational seniors trip to Israel.

"I was by far the oldest person," he said, chuckling. "And I kept them going." His claim is likely no exaggeration, given the rabbi's longtime penchant for keeping fit. In addition to regular fitness walks, he still does "a bit of jogging."

Rabbi Erwin Schild

On June 28, Rabbi Schild – who became a member of the Order of Canada in 2001 and in 2000 received an equivalent honour from the German government for his interfaith efforts in Germany – will be honoured by She'arim Hebrew Day School at its annual tribute dinner.

Although the rabbi, who arrived in Toronto in 1942 and has served Adath Israel since 1947, has no personal connection with the school, he said he admires the work it does, providing children with learning disabilities "a chance for proper Jewish education."

Also, he added, "I like the idea of a school not associated with any particular movement. It's open to all. Children come from all streams of the community."

But it's Rabbi Schild's involvement in interfaith projects, more than interdenominational ones, for which he has become known. For more than two decades, following an initial invitation in 1982, he has travelled to Germany every year to speak to Christian groups there.

This month's tour includes seminars at academic and Christian institutions, and talks in two suburbs of Cologne about his early life there, before he left Germany at age 18. "It gives me a chance to explain what Jews went through in Germany and after Germany."

Over the years, the focus of his talks in Germany has shifted from "what Germany lost" in terms of its Jewish community, to simply "Judaism."

Emotionally, he said, the trips have become easier. "Really, Germany is quite different from what I remember in my childhood."

This month's trip was to include a day revisiting that childhood with two nieces and a nephew – his late sister's children – who planned to meet him in Cologne to visit the cemetery and see his school, the park he played in, and where he lived.

A prewar incident the rabbi recalls is indicative of how things have changed in recent years, and how they changed when Hitler came to power.

In the late 1920s, when the future rabbi was in Grade 1 or 2 and "the Nazi party existed, [but] no one took them seriously," his teacher brought a black man to school as a surprise for the class. "It was sort of a unique thing. Today if you ride the streetcar in Cologne, you have the same picture as in Toronto, an ethnic mix. The black man was a curiosity. There was no suggestion that he was in any way inferior."

A trip to Germany a few years ago ended up taking the rabbi back in time in an unexpected way. When he spoke to a group at Dachau, in a church on the site of the concentration camp where he was interned briefly in 1938, a teenage girl asked if she could use his story as the basis for a school project and conduct further archival research.

Among the documents she tracked down was a letter the rabbi's mother had written to the Gestapo when he was imprisoned at Dachau following Kristallnacht, along with other students from the Jewish teachers' seminary in Würzburg.

His mother wrote that he had documentation from the consulate of the Dominican Republic that would allow him to leave Germany. "It probably saved my life," he said.

# Students learn about Darfur

**Continued from page 6**

Edan Baltman, 14, said this experience has taught him a lot about the situation in Darfur.

"It's bad that the government is reluctant to call it genocide since the conflict is between two Muslim groups," he said.

"I chose not to talk for the fundraiser, and I didn't make it through. I found it extremely hard and I found out how hard it is for them."

Baltman added that he hopes the fundraiser will raise awareness about Darfur. "It's certainly raised awareness in my school," he said.

Cowley and Amato believe that the Toronto Heschel School, which is named after the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, has taught them to be socially conscious.

"[Rabbi] Heschel was a person who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and stood up for the African-Americans. We went to the Scream for Darfur rally at Queen's Park," Amato said.

"Even if you can just inform one person, it can really raise awareness. It's the little things that count."

Cowley added: "Heschel said that you have to pray with your feet. You have to do something instead of just talk about it."

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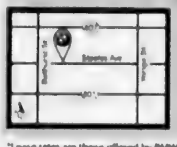

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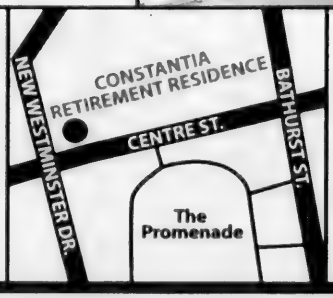


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The Canadian Jewish news

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# New thinking needed

This is the time of year that brings a broad smile to the faces of most youngsters. School is ending for another year. Whether they are graduating or merely moving on to the next year, whether from public school or day school, our children's accomplishments are worthy of considerable praise.

So, too, are the accomplishments of our teachers, administrators and custodial staff, without whom there would be no formal education. All are part of a complex, integrated, humane network upon which we – parents, community and society – rely to instruct and inspire our children. Indeed, it is upon those efforts that our civilization advances.

Increasingly, lay leaders also play a vital role for and in our schools. This is especially so in the various day schools where volunteers are the selfless sinew of each school's governance and extra-curricular programs and, of course, in the local federations whose funding assistance to needy families enables many of our children to attend Jewish school.

Thus, as we commend the efforts of the individuals – professionals and lay leaders – who collectively make possible the remarkable achievements of our children, it is appropriate to focus attention on the most pressing issue in the near horizon of Jewish education: its cost.

Even where provincial governments do underwrite a portion of the expense of Jewish education, the cost of sending a child to Jewish school is painfully high. In Ontario however, where the provincial government discriminates against non-Catholic faith-based schools and no public funds reach Jewish schools, the cost is prohibitive. Many families will have no choice but to grudgingly, in some cases tearfully, decide that it is financially impractical, if not impossible, to send their children to Jewish schools. In that unhappy event, we will likely see, perhaps in one, but certainly not fewer than two decades, a hollowing out of enrolment in Jewish schools of the core middle group of families. Were that to happen, the implications for the future vibrancy of Jewish life would be devastating. We must respond now to prevent what would amount to a communal calamity in the future.

Both in relative and in absolute terms, the federations spend a great deal of funds on Jewish education. But it is not enough. Sadly, it is not nearly enough. Federations must look for new solutions, new ideas, new approaches and innovative thinking to thwart the insidious peril of out-of-reach tuitions. The costs to the schools of providing their services must be reduced. Only this way can tuitions be proportionately reduced, or at least capped. Our leaders must seek answers with the same energy and creative zeal they have demonstrated in relation to our important communal capital campaigns.

If we fail in this, we will fail our children and will likely face, in the years to come, the same crises of Jewish life that beset so many communities in the United States.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

International response to Israel's destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor continued to escalate. It was unanimously condemned by the UN Security Council and the United States refused to support it. As the Israeli election campaign came to an end, Labor party leader Shimon Peres called the attack "unnecessary at this time."

Dry Bones
SUMMER RE-RUN?
IT'S JUNE 2006, EXACTLY 25 YEARS SINCE JUNE 1981
WHEN ISRAEL BOMBED SADDAM'S NUCLEAR PLANT IN IRAQ.
A LOT HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST 25 YEARS.
TRUE.
THE THREAT IS NOW 500 MILES FURTHER TO THE EAST, IN IRAN
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### Philanthropy

In the last few weeks, *The CJN* has published numerous articles that have expressed concerns about Jewish community, unity and continuity.

Such writings speak volumes to me as a Jew. My dream for the future of our people includes a strong viable Jewish presence in the world. You have pushed my thinking and offered me inspirational as well as thought-provoking words to encourage me to seriously ponder what will happen to our Jewish community when I am gone.

I am stretched to give serious, committed, and intentional thought to a very large question. What do I want to share or preserve after my lifetime? I am pushed to consider and dream about the future that I want.

And that further leads me to give serious consideration to philanthropic giving. Whether I leave $1,000 or $10,000 or $100,000 is not the issue. It is about taking responsibility to consider what legacy I want left after I am gone, both spiritually and monetarily.

The world situation reminds us on a daily basis that each and every one of us must stand up and be counted. Each and every voice matters! Your articles continue to offer me real food for thought. These words encourage and stimulate my chosen actions *now*.

It is incumbent on each of us to take appropriate actions now – in how we live and act day to day; in what we give back to community now; and what legacy we wish to live for future generations.

**Susan Steinberg**
**Toronto**

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### How can Israel back Abbas?

On May 25, Israeli news media reported that Israel had authorized the provision to the Fatah party, controlled by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, of weapons and munitions to fight Hamas' recent attempt to control Gaza, with control of the West Bank presumably being its next goal.

One of the conditions of the Oslo accords was that Israel would supply the Palestinian Authority with weapons and munitions to "maintain law and order" in Palestinian territory. The result of this naive generosity produced well-armed Palestinians who use Israeli weapons to fight Israelis.

But Israel may be backing the wrong horse, one that was rejected by a majority of Palestinians in an election, and shunning the legitimate victor of that vote – Hamas.

Israel's intention may be to pressure Hamas to either officially recognize Israel or to undermine its ability to govern while appearing to support the return of Abbas' corrupt regime to power. But one should not forget that Abbas' government condemned terror attacks on one hand while at the same time urging *shahids* (martyrs) to "continue the struggle."

If Hamas succeeds in its plan to militarily control the Palestinian territories, would Israel be the kind of partner they will want to negotiate with or even recognize? It took more than 20 years for Israel to finally receive an (albeit empty) recognition of its right to exist from Palestinians in the territories, but it came a cost: two intifadahs that killed 600 Israelis.

The recent Israeli election proved that Israelis want to end the conflict with the Palestinians. They voted in a left-leaning government that opposes the fight-to-the-end mentality of recent right-wing coalitions. But how long will Israelis support a government that won't work hard to attain peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians, whomever they elect to govern?

**Victor Sibilia**
**Toronto**

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### Response to Avi Zer-Aviv

It should not be a surprise to anyone that the reasoning used by Avi Zer-Aviv in his letter (*CJN*, June 15) in support of the Canadian Union of Public Employee's boycott of Israel – I refer to Israel's "illegal and hurtful actions in the West Bank and Gaza" and the "oppression of millions of Palestinians" – is in total synch with the policies of retreat, defeatism and reward of terrorism by the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

**Nachum Woolf**
**Toronto**

* * *

### Looking for her birth father

I was born in Toronto on Jan. 10, 1964, and placed for adoption. My birth father knew about me, but he was only 17 years old at the time and did not tell his parents. My father's name is Harry, I believe, and he was born in April 1946 in Germany to Jewish parents who are both Holocaust survivors. They came to Canada some time after 1946, and my father was raised in Toronto.

My mother, Rose-Marie Alyward, whom I have located, was 15 years old when I was born. She thinks my father's last name is "Kahn," but I'm not sure that's correct. My father has a sister born around 1951 and a brother born around 1958. I would be grateful if anyone with information about my father would contact me.

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*info@cjnews.com*

# Is Britain Europe's most anti-Semitic country?

By MANFRED GERSTENFELD

Has Britain replaced France as Europe's most anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli country? There are many indicators that this has happened.

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United Kingdom in 2005 was close to that of France, where the Jewish population is twice as large as the one in Britain, which has, at most, 300,000 Jews.

The Community Security Trust, the defence body of the British Jewish community, reported 455 anti-Semitic incidents in 2005. This was 14 per cent lower than the 532 in the record year 2004. The difference can, however, be explained by the fact that two individuals in 2004 had together been responsible for 60 incidents.

> Where is the Jewish community in all this?

The year 2005 was the second in a row in which the number of violent incidents against Jewish people was greater than the number of incidents in which Jewish property was damaged. One of the most violent incidents was in Manchester, where a yeshiva student was stabbed by a man who ran after him with a knife. Another was an attack on a Jew in London by 15 youths. After the attack, they threw a liquid on him and tried to set him on fire.

In Britain, two categories of perpetrators stand out in particular: right-wing white and Middle Eastern youth. Among well-known individuals involved in anti-Semitic acts was the socialist mayor of London Ken Livingstone, who compared a Jewish journalist to a concentration camp guard, and Prince Harry, son of Prince Charles, who wore a Nazi uniform at a fancy-dress party.

Anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism flourish jointly in the United Kingdom. On May 29, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NAFTHE), one of the two university teachers unions, voted to boycott Israeli academics that do not condemn so-called Israeli "apartheid" policies. The majority of the union members were from the left.

Not a word was said about Palestinian universities, such as Gaza, Nablus and Bir Zeit, where academics promote genocide, murder and racism, and student movements compete for recognition in elections, based on, in part, which one has killed more Jews.

NAFTHE did, however, cancel the boycott on June 11, mainly because of international pressure from academic organizations.

Early in June, the Oxford Student Union (OSU) twinned with Bir Zeit University's student council. Oxford University's student newspaper claimed that student unions at Edinburgh University, the London School of Economics and Liverpool University are also twinned with Bir Zeit's student council.

It also became known that a dance journal, *Dance Europe*, had refused to write about Israeli choreographer Sally Ann Freedland unless she condemned Israeli government policies.

In addition, both the Anglican Church and the Church of Scotland have voted in favour of anti-Israeli measures.

This all takes place in an atmosphere where attacks on Israel are regularly made by many. British lawyer Trevor Asserson has published detailed studies on how the BBC frequently distorts its reporting from the Middle East in an anti-Israeli way.

Gerald Steinberg, a professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University, and regular *CJN* columnist, edits the *NGO Monitor* published by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He has written about how the charity Christian Aid, which operates in the United Kingdom and Ireland, constantly blames Israel for Palestinian suffering, while barely mentioning Palestinian terrorism. This organization has an annual budget of $150 million (US).

George Galloway, the only U.K. member of Parliament representing the anti-Israeli, left-wing Respect party, is a defender of the former dictator Saddam Hussein.

**File photos of an anti-Israel rally in London in 2003.**
*[Carrie Devorah photos]*

But many other anti-Israeli parliamentarians can be found, mainly among Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The British Foreign Office regularly condemns Israel when a Palestinian civilian is killed in attacks on terrorists. It remains silent about the many civilians killed by the allied forces in Iraq, of which Britain is part and for which it thus has co-responsibility.

By now, it has also become clear that Chris Patten, when he was a British commissioner in the European Union, has been a key figure in stonewalling detailed investigations of how EU money was diverted by Palestinian authorities for illicit purposes.

This is a worrisome but not a full picture. Other factors also have to be taken into account. Former Israeli ambassador Zvi Stauber says that he considers the British government, with the exception of Germany, the most pro-Israeli in western Europe. He adds, however, that opinion polls usually indicate that the number of Israel supporters in the United Kingdom is about equal to that of the pro-Palestinians.

Where is the Jewish community in all this? It attempts to fight, mainly by traditional methods, such as trying to get support from the judicial system, collaborating closely with the police in security matters, maintaining good contacts with politicians and keeping a low profile. One has to keep in mind that, as Britain was not occupied in World War II, the effects of the Holocaust are far weaker there than elsewhere in Europe.

The Jewish community's policies can only provide very partial answers to the many challenges. If one compares British Jewish leadership with that of France, it seems unimaginative. The recent problems, however, are unlikely to go away. Whether they like it or not, British Jews will have to change tactics against those hostile to Israel, exposing them far more aggressively.

Will one see a British buying spree of houses in Israel, such as the one in recent years by French Jews? That was followed by an increased aliyah as well as emigration elsewhere. It is somewhat early for that yet, but as the British situation is unlikely to get much better, we are likely to see the same phenomenon as among French Jews.

Substantial anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism are usually indicators of countries in trouble. France, where the previous socialist government consistently hid anti-Semitic violence, has by now found out that anti-Semitic violence was the beginning of the incidents that increasingly tarnish the image of the country. The autumn riots in 2005 by Muslim youths, some of whom declared that they were anti-white and anti-French, are examples of such incidents.

The major enemies of the Jews are also those of British civil society. The extreme right, still relatively weak, is troublesome through its violence against many others. The extreme left, and parts of the moderate left, undermine society in many ways. Some human rights organizations have become functional allies of potential terrorists and other murderers, by attempting to block anti-terrorism laws.

Radical Muslims, who are a problem for Jews, are also a problem for society at large, as the London suicide bombings of July 2005, in which 52 civilians were killed, have shown. The most immediate challenge for British society is likely to come from this minority, of which large parts have the impression by now that the British government will continue to cave in to their demands as it has done in the past on many occasions.

It can be concluded from the French example that, just as that country's image has become increasingly stained, Britain is next in line.

*Manfred Gerstenfeld is the chairman of the Board of Fellows of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.*

# Necessary vacations

Is the best part of a vacation returning home? Some claim that the ultimate purpose of vacations is to make us appreciate our mundane lives. We need contrasts: in order to value one form of experience, we need to indulge in its antithesis. While there is an element of truth in the above, I'm not persuaded.

*Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal*

Returning from a two-week vacation in Israel, I claim otherwise. While it was good to come home – to sleep in my own bed, and resume my routine – the vacation offered more than unadorned acceptance of my life.

Over the past few years, I have not been a good vacation-taker. My husband and I have been so busy that we neglected this aspect of our lives. Yes, we travelled, but always on business trips, and often not even together. (Confession: this recent vacation was also a business trip – I delivered two papers at two different conferences. Yet it was also a vacation.) Ironically, this coming home made me appreciate vacations – not just because I didn't want to go back to work. Rather, I was left with a sense of wholeness, of fulfillment and enrichment. Since marrying, my children have consistently taken frequent vacations, arguing that we should do the same. I see the wisdom of their ways.

What is a vacation? Mainly, it's a break in routine that gives us an opportunity to shift gears. When Judaism initiated the Sabbath, a weekly day off, the ancient Greeks criticized us for our laziness. On the contrary, one should argue that the Sabbath break creates a venue for more intense and dedicated work.

In our culture, it has become apparent that weekends – and not just one day off– are necessary for human activity and productivity. It's healthy to shift gears and rest regularly. A vacation manages restful time on an annual scale, opening up new possibilities and enabling all sorts of experiences. Today, many use vacation time to travel to new places, meet new people, see new sights. Others may stay home and use the time to immerse themselves in a hobby, or study, or create. Mostly, vacations are an excuse to experience some aspect of our world in a new and distinct way. And that seems to me to be a human imperative.

Vacations lead to knowledge and intense human interactions. They are socially, culturally and even economically rewarding. They are also spiritually inspiring. I don't know why this one vacation affected me so palpably. Perhaps it really has been too long. Or perhaps my own stage in life brings forth this kind of reflexivity. I do know that my husband and I spent the entire time together. A necessary good that we will do again!

# Touring places where Jews once flourished

There are two great scenes in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* with Harrison Ford. In the first, he looks out at Venice and sighs, "Ah, Venice", anticipating the amorous adventures that Venice offers. The second scene has him coming up out of a sewer pipe after escaping a fiery death and again sighing – "Ah, Venice" – but what a difference! Venice, in other words, has more than one face.

*Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver*

After we leave Spain on our upcoming trip, we will travel to Venice on our way to a short cruise along the Dalmatian coast. Venice, ah Venice. The scene of *The Merchant of Venice*. The place that gave us the word "ghetto." The city that, rather than see her trade with the East interrupted by the also-Christian Byzantine Empire, attacked and burned Constantinople rather than complete the Crusade for which she had been hired. Venice, who ransacked Constantinople and brought home the horses that rear above St. Mark's plaza.

Venetian Jews lived there for many centuries, but only in 1516 were they confined to the ghetto. Throughout the Mediterranean area and beyond to Babylon, Jews were the trade link between the Christian West and the Muslim East, trading in spices, silks and other luxury goods that fed wealthy Christian elites. The Jew of Shakespeare's *Merchant* was an anti-Semitic canard that, ironically, was based on the circumstances of the later Middle Ages, when Jews were forced out of many of the trade positions they had held and were increasingly restricted to moneylending.

Venice – city of Jews, until the Nazi murderers came.

The real reason for my meditations on this vacation has to do with how we think about the destruction of European Jewry when we choose which countries to visit. That many supposed friends and neighbors joined in that destruction is perhaps the most painful part. Scholars continue to reveal the extent of the collaboration of so many ordinary citizens of every European country with Nazi extermination plans, and the paucity of Righteous Among the Nations who protected their Jewish neighbours.

So do we go to countries that participated in the murder of their Jewish citizens? Is it true, as Faulkner said, that "the past isn't over. It isn't even past?" So when is the past the past?

Throughout Europe, east and west, Jews remain an easy target when people are looking for someone to blame in times of crisis. One need look no further than Poland (and Russia), where popular opinion can always be focused on the Jews (even when there are none) as the cause of suffering.

Last month, I wrote about Spain, and the Expulsion and Inquisition. Perhaps we can look to some examples from the past in order to guide us in the future. This brings me back to the Sephardi experience.

Jewish life in Muslim kingdoms depended very much on the rulers, the climate of the times, relations between Muslim and Christian states, and the health of the economy and culture. Good times meant a good climate for Jews, bad times meant a bad climate. As Jane Gerber points out in her book *The Jews of Spain*, for centuries after the expulsion, Sephardim longed for the good days of Sepharad, memorializing it in poetry and maintaining their Ladino heritage. According to Gerber, many Jews would have gone back if they had been able.

But today is a different story. Jews may be going back – in small numbers – to live in Western Europe, but the great Jewish communities, outside of France, are gone. Most of us will return only as tourists.

"When I toured the ghetto," a friend of mine sighed, "the guide talked about us [the Jews] as if we were a relic from the past, all dead, no survivors. I wanted to say 'Hey, here we are! We're still here!'"

To judge change, we can go where we hope change is happening, and assert our historical connections while reminding people that, hey, we're still here and we're thriving! We can show that we're not relics of the past, but part of a vibrant and alive Jewish nation, and that – while remembering, never forgetting, what happened to us – we can give the nations that oppressed us a second chance.

# CJC must return to its advocacy roots

Most people would agree that the role of the Canadian Jewish Congress is to speak for Canada's organized Jewish community on various Jewish concerns such as anti-Semitism or Israel advocacy.

Congress has another important role, however – that of supporting and advocating positions on issues that are important to all Canadians. This social activism role is vital to Canadian Jewry as it promotes the various principles and values that reflect the Jewish experience. These values have been inherited from our history as well as learned writings, the Talmud, the Torah and other sacred books that reflect the integrity of our Jewish makeup.

*Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton*

Not only is it morally and ethically correct for Congress to assume the role of public advocate but also Congress has proven to be very effective in this role.

For example, in the 1980s Congress took this advocacy role seriously and, under the able leadership of law and social action committee chair, Fred Zemans, was remarkably successful in its campaigns.

Over the years, the committee advocated positions on such diverse issues as employment equity, gun control, capital punishment, immigration and refugees as well as changes to Canada's federal anti-discrimination law.

At that time, Congress also created a special committee to examine the major constitutional changes leading to the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Of all the many groups that played an advocacy role at the time, the CJC and the Canadian Bar Association were most influential in ensuring that the Charter reflected Canadian and, with respect to Congress, Jewish values throughout its text.

It was always the position of Congress that what is good for Canadian Jews is good for all Canadians and Canadian society. It is a selfless, broader perspective that reflects our Jewish values.

These efforts did not stop the same committee from also focusing on issues that were more directly Jewish, such as restrictions on the sale and importation of Pesach foods, the Jewish poor, the Jewish disabled and the sometimes improper and heavy-handed use of the *get*.

Sadly, this social justice agenda seems to have been placed on the back burner and Congress' advocacy role has greatly diminished over the past 20 years. With a limited budget earmarked for social advocacy, Congress is effectively eliminated and has virtually disappeared as one of the leading voices promoting Canada as a fair, just and equitable society.

It is now time to revisit this role of Congress. To be sure, there are now new issues to address, such as the role of modern technology, the globalization of trade and the world economy in general. And, of course, the old issues return to our attention from time to time.

It is true that Congress has recently addressed a number of key issues as part of its advocacy mandate. These include initiatives with Canada's aboriginal leaders. The CJC president was, in fact, the first Jewish leader ever to address the Council of the Assembly of First Nations. Similarly, other initiatives have also been taken with respect to Canada's Muslim community, organized labour and the provision of assistance to alleviate the suffering of those trapped in the Darfur turmoil. These are important issues, but there is much more to be done.

Recently appointed CEO of Congress, Bernie Farber, has begun the process of returning the CJC to its vital advocacy roots. Farber has a well-deserved international reputation as a bright, passionate and articulate advocate. Through its Ottawa office, and its director of government relations, Eric Vernon, Congress already has competent staff in place.

We should freshly examine our priorities and provide the CJC with the necessary resources so that it is not only a Jewish organization that deals with Jewish issues but is also a vital Canadian organization that ensures the Canadian experience is unique among the nations of the world. The great successes of the past should tell us that Congress has an important role to play in these matters – a role that will bring about changes to an evolving society, culture and environment.

Congress must again take up the mantle and resume its rightful place as an agent for bettering our society. Ultimately, this may prove to be the greatest and the most lasting legacy of the modern work of the CJC.

The Kirshner File

# Jihadist Muslims distort Islam

The destructive, intolerant jihadist strain of Islam has been in the news of late, what with the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the mastermind of Al Qaeda in Iraq, and the arrest of 17 homegrown Canadian Muslims in the Toronto area accused of plotting terrorism.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

In unsettled times like ours, it may be tempting to generalize and sweepingly condemn Islam as a religion that fosters violence. But this would be a wrong-headed, short-sighted and counter-productive approach. By lumping all Muslims into one undifferentiated mass, we run the risk of radicalizing members of that faith – the world's fastest-growing one – who abhor terrorism and seek accommodation, harmony and mutual understanding with non-Muslims.

But when we speak of Muslims who subscribe to jihadism, a virulent and combative form of Islamic fundamentalism, we enter an entirely new realm. Jihadists, be they Saudis, Iraqis, Canadians, Indonesians or Americans, are committed to the violent overthrow of the existing international system and its replacement by an all-encompassing Islamic state.

What spurs them on? Various root causes. Poverty. Backwardness. Oppressive governments. The legacy of imperialism. The Arab-Israeli dispute. The presence of western forces in the Middle East. But according to Mary Habeck, a Johns Hopkins University strategic studies professor, these factors only partially explain the zealousness of jihadists.

In an important and penetrating book, *Knowing the Enemy: Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror* (Yale University Press), Habeck reminds us that radical Islam emerged centuries before the West colonized Islamic lands, and that some of its leading contemporary practitioners, from Sept. 11 ringleader Mohammed Atta to Al Qaeda's Osama bin Laden, are from prosperous backgrounds. In passing, it should also be noted that jihadism was a going concern when Israel was not even a twinkle in the eyes of even ardent Zionists.

All too often, Habeck observes, commentators and scholars ascribe the spate of terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001, to political, social or economic grievances.

As she puts it: "The consistent need to find explanations other than religious ones for the attacks says, in fact, more about the West than it does about the jihadis." In short, they have generally failed to take the religious dimension of jihadism seriously. "To see why jihadis declared war in the United States… we must be willing to listen to their own explanations."

Jihadists are crystal clear about their long-range goals, which are embedded in Islam. They advocate the destruction of the secular world as a necessary first step to creating an Islamic utopia on earth.

Although jihadists are in broad agreement about their ultimate objectives, they differ significantly on strategies to reinvigorate Islam, Habeck writes. Some jihadists are inward looking, focus on offences committed by Muslims and believe that unjust or wayward Muslim governments, or "agents of the West," should be unseated and replaced by staunchly Islamic regimes. Some others, mourning the passing of the caliphate in 1924, want to impose Islam on a global scale. Still others, such as the Sept. 11 terrorists, hold the current representatives of "unbelief" and "falsehood" – Europe, the United States and Jews – responsible for Islam's decline.

The dogmas of jihadists are known: Islam is the one true religion and must be accepted by everyone. Muslim rulers should govern by *sharia*, or Islamic law. Muslims are in a state of conflict with infidels, or non-Muslims.

Habeck traces jihadist beliefs to such figures as Ahmad ibn Abd a-Hailim ibn Taymiyya (1263-1328), Mohammed ibn Abd al-Wahhab (1704-1792), Mohammed Rashid Rida (1865-1935), Hassan al-Banna (1906-1949) and Sayyid Qutb (1903-1966).

Ibn Taymiyya, whose writings spring from the Hanabali school of Islamic jurisprudence, stated that Islam requires state power and supported armed struggle, or jihad, against anyone outside the fold of Islam. Al-Wahhab revived these tenets nearly 500 years later and cemented a fateful alliance with the House of Saud. Rida, an admirer of Wahhabism, argued that the Qur'an can define all existence.

Al-Banna, the Egyptian founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, transformed these tenets into a coherent set of beliefs about Islam, politics and warfare. Qutb, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, wrote *Milestones*, a bestseller in extremist Islamic circles.

"None of these theorists could have had any impact in the Islamic world if their arguments had not found some sort of resonance in… Islam," Habeck notes.

In this connection, she suggests that they made "shrewd use" of the Qur'an and other texts to support their contention about the need for jihad.

Claiming that jihadists reinterpret and thus abuse holy texts, Habeck says that they and their supporters accept only the most literal interpretations. "All other readings are not just mistaken, they are pernicious and sinful and must be stamped out," she comments.

The majority of Muslims disagree with their view of sacred texts and Islamic law, but jihadists maintain that they hold a monopoly on the truth.

**The corpse of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.**

To jihadists, every element of modern Western liberalism is flawed, wrong and evil. Democracy, human rights, personal freedom and international institutions are illegal, illegitimate and sinful. Western scientific ideas turning on evolution, psychology and sociology are subversive.

Concepts such as interfaith dialogue, tolerance and multiculturalism are expressly designed to reduce Muslim attachment to the *umma*, or Islamic community. Nationalism split Muslims into "cartoon states" and therefore weakened the Islamic world. Educational reform distorts the minds of young Muslims. Imperialism is not primarily about economic resources, control of territory or military hegemony, but about the destruction of Islam.

Jews and Israel figure prominently in the jihadist discourse.

As the eternal enemies of Islam, Jews possess negative characteristics. They are notorious for their betrayal and treachery, have incurred God's curse and wrath and are monkeys and pigs, as Hamas spokesmen never tire of asserting.

Qutb wrote that Jews declared war on the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca and Medina, and continue to do so even now. Says Habeck of Qutb, "In his reading of the Jews today, they are exactly the same people as they were 14 centuries ago."

Jihadists believe that Israel is a latter-day Crusader state implanted by the West in Muslim territory, and that the Jewish state serves the interests of Western colonizers. Bin Laden claims that Israel and the United States are so intertwined that to talk about Israel and the Jews is to talk about America. Ayman al-Zawahiri, his deputy, has said that Israel is "a developed American military base in the heart of the Islamic world and in one of its most sacred places." As a result, the United States "must pay the price for its oppressive and brutal policy toward the Muslims, especially in Palestine."

Some jihadist organizations go as far as to say that Israel is part of a Jewish attempt to recapture territory lost by Jewish tribes in the Saudi peninsula. Many more believe that Zionism hungers for conquest throughout the Middle East. Others view the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq as a plot to ensure Israel's dominance in the region. Still other jihadists have internalized European anti-Semitic motifs and see Israel in control of the media, behind every war and in constant pursuit of attacking and corrupting Islam.

Habeck maintains that jihadists have twisted the meaning of jihad as it is understood within modern Islam.

As she writes: "The general Islamic understanding of jihad today is that it consists of both an internal and an external component. Believers are urged to strive for a deeper faith and to control their desires, while seeking God and the good. This internal struggle is given priority, but there is also a vision of external struggle that includes striving to make society conform to Islamic norms of justice."

But, as she adds, jihad is understood by most present-day Muslims to refer to the Prophet Muhammad's era, "a time that has come and gone. Instead, Muslims believe that the just war of jihad is defensive only, the last resort when attacked by aggressors. Jihadis have subverted this modern understanding of jihad and are attempting to win over the Muslim community to their vision of continuous warfare with the unbelievers."

In closing, Habeck offers a plausible strategy by which jihadists can be defeated. But two of the factors that engender support for the jihadist brand of Islam, autocracy and economic stagnancy, are very much alive in the Muslim world today.

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# Schorsch warns Conservatives about straying from Halachah

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

As he prepares to step down as chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary on June 30, Rabbi Ismar Schorsch warns that changes such as permitting the ordination of gays and lesbians could have dire consequences for the Conservative movement, including its demise.

"Long term, I think it would weaken considerably the commitment of the movement to a serious halachic way of life," he said in a phone interview from his New York office.

"Once the halachic moorings are loosened, there are other questions just around the corner that will force compliance from a movement that is less committed to halachah."

Rabbi Schorsch believes there is "no question" the Conservative movement will be confronted immediately with the question of patrilineal descent if it admits gay students for rabbinic ordination.

"The patrilineal question is a question of enormous relevance to a lot of Jews who are eager to see their grandchildren regarded as Jewish," he said, referring to the Jewish law that determines the Jewish status of children.

According to Halachah, or Jewish law, children are Jewish if they are born to a Jewish mother, but Judaism is not transmitted from the fathers in the same unconditional way. The Reform movement has recognized patrilineal descent as a determinant of Judaism since 1983.

Rabbi Schorsch added that if the movement approves commitment ceremonies for same-sex couples, the pressure in favour of same-sex marriages will be "enormous."

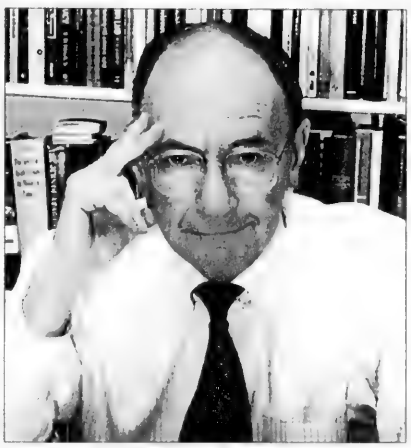
If such changes are permitted, little, if anything, would be left to distinguish Conservative Judaism from Reform, and the two movements would merge, he believes.

He thinks such a merger would be "a catastrophe" for North American Jewry, as it would diminish religious diversity. "Two religious options are far less viable than three religious options," he said.

In recent years, the Conservative movement has lost its status as the largest Jewish denomination in the United States to the Reform movement. The chancellor attributes some of the loss to secularism in society and to the notion that the requirements of Reform – such as fewer required hours of congregational school – "are deemed to be less burdensome".

A longtime proponent of Jewish education, Rabbi Schorsch noted proudly that the JTS has the largest school of Jewish education in the world with 140 full-time students preparing for careers in the field.

There has been a growth in "serious Jewish education," both formal and informal – a longtime priority of his – since Rabbi Schorsch became chancellor of the Conservative movement's flagship seminary 20 years ago. It is one of the biggest changes in the movement in recent years, he noted, citing the creation of new Schechter schools (the day schools associated with the Conservative movement) and also the growth of Conservative Judaism's Ramah camping movement.



Rabbi Ismar Schorsch

The chancellor has advocated that Jewish educational institutions admit patrilineally Jewish children up to bar/bat mitzvah age (after which they would be expected to undergo conversion to Judaism), but he does not hesitate to call intermarriage, which has risen dramatically in recent years, "a curse for the continuity of Jewish life.

"Unimpeded, it will bring to an end organized Jewish life in North America," he said.

In his address at this year's JTS commencement ceremonies, Rabbi Schorsch decried the "malaise" in Conservative Judaism today. He called the movement's new chumash, *Etz Hayim: Torah and Commentary* "eviscerated" and criticized the craving he said JTS students have for "instant gratification.

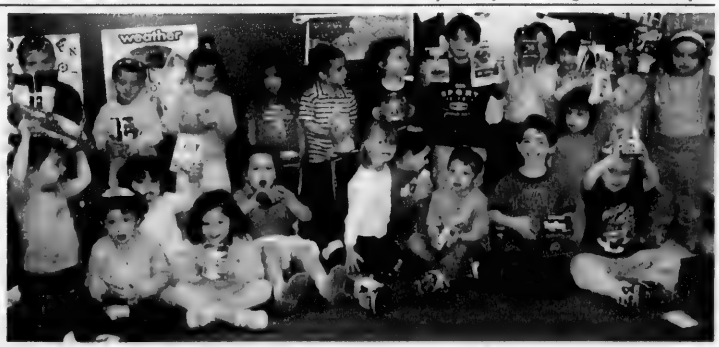
"With frequency, fundamental changes come more easily," he said at the commencement. "Our forebearers embraced history to enlarge and enrich Jewish observance. We wield it, if at all, to shrink it."

The speech was described in the *New York Jewish Week* as a "scathing attack" on both JTS students and the Conservative movement as a whole.

But Rabbi Schorsch denies that he spoke in anger. Indeed, his tone throughout his interview with *The CJN* was calm and reflective, befitting his background as a historian.

Scholarship, he said, has always been the core of his religious life. He will stay on at JTS as a faculty member after Arnold Eisen becomes chancellor-elect July 1. Eisen, the chair of religious studies at Stanford University, will become only the second non-rabbi to head the JTS in its 120-year history.

Rabbi Schorsch plans to spend much of his time post-retirement doing "a good deal of reading, writing and research... What nourishes me spiritually is learning and scholarship."



**MENSCHES IN THE MAKING:** **After learning about the meaning of mitzvot in class, children from the Rose Schwartz Nursery School at Chabad@Flamingo did good deeds of their own by donating food to ASTEH house, a kosher women's shelter in Toronto.**

Jewish Life

# The strike price

Money Matters

Jay Kelman

A few weeks ago, Torontonians awoke to news that due to an (illegal) wildcat strike, there was no public transit. Under such circumstances, may other transit providers drastically raise prices, or is such behaviour nothing more than price gouging of innocents who have limited options?

The Torah prohibits one from knowingly pricing an object above its market price (*ona'ah*). While any amount of overcharge is prohibited, no recourse is given if the discrepancy is less than one-sixth of the price. However if the overcharge (or undercharge) exceeds one-sixth, the aggrieved party can nullify the transaction.

In the modern day economy, with so many variables – including service, convenience, location, hours of operation – influencing price, it becomes exceedingly difficult to determine an accurate market price. Nonetheless there are cases when it's clear that one is being taken advantage of, and recourse is granted. The taxi driver who takes unsuspecting tourists on a roundabout route to their destination would clearly be in violation of these laws. It would thus appear that taking advantage of those inconvenienced by the transit strike would violate Jewish law.

However, one might argue that the sharp, sudden price increases are no more than a shift in the true market price. With the demand for services remaining relatively constant, coupled with a huge drop in the supply of transportation, prices must, by necessity, increase to keep the supply and demand in balance. Our economic fortunes are often determined by items beyond our control – such is the nature of the marketplace. Helping those who have suffered due to such circumstances is not the role of the marketplace but the responsibility of our social service network, as detailed in the laws of tzedakah.

The supremacy of market forces is buttressed by the Talmud's ruling that the sale of war materials during battle is not subject to the laws of *ona'ah*. In such a desperate situation, the combatants are willing to pay whatever price is charged, and the inflated price becomes the new market price, representing fair value. Thus, with the TTC out of service, the "excessive" prices charged for alternate transportation represent no more than an accurate reflection of the market.

Nonetheless, it's not clear that Jewish law would allow sellers to raise prices to take advantage of such a captive market. The Talmud seems to offer a contradictory ruling about an escaping fugitive who is charged well above market price for transport, and it allows him to recover the excess fees. Taking economic advantage, even of a criminal, is unethical, despite his obvious willingness to pay any price for a ticket. It's the objective value of the trip, not the subjective desire of the criminal, that is determinative.

Many authorities assume the fugitive case is normative and reject the battlefield case as representing a minority view. Others claim that no contradiction actually exists: in the war case, combatants will pay a premium for supplies, thus the price charged is "fair." However in the case of the escaping criminal, the market price remains the same – only the criminal, due to his unique circumstances, would pay the higher (and unethical) price. Whether charging the travelling public more is analogous to charging a criminal higher price or whether it represents a changed market paradigm is open to debate.

In any event, even if taking advantage of unexpected market forces may be technically allowed, it falls short of the ethical ideal and should be discouraged. In addition, government agencies have the right to ignore such laws if they feel the public interest is best served by government intervention.

*Comments to info@torahinmotion.org.*

# The Rescue at Entebbe, Pt. 1

**By MARK MIETKIEWICZ**

Thirty years ago, the world was riveted by a drama that began in the eastern Mediterranean with the hijacking of Air France Flight 139. It culminated seven days later with the spectacular rescue by the Israel Defence Forces in Entebbe, Uganda.

The best summary on the Internet of the events leading up to the raid and its successful completion was written by Reserves Maj. Louis Williams, a senior press officer for the Israel Defence Forces. Williams' "Entebbe Diary" follows in great detail the flight of the Air France jet as it took off from Ben-Gurion Airport on June 27, 1976, "on what promised to be a routine flight to Paris via Athens." Four terrorists boarded in Greece and hijacked the plane to Entebbe. In exchange for more than 100 Israeli and Jewish passengers, they demanded the release of terrorists being held in Israel, France, Germany, Switzerland and Kenya. This is a suspenseful read full of details that may have been forgotten over the years. **[http://tinyurl.com/6q5qu]**

"It was a daring raid even by Israeli standards," the announcer intones. To get an immediate feel of the raid and its aftermath, the History Channel site offers a dramatic audio clip that sums up the raid as well as its aftermath. "The raid was not as [then-] Ugandan President Idi Amin put it 'Zionist aggression against a free African state…' For Israel, it served as a tonic, a unifying force reminiscent of the 1967 war." **[http://tinyurl.com/prlab]**

The BBC site offers several video clips. These include a lengthy report from July 4, 1976, giving the initial details of the rescue as well as a very short clip with former hostage Tony Russell, who is none too pleased to be badgered by the press. **[http://tinyurl.com/5eaqq]** Three days later, another BBC report tells of the efforts to locate hostage Dora Bloch. Bloch, a 75-year-old British-Israeli citizen, had been taken from the airport for medical treatment before the raid. At the time, British diplomat James Hennessey hoped to get some answers from Amin. **[http://tinyurl.com/mddgu]** Bloch was never found and according to the BBC site, in May 1979, pathologists identified remains found near a sugar plantation 20 miles east of Kampala as those of Bloch.

One of the names most closely linked to the raid on Entebbe belongs to Jonathan Netanyahu. Born in the United States and educated there as well as in Israel, "Yoni" was a veteran of the 1967 Six Day War. Netanyahu led the storming party to free the hostages at Entebbe and was the lone Israeli military casualty.

Visitors to the recently redesigned official site dedicated to the memory of Yoni are greeted by this verse from 2 Samuel 1:25, "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights." The fully bilingual site includes a biography, photographs and Yoni's battle record as well as a summary of the Entebbe rescue. Visitors to the site can also "light" memorial candles and leave a note with their thoughts. Dan recently wrote, "I fight in the military engineering unit and am in a captain's course at the moment. The story of Yoni, may his memory be blessed, inspires me with great pride and admiration." **[www. yoni.org.il/]**

From his early teens, Netanyahu wrote letters to relatives and friends, which were collected and published after the raid. *Self Portrait of a Hero* is still in print and was reviewed several years ago by the *Boston Globe*: "Yoni's unpretentious accounts of his accomplishments, simply written and thus the more grand, make him the convincing hero he was and make us wish that more like him were among us." **[www.israel books.com/bookDetails.asp?book=45]**

On the fateful day of the hostages' liberation, then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin addressed the Knesset. "The Israel Defence Forces have achieved one of their most exemplary victories from both the human and moral and the military-operational points of view, a remarkable manifestation of Jewish fraternity and Israeli valour… The operation that rescued our dear ones from captivity will be a subject for research, for song and for legend, and it will be written about in the annals of the nation." **[http://tinyurl.com/qc2pt]**

Next week, the legacy of the rescue at Entebbe.

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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Jewish Toronto

# Everyone's a winner at the Amazing Tzedakah Race

*B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Program teaches youngsters about giving back*

By CARLA LANCIT
UJA Federation

When Hannah Davis had her bat mitzvah in December, she knew she wanted to donate the money she received to charity, but she didn't know which one to choose.

Instead of choosing from a multitude of worthy causes, the 13-year-old Leo Baeck student decided to start a philanthropy fund through the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation's endowment arm. "This means that for the rest of my life I can always give money to charity," she says.

In fact, any youngster wanting to start their own tzedakah fund at the Jewish Foundation can do so for as little as $1,000.

Davis was one of the teens who participated in the recent Amazing Tzedakah Race, a fun afternoon designed to teach teens how to allocate money to different agencies and programs. The participants, who ranged in age from 12 to 17, all have tzedakah funds administered through the Jewish Foundation's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program. Approximately $220,000 has been allocated to the program by the 40 teen participants.

Divided into four teams, the teens raced from the Lipa Green Building for Jewish Community Services on Bathurst north of Sheppard, to the Bernard Betel Centre for seniors at Steeles and Bathurst, then on to Reena, which assists the developmentally delayed on Clark Avenue in Thornhill, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre also at Bathurst and Sheppard and an Israel-style stop where Israel projects and programs were presented, also at the Lipa Green Building. At each stop they learned about the particular agency, took a tour, completed a task, and presented a cheque. The first team to finish received an additional $200 to allocate to the program of its choice.

"I really enjoyed it," says Orli Matlow, a 12-year-old student at United Synagogue Day School (USDS). "I liked going to Reena and meeting the kids involved. I liked visiting the places."

"I got to see firsthand what they do," says Andrew Richler, a 14-year-old student at Associated Hebrew School. "I could relate to it more now that I've seen it. It's good to see where the money goes and how it helps people, and where it's most important."

During the afternoon the teens distributed $1,000, provided by Gerry and Shelley Richler through their Endowment Fund at the Jewish Foundation.

"One day this generation is going to be making the choices of where to allocate the community's money," says Richler. "The more educated they are at an earlier age, the better equipped they will be to make those decisions."

The participants are already learning how difficult it can be to allocate funds. "They all seem like good causes, and sometimes you feel bad if you're giving to one charity over another," says Jeffrey Hendler, a 15-year-old student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT). "They'll all probably use the money well so it's tough to decide where it should go."

*Participants in the recent Amazing Tzedakah Race: (Back row) Kady Goldlist (chair), Hannah Davis, Andrew Richler, Maddie Wolfond, Daniel Hendler (chair). (Front row) Orli Matlow, Dana Flatt and Jeffrey Hendler*

Challenges aside, Hendler is unreserved in encouraging future *b'nei mitzvah* to participate in the program. "This way they have a chance to choose where the money should go, and have a chance to be part of the Jewish community."

"If you start when you're younger the chances of continuing to give charity are stronger," says Hendler. "It's a good habit to get into and there's no reason to wait. The earlier you start the more help you can be."

For more information on the B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy Program, call Angela D'aversa at 416.631.5833

## Volunteer makes Walk sizzle

As UJA Federation Walk with Israel participants finished their trek on May 28, and entered Ontario Place for the RioCan Carnival, most of the day's 15,000 tired and hungry walkers were met by a committed troop of volunteers. If there was a certain efficiency with which they slung hotdogs and served up drinks, it's for good reason–most of them have been working together for many years.

It all started 17 years ago when UJA Federation of Greater Toronto asked Arthur (Rosy) Rosenzweig of St. Clair Ice Cream to provide a refrigerated truck for the barbecue. Once he was there, Rosenzweig decided to make himself useful. He must've done a good job, because the next year he was asked to take charge. He's run the barbecue ever since.

*Arthur (Rory) Rosenzweig*

Preparations for the event start in late winter when the donations start to come in. "All the food that's either bought or donated comes to my warehouse," says Rosenzweig. Donations come from companies such as Matax Express Limited, Morgan Scott, Reliable Food Supplies, Sobeys (Clark & Hilda), Super Puff Snack Corp., Strubs, and GMB.

On the day of the Walk, Rosenzweig has three trucks on the road and up to 40 people working at the barbecue. "The crew primarily consists of my friends," he says. "Most of us live in Thornhill, and go to Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto synagogue (BAYT), but a few are from down south as well."

At the event, the volunteers work non-stop–cooking and serving between 3,500 and 4,000 hot dogs, and 500 veggie dogs along with drinks and snacks. "It's a group effort," says Rosenzweig. "After all these years they know what they're doing."

It has been predominantly the same crew for 17 years. "We've all aged together," says Rosenzweig. "The same people do all the same functions–the same people are the barbecuers every year, the same people serve."

Rosenzweig and his family intend to be involved for some time to come. His wife and children and their spouses are also involved in the event–even his young grandchildren hang out at the barbecue.

While the barbecue raises funds for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, "the main thing about the walk is not the money it raises," says Rosenzweig. "It's awareness of the need to support the Jewish community and to definitely support Israel."

Perspective

## Discovering Djerba, Paris and our global Jewish family

*UJA Federation's recent mission to Djerba and Paris, organized by the Board of Jewish Education, offered participants exposure to the world's oldest existing Jewish community in Djerba and to the troubled Jews of Paris who are confronting regular outbreaks of anti-Semitism. In this edition of Perspective, Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's senior vice president for Jewish Education and Identity, examines the Paris portion of the mission.*

By DR. SEYMOUR EPSTEIN
UJA Federation

I organized this adventure for CHAVON – a UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education initiative that explores innovative ideas in the field of Jewish education – and for other like-minded souls so as to further investigate both the history and current manifestations of Jewish education. This introductory note should set the scene.

It is a story from my first years in North Africa as a JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee – a UJA Federation partner organization) pedagogic consultant. The head of Habad operations for France and North Africa was a certain Rabbi Benjamin Gorodetsky, of blessed memory. He told me that the first time he visited Djerba in the early fifties, he noted that children of different ages were all in the same classroom. He asked if he could show the teachers how classes are formed in the West. With permission, he sorted the young boys by age, and assigned a teacher to each group. He was complimented, but it was pointed out that a few changes needed to be made, and by the time the shuffling ended, the boys were as mixed in age as before. Baffled, Rabbi Gorodetsky asked for an explanation. He was told that a certain boy had to be with a certain teacher because his father studied with that teacher's father and his grandfather learned under that teacher's grandfather. And so it was with every child until the age chaos was restored. Gorodetsky, in telling me the story, turned at this point with a smile and said, "Maybe they were right and we have it all wrong."

*Dr. Seymour Epstein in Paris*

The traveler to a foreign culture brings not only his/her own suitcase, but also attitudes, expectations, and prejudices. The trick is to leave most of that in the hotel room and observe with an open mind and heart. Just imagine for a moment how the people you are visiting would visit you.

We spent Friday and Shabbat in Paris on our way home, and used the opportunity to experience Jewish Paris and to learn more about the current situation facing Jews in France.

In Paris, we visited the Alliance Israelite Universelle and met with its director, Jean-Jacques Wahl, whose opinions on the current wave of anti-Semitism were guardedly optimistic, an attitude that some of our group found difficult to fathom. Had we had more time in France, I am certain we would have heard a broad spectrum of opinions, ranging from hysteria to indifference, based on differences in location, education, and socio-economic levels.

Friday night we prayed Kabbalat Shabbat at the grand synagogue on Rue Buffault, a Sephardic synagogue built before the mass immigration of North African Jews to France, but now mainly supported by those very Jews from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

While Shabbat was a free day for the mission, some of us attended morning services at the Rue de la Victoire Ashkenazi synagogue. Here we saw the remnants of a once-thriving community celebrating a bar mitzvah in the cathedral-like grandeur of an enormous shul with pitiful attendance and the sad ignorance of Jews totally illiterate of their rich culture.

The single thing that moved me most on this mission was how, in an instant, our urban and sophisticated Jews of Toronto could identify with the Jews of a tiny village on an island in the Mediterranean and see them as brothers and sisters of the same big family. The Jews of Djerba know nothing about the greatest and most powerful Diaspora that ever existed, that of North America. They might even giggle about some of the things we hold dear. But they too see in us family, bound together by the spirit of Jewish peoplehood and their sense of God's order. I think we all grew as Jews on this trip and added significantly to both our knowledge and sentiments about the vast riches of Jewish heritage.

**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

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# UJA Federation Campaign 2007: Creating Opportunity. Providing Hope.

## *Campaign preparations intensify during summer months*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

While many of us are in the midst of planning our summer getaways, the chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2007 Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks are working diligently on the campaign, which will officially launch on September 6.

The campaign is focusing on four urgent needs that require significant new funding:

- Combating poverty - disrupting a cycle of poverty for Toronto's 20,000 Jewish poor.
- Providing hope for Israel's youth at risk through social and educational opportunities for children challenged by poverty, parental problems, special needs or unhealthy lifestyles.
- Strengthening Jewish roots by fortifying Jewish ties for our young people, newcomers to the community and those who are living on the fringes of Jewish life.
- Bringing Ethiopian Jews home to Israel - helping up to 20,000 Ethiopians fulfill their lifelong dream of settling in Israel and meeting their absorption challenges.

Additional funds raised during Campaign 2007 will supplement low incomes for the Jewish poor to help them live in stable homes in Jewish neighbourhoods; fund services such as tutoring, JCC memberships and camp subsidies so that children who live in economically distressed homes can live like other kids, and subsidize nutritious kosher hot meals for Jewish seniors.

"We want to make every effort to eradicate poverty in Israel and in our own community," says Rohringer who, along with Waks, recently took part in a fact-finding mission to Israel. "It is deplorable that one in three Israeli children lives below the poverty line and that 20,000 Toronto Jews - ten percent of our community - live below the poverty line as well. Our dollars provide the opportunity to make a difference, to help those in need steer their lives down the road of self-sufficiency with additional dignity."

In order to provide new hope for Israeli youth at risk, additional Campaign 2007 contributions will support a range of initiatives, including fund after-school centres that provide healthy meals and productive activities for Israeli youngsters after the short Israeli school day ends at 1:00 p.m. Without after-school programs, thousands of young people would have no place to go while their parents work.

*(Above) Chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2007 Fred Waks and Ariella Rohringer (right) with Judith Finer Freedman, chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy, on a recent fact-finding mission to Israel. (Inset) Campaign 2007 will focus on creating opportunities for those at risk in Toronto and Israel.*

The expansion of programs offered by Hillel on university and college campuses – particularly those in outlying areas of Greater Toronto – is among several ways in which Campaign 2007 will help to strengthen Jewish roots.

Campaign 2007 funds will also be allocated toward aliyah for 20,000 Ethiopians who long to live in Israel, for which they've yearned all their lives. Additional donations will go toward their daily living expenses as they wait to leave for Israel, the cost of their flights and for absorption once they arrive. With 72% of Ethiopian families living below the poverty line, funds will also support programs like Gearing-Up-for-Success, which offers them the path to employment through job training; and Project OFEK, a program which provides Ethiopian-Israeli high school students with academic tutoring so they can pass their matriculation exams.

"Just like my parents and my husband's parents, Ethiopian olim, Russian olim, and many others arrive in Israel every week to start a new life. Through Campaign 2007, we will help these incredible people improve their lives by changing their challenges into opportunities," says Rohringer.

"Campaign 2007 is about providing people in need with the tools and the resources to place their lives on a fresh footing, with options that do not currently exist," says Waks. "It's about the realities of life which sometime befall us. It's about that single mother in Toronto with little disposable income trying to raise two or three children in a Jewish neighbourhood. For this mom, providing opportunities means job training from UJA Federation's partner agencies. It also means a wide range of counseling and financial services, including subsidies for Jewish education and Jewish camping. It's about giving these families a chance to live a normal life."

# Torontonian helps Israeli citizens with special needs

Getting around Israel's southern most city of Eilat and neighbouring Eilot region will now be easier for seniors with mobility problems and kids with physical disabilities thanks to a donation by Toronto's Joseph Kostman.

Kostman donated a wheelchair accessible vehicle to Eilat-Eilot, which are twinned with Toronto through UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 (P2K) initiative.

"There are quite a number of people who really are in great need of some form of transportation," says Kostman, 90. "It's a tremendous hardship for them not to have something at hand so they can attend functions or classes."

*Joseph Kostman*

One man already benefiting from Mr. Kostman's generosity is 84 year old Avihu Nelson, who was born in Israel and has lived in the Eilat-Eilot area for 51 years with his 75 year-old wife.

"The vehicle is wonderful for golden-agers and people in wheelchairs who can't get around on their own," says Nelson. "Without the vehicle many of us would be housebound. But now, seniors from the region are taken to the club for the elderly where we enjoy different activities. I've just taken up woodworking. On Sundays and Wednesdays we eagerly wait for the vehicle to pick us up."

"This special-needs vehicle has brought about a revolution in our way of thinking and the services that the Regional Council provides to residents with special needs," says Udi Gat, Chairman of the Eilot Regional Council. "It enables them to participate in events that cater to their specific needs as well as events for all local residents. It is also a factor that encourages others to join the Arava residents."

Kostman grew up in an Orthodox Jewish household in Vancouver, but became estranged from his Jewish identity in adulthood. "I really didn't become a Jew per se until I came to Toronto," he says.

Kostman has also donated vehicles to other organizations such as York University, United Way, Reena and Circle of Care.

"My late wife Rachel and I have no heirs," he says. "We wanted to be able to contribute something that was more or less unique, that no one else had done. We thought about vehicles. We started with one—it was so well received that it became the pattern."

Kostman finds the act of donating the vehicles extremely satisfying. "The accomplishment of having completed each project has given me a good feeling in regards to what I've done," he says. "I feel I've done something worthwhile. My greatest regret is that I have not been able to do more."

# And the winners are...

*Sarah Sousa (l), a grade 12 student at Cardinal Newman Catholic School poses beside her senior division winning painting in the recent 2006 UJA Federation Holocaust Centre Provincial Arts/Writing Contest sponsored by Brenda Fishauf. Sarah Silverberg (r), a grade 8 student at Associated Hebrew Schools, took first place in the junior division for her essay. Both girls won a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (photo by Hanna Schwartz)*

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## Greater Toronto Area

**GREAT SPELLERS: Grade 6 students Jennifer Sherman, of United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst campus, and Adam Rakoff, of USDS' Bayview campus, placed eighth and 19th in Toronto, respectively, in the CanWest CanSpell National Spelling Bee. USDS was one of 124 schools, with 16,286 students, that took part citywide.**


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Edited by: ALEK SILVER

## יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

### אונדזער לאַנד קאַנאַדע

**(צו איר 139טן געבוירן־טאָג)**

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

אין אָרום ניין טעג וועט אונדזער לאַנד קאַנאַדע פֿייערן איר געבורטסטאָג — 139 יאָר. קאַנאַדע איז געוואָרן אַן אומאָפּהענגיקע מלוכה יולי 1, 1867. אין פֿאַרגלייך מיט אַנדערע לענדער, וועלכע זיינען שוין הונדערטער און אפֿשר טויזנטער יאָרן אַלט, איז קאַנאַדע נאָך אַלץ אַ יונג לאַנד. אָבער אין פֿאַרגלייך מיט מדינות, וועלכע זיינען געבוירן געוואָרן ערשט נאָך דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה — מדינת ישׂראל איינגעשלאָסן — איז קאַנאַדע שוין אַן אַלטע מדינה, מיט אַ סך דערפֿאָרנעם אויף דער וועלט סצענע.

קאַנאַדע איז זייער אַ גרויס לאַנד. לויט דער סטאַטיסטיק איז קאַנאַדע דאָס צווייט־גרעסטע לאַנד אויף דער וועלט מיט 9.9 סקוועער קילאָמעטער. עס נעמט אַריין די גרעסערע טעריטאָריע אין צפונדיקן טייל פֿון צפון־אַמעריקע. די הויפּט־שטאָט איז אָטאַוואַ אין דער פֿראָווינץ פֿון אָנטאַריאָ. עס איז צוזאַמענגעשטעלט פֿון 10 פֿראָווינצן און 3 טעריטאָריעס — יעדע מיט איר אייגענער הויפּטשטאָט און אַ פֿרעמיער אויסגעוויילט פֿון די איינווינער פֿון דער פֿראָווינץ.

קאַנאַדע איז אַ קאָנסטיטוציאָנעלע מאָנאַרכיע מיט אַ פּעדעראַלן סיסטעם, מיט אַ פּאַרלאַמענטאַרישער רעגירונג און שטאַרקע דעמאָקראַטישע טראַדיציעס. דער 1982 „טשאַרטער פֿון רעכט און פֿרייהייט" גאַראַנטירט די עיקרדיקע רעכט און פֿריווילעגיעס פֿאַר יעדן בירגער פֿון לאַנד. די קעניגין פֿון עננלאַנד, עליזאַבעט די צווייטע, ווערט אויך אָנערקענט ווי די קעניגין פֿון קאַנאַדע אין דינט ווי אַ סימבאָל פֿון אַ פֿאַראייניקט מאָלק. זי באַשטימט, לויט דער עצה פֿון קאַנאַדער פֿרעמיער־מיניסטער, אַ פֿאַרשטייער („גאַווערנאָר־דזשענעראַל"), וואָס פֿאַרטרעט זי אין דער רעגירונג.

געווינלעך איז דער פֿרעמיער־מיניסטער פֿון לאַנד דער פֿירער פֿון דער פֿאַרטיי, וואָס האָט באַקומען די גרעסטע צאָל שטימען. אויב ער האָט נישט קיין מערהייט דעפֿוטאַטן קען ער נעמען אין אַ קאָאַליציע אַנדערע פֿאַרטיין. אויב עס קומען אויף פֿראָגן אַדער פֿראָבלעמען ווען די לייזונג געפֿעלט נישט אָלע פֿאַרטיין, קענען די דאָזיקע פֿאַרטיין שאַפֿן אַ פֿאַראייניקטע אָפּאָזיציע צו דער רעגירונג און צווינגען די צו דעמיסיאָנירן. דאָן ווערן בעראָפֿן נייע וואָלן.

פֿאַר די יידישע בירגער איז קאַנאַדע זייער גוט. זיי genyen פֿון די זעלבע רעכט, געפֿינען אין פֿרייהייט ווי אָלע אַנדערע מיטגלידער. די דעמאָקראַטישע פֿרינציפּן זיינען באַזירט אויף די געדאַנק פֿון לאַנד אין מאַכן נישט קיין אונטערשייד צווישן אײַן מינאָריטעט און אַ צווייטער. יעדער בירגער איז פֿרייַ צו געהערן צו וועלכער פֿאַרטיי ער ווייל; איז פֿרייַ אויסצוקלייבן וועלכע רעליגיע ער ווייל; פֿרייַ צו שטודירן אין לערנען אין פֿרייַ צו מאַכן פֿרנסה ווי ער ווייל. מיט איין וואָרט: פֿרייַ צו לעבן לויט זיך אייגענעם ווילן.

אָפּיציעל ווערט דער אנטיסעמיטיזם אין ראַסדאָס שטאַרק באַקעמפט אין דער מדינה. אָבער דאָך, פֿון צייט צו צייט, פֿאַסירן אנטיסעמיטישע אינצידענטן אין לאַנד. די קרימינעלע כוליגאַנעס, ווען זיי ווערן געכאַפּט, ווערן באַשטראָפֿט לויט די געזעצן פֿון לאַנד.

פֿאַר די פֿון מיין דור, די געראַטעוועטע פֿון דער שׂואה, איז קאַנאַדע געווען אַן אָפּענע טיר, אַריינגענומען אַ גרויסע צאָל היימלאָזע יידן אין זיי געגעבן אַ געלעגנהייט דאָ צו בויען אַ נייַ לעבן. דאָרטן מיר, יידן, זיין דאָנקבאַר צו אונדזער לאַנד קאַנאַדע אין אין טאָג פֿון קאַנאַדעס יום־טוב אָנשליסן זיך צוזאַמען מיט אַלע בירגער אין לאַנד אין זאָגן „א שיינעם דאַנק"!


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# Associated principal retires after two decades

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

For the past two decades, Rabbi Pinchas Tessler has been a Judaic studies principal at Associated Hebrew Schools, where his students are almost the age he was when he decided to become a teacher.

Back in Grade 6 or 7, when he was growing up in Holon, Israel, the future rabbi had a teacher by the name of Eliezer Tauber, a Viennese-born Holocaust survivor. "It was just amazing to see what the man was doing, his knowledge, his organizational skills and his devotion to his students," recalled Rabbi Tessler in an interview last week, after he was honoured on his upcoming retirement at Associated's Kamin Educational Centre in Thornhill. He has been principal there since 1998.

"I think that, because of [Tauber,] I probably decided to join the cadre of teachers."

After receiving his degree in education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rabbi Tessler, who also served as a lieutenant in the IDF's artillery forces during the Six-Day War, taught at an evening school for young immigrants who worked during the day.

"It gave me a great deal of satisfaction to know that the law in Israel was flexible and would allow these children to get an education." That stint was where his love of teaching began, he said.

A native of Romania, Rabbi Tessler has vivid memories of travelling to Palestine as a six-year-old in 1946 on an overcrowded fishing boat. His family had survived the war by relocating to a larger city. Their subsequent move to Israel fulfilled a longtime dream for his late father, Alter Shlomo, who became a founder of Shikun Vatikim synagogue in Holon.

Rabbi Tessler's wife Miriam, who was born in Hungary and raised in Montreal, claims responsibility for their move to Canada in 1967, 1½ years after their marriage. "I'm the culprit," she said jokingly, referring to her desire as an only child to spend a few years in the same city as her parents.

Her husband, she added, "was always eager for new experiences."

The couple, now parents and grandparents of a large extended family, met when Miriam, who is a secretary at Ulpanat Orot, was visiting family in Israel: her future in-laws were neighbours of her aunt and uncle.

Rabbi Tessler – who was not yet a rabbi; he would be ordained by Montreal's former chief rabbi, the late Rabbi Pinchas Hirschsprung – became principal of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem's congregational school on his arrival in Montreal. At the same time, he studied for a master's degree at McGill University, eventually transferring to Concordia University. After two years he became principal at Herzliah High School.

He continued to teach in the classroom as well as being an administrator, and also taught at two Jewish teachers' seminaries, as he had in Israel.

After he moved to Toronto in 1985 to become Judaic studies principal at Associated's Danilack Education Centre on Leslie Street, Rabbi Tessler taught for about 15 years at the Midrasha L'Morim run by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Board of Jewish Education.

Last year he was honoured by Beth Chabad Israeli Community Centre for his work in adult education there.

**Rabbi Pinchas Tessler**

Among his lessons for aspiring teachers, he says that a lesson will be productive if it is "properly prepared, and challenging." Also, he added, students must feel their teachers know them and care for them as human beings.

Similarly, he believes in making Jewish studies "personal" and "alive" for students; relating prayer to real-life situations, for example.

"It doesn't matter what background you come from," he said. "All human beings have the same needs."


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| David Burke | דוד | Ryan Mosoff | מתתיהו |
| Talia Carr | טליה | Alannah Mozes | אריאלה |
| Erin Chesney | אסתר | Marli Mucher | מירה |
| Mollli Clements | מרים | Joshua Paulin | יהשוע |
| Nicole Davis | אביגיל | Jessica Pollock | מלכה |
| Joanne Glowinsky | חנה | Joseph Schwartz | יוסף |
| Adam Goldberg | אדם | Elliot Seetner | אליהו |
| Hayley Goldenberg | מרים | Ian Sheriff | יעקב |
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# Paul Penna gala honours Giller prize founder

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

Many of the Canadian cultural and political icons in the audience at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School's (DJDS) recent gala tribute were as high profile as the performers on stage at the Al Green Theatre.

The annual event honoured school grandparent and philanthropist Jack Rabinovitch, founder of the Scotiabank Giller Prize for Canadian fiction, for his contributions to arts, literature and the community. The evening drew a who's who of Canadian culture to pay tribute to Rabinovitch, including publisher Anna Porter, *National Post* columnist Robert Fulford, social activist June Callwood, CBC radio host Andy Barrie and former TVO chair Isabel Bassett.

Other notable Canadians, including former Ontario premier Bob Rae and his wife Arlene Perly Rae and writer Morley Torgov, roasted and toasted Rabinovitch on a video produced by filmmaker Karen Shopsowitz.

Rabinovitch accepted the accolades with a brief speech in praise of multiculturalism. He talked about growing up in a multi-ethnic community in downtown Montreal, where he and other immigrant kids from diverse backgrounds sought to fit into Canadian society while still retaining the values of their respective heritages.

"The [Jewish] cultural traditions of 5,000 years ago makes you a better Canadian, and it makes for a better Canada. That's what this school [the DJDS] is all about," he said.

**Jack Rabinovitch, the honoree at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School's recent tribute gala, is flanked by gala co-chairs Aviva Rajsky, left and Noni Rabinovitch.**

The event's parent co-chairs, Rabinovitch's daughter Noni Rabinovitch and Aviva Rajsky, said the gala raised $130,000 for the school.

Now housed in the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, the DJDS opened with three grades in 1998. Today, it has 100 children and is opening a middle school next fall.

A comic tag team of *Toronto Star* humourist Joey Slinger and CBC broadcaster Michael Enright co-hosted the event, which included actor/producer Albert Schultz, singers Jackie Richardson and David Rogers, comedian Sean Cullen, pianist Marilyn Lerner, Yiddish vocalist Adrienne Cooper and Toronto Symphony concertmaster Jacques Israelievitch.

The entertainment was put together by school parents, many of whom are artists in their own right. They included Columbus Theatre co-director Leah Cherniak, the gala director; Juno-award-winning music producer Danny Greenspoon, the gala producer; and actor/director Alon Nashman, the artistic director.

Rabinovitch, father of three daughters – Noni, Daphna and Elana Rabinovitch – and grandfather of two, established the annual Giller Prize in 1994 in memory of his wife Doris Giller, a journalist who died of cancer in 1993. Now known as the Scotiabank Giller, the annual $40,000 prize for the best Canadian book of fiction is the richest literary award in Canada.

# Girls high school holds first tribute dinner

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

To celebrate the purchase of a permanent building on Storomont Avenue, Tiferes Bais Yaakov, the Daniel T. Gordon High School for Girls, held its first tribute dinner recently.

**Danny Gordon**

The gala, attended by some 600 people, was held at the Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue of Toronto.

The girls' school opened its doors seven years ago with 20 students, said Simi Grosman, president of its board of directors. This year, it had 85 students, "and we are growing every year," she added.

The evening was dedicated to the memory of Danny Gordon, a lawyer who died two months before his 57th birthday. The school is named in his memory.

"When Danny was approached by the original group of parents for advice and guidance, he recognized the need for Tiferes Bais Yaakov in the community," Grosman said.

"Although Danny's children were grown, he became passionately committed to the vision of offering young women in our community an intellectually challenging academic environment, both in general and Jewish studies within an atmosphere of caring, concern and trust and where each student can reach her full potential and capacity for absorbing a true sense of Torah."

Gordon was born and raised in Toronto. He attended Associated Hebrew Schools, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and Ner Israel Yeshiva. He was the third generation of his family dedicated to Torah education in Toronto. His grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Gordon, who arrived here in 1904 from Volozhin, was spiritual leader of several shuls and a pioneer in Jewish education.

His father Wilferd, a respected lawyer, and mother Balfoura, a school trustee, were also devoted to both secular and religious education.

The evening honored the school's principal, Rabbi Yitzchak Feigenbaum, "who has a shared vision and partnership with the goals of the creators of the school," Grosman said.

Rabbi Feigenbaum was born in Cleveland. After studying at Yeshivas Mir in Jerusalem, he helped found Yeshiva DarcheiNoam/Shupell College of Jewish Studies in Israel for university-age students with little formal education. He and his family moved to Toronto in 1987. He taught at several schools before accepting the position at Tiferes Bais Yaakov.

Grosman said two classes have already graduated from the school, and its alumnae have been accepted at the finest seminaries in Israel and at prestigious North American universities.

The evening's keynote speaker was Rabbi Yissocher Frand, who is known for his popular weekly shiur in Baltimore and is the author of four books.

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Please submit letters of interest to the Administrator at the First Narayever Congregation at admin@narayever.ca



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## Greater Toronto Area

**FAMILY ART:** Michael Snowbell helps his children Rafi, left, Natan, centre, and Ariela make pencil holders at Netivot HaTorah Day School's annual arts and crafts day recently. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

**MATH WHIZ:** Eric Shore, a Grade 5 student at the Toronto Heschel School, is congratulated by principal Gail Baker for placing in the top one per cent of students in Ontario on the Fibonacci Math Contest, sponsored by the Mathematics Contest Centre.


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Molly Resnick

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# Occupation 'hollows out Israel', peace activist says

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

"An occupation is an occupation is an occupation. That means brutal military rule," American-Israeli leftist and peace activist Reuven Kaminer told an audience of about 40 people at the Winchevsky Centre earlier this month.

The Detroit-born Kaminer is the author of the 1995 book *The Politics of Protest: The Israeli Peace Movement and the Palestinian Intifada* and the founder and editor of the Hebrew-language news and commentary website Haggadah Hasmolit (the Left Bank).

"Three-and-a-half million Palestinians have been subjected [to the occupation] since 1967. For 39 years, the situation has gone on and on. It encourages hopelessness and despair, but it does not stop the Palestinian struggle against [oppression]," he said.

Kaminer, the grandfather of Matan Kaminer, who was jailed for refusing to serve in the Israeli army, said that if Israel doesn't find a way to end to the occupation, it "will bring about the total end of Israel and break down the life and pulse of the Jewish people."

He said the only viable solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict is a two-state solution. To achieve that, Israel must return to its 1967 borders, and the Palestinians "must be able to establish their capital in Jerusalem, next to Israel."

As well, he said, there needs to be a change in "mediation to solve the Palestinian refugee problem."

In addition, Kaminer, a founding member of far-left political group SIAH (the New Israeli Left) and a member of Peace Now, said that Palestinian leaders need to agree on a plan for dealing with Israel.

Hamas actually "wants a deal" for a two-state solution, as does its rival, Fatah, he said.

He added that Israel can't succeed in "suppressing the need of Palestinians for self-determination" and has been "unable to suppress Palestinian nationalism."

But Kaminer said Palestinians also need to understand that "returning all Arab land is also a dead dream."

He fully supports boycotts and sanctions against Israel.

"Any non-violent activity against the occupation is just and should be supported," he said. "Millions of Palestinians suffer in intolerable circumstances, despite trying to live. I would even support violent action."

Kaminer said Israel's "wall" between itself and Palestinian areas "snakes" into Palestinian life. He called it a "racist entity in the Middle East."

"They say it will keep out terror, but terror turns around and goes somewhere else," he said.

"I've [talked] about how to go from here to here. The moral issues are clear. The political issues are dense," he said.

"There is day-to-day persecution of Palestinians. There are checkpoints where Palestinians cannot pass. Palestinians are killed without legal basis. It hollows out Israel."

# Help available to fill out Yad Vashem forms

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

In response to a worldwide appeal from Yad Vashem to add names to its database of Holocaust victims, Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto (JIST) is offering free weekly clinics to those who need help completing the forms.

Trained volunteers at the clinics, held every two weeks at Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, will help people complete the forms, called the Pages of Testimony, and show them the database and its features.

The Pages of Testimony section of the website (www.yadvashem.org) includes specific information on the Jews who died during the Holocaust. Each page records the victim's full name, date and place of birth, place of residence before the war, profession, parents' and spouse's names, and the circumstances of death, as well as the name of the person who submitted the information. A photograph is included if available.

Barbara Barak, senior co-ordinator of JIST, said, "It's a race against time. Holocaust survivors may not be able to share their memories later on. It's important that we gather the names of as many of the victims as possible in order to honour, memorialize and preserve their legacies."

Fran Augenblick, a JIST staff member who works at the clinic, says that when it first opened in early May, a woman came in with 11 names.

"We could tell that it was very difficult for her, but she wanted to make sure the names got recorded.

"One man came in and talked to us for two hours. He has told his story many times, but he needed us to listen," she says.

The forms can be filled out at home by going to the website, she says, "but we are here for those who have no access to a computer."

If people have pictures, staff can scan them in order for them to be added to the database, Augenblick says.

For information about dates and times of the clinic, call JIST at 416-635-5600 or e-mail jinfo@ujafed.org.

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***Anti-Semitism in Europe: the real picture***

Speaker:

**Shimon Samuels**

*Director for International Relations of the Simon Wiesenthal Center*

**Thursday, June 29, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

**The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road**

# Torontonian wins prestigious scholarship

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Jason Rotstein is one of 20 students to win the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship this year, and he's getting set to start a master's program in critical and creative writing at the University of Sussex in October.

The scholarship will cover tuition for the one-year program, as well as travel costs, living expenses and a 600-pound monthly stipend.

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, established in 1959, was designed by Commonwealth governments to enable deserving students to pursue studies in Commonwealth countries such as Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Rotstein, 21, just finished a degree in English and comparative literature at Cornell University, specializing in Hebrew and German literature.

He had a 3.9 cumulative grade point average, but he did more than just get good grades. He was one of the founding editors of two student journals – *Yalla: A Reflection of the Middle East* and *Gam Yachad: A Youth Response to the Crisis in Israel*, which featured poems, fiction, essays and photos.

Jason Rotstein

Both were literary journals, but each had a distinct theme.

"*Gam Yachad* was an all-Jewish effort and *Yalla* had Arab and Jewish voices. At the time, [*Yalla*] was the first journal in North America to bring together Arabs and Jews," he said.

Rotstein also worked as a tutor and a teaching intern, as well as researching articles for *American Spectator* and *Inside Magazine* at the *Washington Post*, and freelancing for *The CJN*.

He received 15 fellowships and awards, including one in recognition of his work with *Yalla*.

Rotstein said he first heard of the Commonwealth Scholarship through a woman he was dating who really wanted to win it. But he was more interested in applying for what he thought were more prestigious awards, such as the Rhodes Scholarship or the Marshall Scholarship.

"I applied for the Commonwealth Scholarship as an afterthought," he said, adding that he was very surprised and honoured to be one of the winners.

The entire application process was completed online and included writing a letter to the British government, listing some of his accomplishments and making a promise that once he finishes his program, he'll return to Canada to work, said Rotstein, who was born in the United States but grew up in Toronto.

Although his post-secondary education and extracurricular activities have focused on writing and literature, he said writing didn't always come naturally to him.

"I was never really a good student growing up... In Grade 9, I was probably the worst English student in my high school. I was very nervous and anxious about some of the grammatical elements in my writing, but now, I really feel that my writing has become automatic. I'm not really thinking about it so much," he said.

He added that after having completed a degree in English and comparative literature, and once he has obtained his master's in creative and critical writing, he'll feel as trained as a writer can be, which will free him to explore other academic avenues.

"I thought about doing a PhD in intellectual history and political thought at Cambridge [University]," but financing that level of education is greatly dependent on being awarded more scholarships, he said.

"I eventually want to go to law school. I'm actually very interested right now in art law, corporate law and international law," he added, noting that law school would also be a financial burden.

"I'm working on a number of book projects right now, so hopefully that will pay for that. I'm trying to get my thesis published," he said, noting that he received a grant from Cornell to travel to Windsor, Ont., to interview Canadian author Alistair MacLeod for his thesis, titled *Only Time Can Tell: Canonization and Expressions in Time in Alistair MacLeod's Island: The Collected Stories*.

Rotstein leaves for the United Kingdom at the end of September.

He said his parents are nervous because Brighton, where the University of Sussex is located, is notorious for being a party town, but he is excited about the opportunity to grow and gain new experiences.

"You want to be influenced by your experience, and I'm one of those people who think they can be transformed by another person and is open to being transformed," he said.

# 'I am following my dream'

**Continued from page 1**

"She became my teacher when I was 10, and I still train with her. She could see I was driven, and she encouraged me to become a [classical] ballet dancer."

She knew she made the right decision about dancing with the Israel Ballet when she met the dance company's co-founder and co-artistic director, Berta Yampolsky, who was once a prima ballerina with the Odessa State Ballet.

"She went out of her way to make sure I was comfortable," Oberman says. "She is warm and kind, and ensures that there is no competition among the peers. They are like family to each other. There is so much happiness in the field of art in Israel."

Dancing is a lifestyle, Oberman says.

"When I take a day off, I feel it. I take a 1½-hour class every day, and if I'm in a performance, I have a rehearsal," she says.

"I also make sure I never eat too much. I eat a little bit at a time whenever I'm hungry because that is lighter on the stomach. To dance, I need to be thin, but I also need to be healthy and powerful."

When she dances, she says, she speaks through her body.

"I convey a message [with my movements.] I don't need to speak because the audience can see how I feel."

Dina Gidron, regional director of the Israel Aliyah Centre, which is affiliated with the Jewish Agency for Israel, says it's amazing to see how birthright israel can give young Jews such a strong connection with Israel.

"[Lisa] fell in love with Israel, and then she honed into her real passion. I give credit to birthright."

Oberman says that by making aliyah, "I am following my dream. There are not a lot of teens in the ballet world, but I am committed.

"I'm also committed to living in Israel. When I walk around there I feel no fear. There is a sense of security there."

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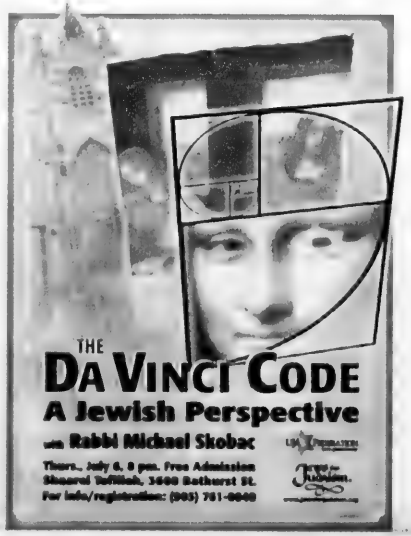

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Feature

Palais Royale, a fresh venue for a new generation

# Historic Palais Royale renovated

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Everything old is new again.

The Palais Royale, a dance hall on the shore of Lake Ontario that featured many of the great big bands in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, including Benny Goodman, the Dorsey Brothers, Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway, has been renovated.

The Palais was built in 1922 as part of the Sunnyside Amusement Park and originally operated at as a boat-building factory. In 1932, it became a dance hall.

The hall, which will host private, communal, corporate and commercial events, has retained its original grandeur. The renovation takes advantage of the building's unique waterfront location and gardens, but many of the hall's historic features the beauty of yesteryear – have been retained.

Narrowly escaping demolition in 1955, the Palais Royale was leased to the Polish National Union. In 2000, the City of Toronto regained control of the Palais Royale. It was then leased to Pegasus Corp. and Borg Entertainment. More than $3 million has been spent on the renovation.

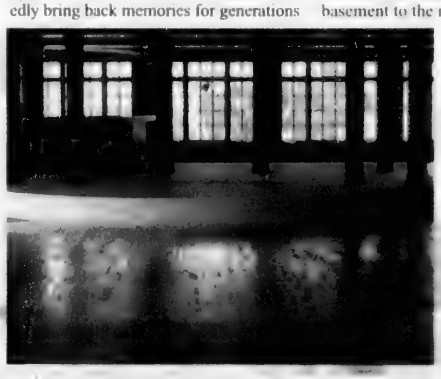
The renovated Palais Royale officially opened its doors in June. It will undoubtedly bring back memories for generations of individuals who will recall the popular destination for boy-meets-girl dances as well as bring back memories for the thousands who frequented the boardwalk, Sunnyside Pool and the surrounding gardens.

The building's external façade has been retained, but the interior – including its timbers, a retro dance floor (the hall is famous for its sprung hardwood dance floor) and a large bandstand – has been restored. The Palais' facilities include modern sound technology, visual and audio equipment and a state-of-the art kitchen that can accommodate supervised kosher events.

"We will be bringing back original events such as swing dinners and dances, as well as maintaining the fabulous concert venue reputation that the Palais Royale already has," says Mary Lou Borg, who with her brothers Joseph, Ron and Mike operates the Palais.

The Borgs are working with Terry Tsianos, president and CEO of the Pegasus Group, and John Dagonas, president and CEO of Duron Ontario, a construction company. Tsianos served as president of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation.

"The building [the Palais] was in terrible shape," says Mary Lou Borg. "We have worked closely with the Heritage Board, renovating the building from the basement to the roof."



Palais Royale's dance floor and stage

On a tour of the building, we viewed an Art Deco-inspired parlour, a lounge and Palais Royale's spectacular ballroom with its view of the lake. There is a walkout to a covered deck and patio courtyard.

For more information, call 416-533-3553, e-mail info@palaisroyale.ca or visit www.palaisroyale.ca.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Mazel tov to Lil Rose on her 85th birthday. Wishing our "Bubbie Lil" continued good health and happiness. Love your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov Avra Fay Selick for graduating with a scholarship from CHAT. Love, Bubbie Ruth Chaim, Margo & Joe, Adam & Shoshana, Jesse & Marni.**

**Mazel tov Helen Isenberg on your 75th birthday on June 18. We love you. Love always, your children and grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov Max Dankner on his 81st birthday. Much love from the family.**

**Mazel tov to Lauren & Adam Scher on the safe arrival of their daughter Dylan Ivy, on March 21. Love, Bubbie Edie & Zaidie Jackie Marcus.**

**Trevor Lee, in a traditional kilt, married soulmate Shelley Miller in January. Family and friends wish them continued happiness throughout their lives together. Mazel tov.**

**Mazel tov to Sean Goldman and family on the occasion of his bar mitzvah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Much love always, Bubbie and Zaidie.**

**Happy Father's Day Daddy! Love, Zudei xoxo**

## SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

**Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: The deadlines listed in the June 15 issue contained a number of errors. I apologize for any inconvenience. Monday, June 26, is the deadline for the July 6 issue and Wednesday, June 28, is the deadline for the July 13 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Sunday, June 25

### GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada holds a garage sale of men's, women's and children's clothing, books, toys and housewares. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100

### SINGLES WALKING GROUP

Join Walk and Talk Etc. to explore the waterfront trail of the Rouge Beach Park, the most diverse wetland in the GTA. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at 195 Rouge Hill Dr. parking lot, east of Port Union Rd. on Lawrence Ave. E. Registration at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

### LILAH'S FUND EVENT

Attend "Sunday in the Park," a fun fair to raise funds for Lilah's Fund for Neuroblastoma Research at SickKids, a rare form of childhood cancer, at the Toronto French School, 296 Lawrence Ave. E. Registration 9 a.m. Opening ceremonies and fundraising walk 9:45 a.m. Fun fair 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For information and to make a donation, visit www.lilahsfund.com.

### SHOP FOR THE SHUL

Anshe Minsk Congregation hosts a barbecue and silent auction 12-5 p.m. 12 St. Andrew St. 416-595-5723

### ROSH CHODESH GROUP

The Beach Synagogue's Rosh Chodesh Group meets at 7 p.m. for a discussion of life from the perspective of Jewish women. 109 Kenilworth Ave. 416-694-7942

### SINGLES GAME NIGHT

Beth Torah Synagogue offers an evening of board games for singles 21-39 and 40-69 beginning at 7:30 p.m. 416-733-3634

## Monday, June 26

### AUDITION CALL

Medina Theatre Ensemble holds an audition for a performance of *Second Time Around* by **Henry Denker**. They are looking for actors aged 45-70 for various parts. Audition 7-9:30 p.m. at 15 Hove St. RSVP to **Roselle**, 416-633-2057, or **Lois**, 416-781-8076. The play is on at Earl Bales Park Auditorium on Sunday, July 30, at 2 p.m.

## Tuesday, June 27

### KLEZ FACTOR CONCERT

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Tuesday Night Live, a concert series that runs through Aug. 29 at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Tonight Klez Factor. 7:30 p.m. 416-395-7873

### 'THINK HORSES NOT ZEBRAS'

"When You Hear Hoofbeats, Think Horses Not Zebras," an exploration of the relationship between conspiracy theories and missionary propaganda with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. 8 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St. Free. Call Jews for Judaism, 905-761-0040, for information and registration.

## Wednesday, June 28

### MEMORY AND AGING

**Nicole Anderson**, assistant professor of psychiatry and psychology at U of T, presents "Memory and Aging" at the Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital, 2-3:30 p.m. Learn what is normal memory loss and learn specific techniques for remembering day-to-day things. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374 to register.

## Other news

### ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

The Orillia Country Shul resumes Saturday morning services during

**Continued on page 27**

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Thursday, June 22, 2006
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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The Annual Meeting will be immediately followed by the Baycrest BOARDwalk
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Chair's Proud Partners Award
The President's Award for Innovation
The President's Award for Leadership Excellence
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Special Recognition Award

Baycrest's By-law No. 22 will be presented for approval
By-law No. 22 modifies By-law No. 20 to add the Chair of the Baycrest Centre Foundation as an ex officio member of Baycrest's Board of Directors.

RSVP 416 785 2500 x6218

Geriatric Health Care System · Research Centre for Aging and the Brain · Centre for Education on Aging · Baycrest Foundation

What's New

**Continued from page 26**

July and August commencing July 1 at 10:30 a.m. This year's congregational leaders are **Lionel Sharp, Stuart Hytman, Cantor Tom Schwartz, Rabbi Danny Gottlieb, Elliott Melamed, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Rabbi Emanual Goldsmith, Rabbi Lionel Feldman** and **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. 151 Creighton St. S. Follow signs to Casino Rama, pass the bridge on Hwy. 12, go south one mile. 705-327-7069

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

Circle of Care offers a 10-week spouses bereavement support group that will examine issues related to death, dying, myths of bereavement, living without a loved one and recreating the self after death. Beginning Monday, July 3. To register, call **Naomi Cornfield**, 416-635-2860, ext. 471.

**VENDORS NEEDED**

Na'amat Canada seeks vendors for their craft and gift sale, Sunday, July 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden Centre. Call 416-636-5425 daytime, 905-881-8161 evenings.

**LEND THEM YOUR BRAIN**

The Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest Centre needs people aged 18-85 to volunteer a couple of hours to help with research studies on aging, memory and cognition. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2080.

**JVS TORONTO CELEBRATES**

In September 2006, Jewish Vocational Service Toronto celebrates 60 years of helping people succeed in school, work and life. If JVS helped you or a family member in the past, they would like you to share your memories as they begin to build a living library of the past, present and future. This is an opportunity to celebrate a milestone and become part of our living history. E-mail marketing@jvstoronto.org or call 416-787-1151, ext. 287

**FALL LECTURE SERIES**

Temple Emanu-El offers its fall general-interest lecture series on Mondays 2-4 p.m. Nov. 6, "Great Palaces and Museums" with **Catherine Danter**, of the U of T School of Continuing Studies; Nov. 13, "Health Care in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities" with **Dr. Michael Guerriere**, Nov. 20, "From Page to Stage" with **Linda Hutcheon**, professor of English and comparative literature at U of T; Nov. 27, "The Folk Singers" with **Mike Daley**, department of music, York University. Series $30. To register, call 416-449-3880.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Limmud Festival of Jewish Learning, an intense, exciting learning experience for Jews from every denomination, is looking for volunteers to organize the festival, which takes place in November 2006. To volunteer, call 416-787-8819 or e-mail to margles@ican.net For information, visit www.limmud.ca.

**L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP**

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext.28.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. For information/registration, call 416-638-7800 or visit www.jfandcs.com. Call **Diane**, ext. 246, to register.

Parenting Teens with Challenging Behaviour: A five-session group for parents who experience their teen as difficult, and whose child has such problems as not following the rules, poor emotional control, oppositional behaviour, poor communication, not being motivated, school difficulties and alcohol and drug use. Tuesdays beginning July 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Parenting Children with Challenging Behaviour: A five-session group for parents of children who frequently have temper tantrums, talk back, do not follow your rules, and have trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays beginning July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

## FOR SENIORS

**Temple Sinai Senior Club** presents the final "Food for Thought Lecture," Monday, June 26, with **Prof. Michael Krashinsky** on "Government Spending in Canada." Members $7, guests $10. 416-221-6375

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday, dance, June 25; Casino Rama Wednesday, June 28; Casino Niagara, July 26; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 22, movie, June 29, picnic. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**PAL Seniors Group at Earl Bales** will go to the Shaw Festival to see *High Society*, Tuesday, July 11. For tickets, call 416-398-2424.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave.. 416-785-2500.

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**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave.. W., 416-225-2112.

"Boost Your Memory" with trivia games and riddles, every Thursday at 11:15 a.m. Free.

Trip to Blue Mountain, Inglis Falls and Owen Sound, Monday, June 26. $50, non-members $60.

Israeli Etrog Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Toronto Is Real Dance Festival, June 30, July 1-2.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Centre Camp has limited summer spaces remaining. For registration, call **Jen Peters**, ext 378.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+ including "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail." Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

Space is available for September 2006 morning school Tic Tac Two Program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers and senior kindergarten. Programs include music, Hebrew, Discovery Museum and weekly gym program. For information, call ext. 248 or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

**BIALIK TRIBUTE: Bialik Hebrew Day School recently held a gala dinner to celebrate its 45th anniversary and pay tribute to retiring director of education Uri Korin, left. More than 500 parents, past parents, staff, alumni and community leaders gathered to hear tributes to Bialik and Korin. Pictured with him is Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto.**

**PRESIDENT INSTALLED: Canadian Seaway Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism recently installed Trudy Sassoon as president at its annual spring conference. From left are Monica Lightman and Fran Caine, conference co-chairs, Sassoon and Barbara Safer, guest speaker. [Mollie Rothman photo]**

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18***

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

The family of

## CECILE SLIWIN ז"ל

would like to express our sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness, support and for the many donations made during our recent bereavement.

**Albert Sliwin, Laura, Stephen, Ashley and David Steinhauer**
**Fay, Harvey, Adam, Danni and Rikki Blankenstein**

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

## ANN SZEDLECKI ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 25th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Beth Radom Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

## ANNE LICHTIG ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 25th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
986 Wilson Ave
Farband: Aisle 10
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

## SONJA ROSENBERG ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 25th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Grand Order of Israel Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

## ESTHER INGBER ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 25th, 10:30 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Stashover Young Men's Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

## RAJA SHERMAN ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, June 25th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Community Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

Our family wishes to acknowledge the memory of

## SZULIM FRISZ ז"ל

who passed away 20 years ago on June 25th, 1986.

*"Through our memories and thoughts he lives on."*

**the Frisz Family**

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| Lou Grainer | Jun 7/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| William Shapiro | Jun 7/06 | 38 Avenue Road |
| Rose Luftig | Jun 8/06 | 65 Spring Garden Ave. |
| Edith Hertzman | Jun 9/06 | 22 Norfinch Drive |
| Dr. Sam Spivak D.D.S. | Jun 11/06 | 3000 Bathurst Street |

The Family of

## JOSEPH (JOE) KIRSHEN ז"ל

would like to thank all our family & friends for their tremendous outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. By honouring his memory, you have warmed our hearts.

***Forever loved & deeply missed.***

*Our heartfelt thanks.*
**Elaine Kirshen and the families of Albert J. Kirshen & Ira R. Kirshen**

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE

## RUTH LUKOFSKY ז"ל

One of our mother's last wishes was to tell you how much she appreciated all of your thoughts, prayers and support during her difficult battle with Leukemia. Your heartfelt good wishes uplifted her spirits. She wanted us to tell you how much she loved you all. Unfortunately due to the nature of her illness and vulnerability to infection, she was robbed of that opportunity to tell you personally. This ad was her own special way of saying thank you, to all of you.

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*Fern, Elaine and Marla*


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# Montrealer pleads guilty to spreading hate on Web

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — A Montreal man faces up to two years in prison after pleading guilty in Quebec Court to wilfully promoting hatred through a racist Internet site that he created and managed.

Jean-Sebastien Presseault, 29, expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler and right-wing extremist Timothy McVeigh, who was executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, and hostility to blacks and Jews on the site, www.hatecore88wp.cjb.net.

Its 50 pages were filled with hate literature, derogatory humour, violent video games and symbols of racism such as swastikas. Music that incited hatred could also be downloaded from the site.

The "88" in the site's name is code for "hate" which rhymes with eight, and the "wp" stands for white power.

Cjb.net is a free U.S.-based web hosting site.

Presseault's sentencing hearing is scheduled for November.

Crown prosecutor Nadine Naviernick said it was the first time that the Montreal prosecutor's office had pursued a case under article 319 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which deals with hate propaganda.

Police discovered the website in 2003 after seizing material found in the car of a U.S. man who was refused entry into Canada because of his association with fascism. After being under police surveillance for six months, Presseault was arrested in December 2003. He was living on welfare at the time.

A search of his home uncovered various items associated with fascism and the extreme right. The investigation, however, did not link him to any particular organization, Alain Alarie, a Sûreté du Quebec officer who specializes in hate crimes, testified.

Presseault's lawyer, Gilles Fontaine, argued Canadian courts have no jurisdiction because the site was hosted in the United States. He said the type of expression on the site is tolerated there due to more permissive laws on freedom of speech.

(In a policy statement, CJB Management, Inc. says cjb.net may only be used for lawful purposes and that it reserves the right to refuse or discontinue service to "anyone for any reason at our sole discretion," or remove any material it deems unacceptable. It claims no liability for how its services are used.)

Presseault is also facing charges of making death threats against a judge and possessing illegal arms.

B'nai Brith Canada described the case against him as a "landmark" because it demonstrates that the justice system is prepared to vigorously pursue Internet hate.

"The results achieved by the Montreal Crown prosecutor's office send a clear message that use of the Internet to spread messages of hate will not be tolerated by the Quebec justice system," said Allan Adel, national chair of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights.

# Jewish, non-Jewish CUPE members join picket

**Continued from page 3**

Indeed, every few minutes, cars would drive by the picket outside CUPE Ontario's offices at the corner of Milner Avenue and Markham Road, honking their horns in support of rescinding Resolution 50, which in turn elicited cheers from picketers.

Both Jewish and non-Jewish CUPE members picketed last Friday, Nobel said. She estimated that some 150 picketers attended throughout the afternoon's demonstration.

"Nobody from CUPE has come down from the offices to formally acknowledge us," said Nobel.

"I hope the resolution will be rescinded, but I know it won't be. Some sort of reaction from [CUPE Ontario president] Sid Ryan would be nice. He doesn't speak for all 200,000 workers in Ontario like he says he does," Nobel said.

"He hasn't heard the last from us."

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, which has been highly critical of the CUPE resolution, planned a rally against it for Monday afternoon in front of the legislature at Queen's Park.

At the University of Toronto, 23-year-old teaching assistant Daniel Nadler, who is Jewish, told the *National Post* that he plans to sue CUPE Ontario to have the courts rule on whether unions can spend workers' money on issues that he believes are "irrelevant" to the interests of its members.

On its website, Nadler's union, local 3902, which represents short-term instructional staff at U of T, said it "respects the right of chartered organizations with which we are affiliated – such as CUPE Ontario and CUPE National – to take positions on all issues."

Referring to the Israel resolution, it said that "this is a painful and complex issue" and "we respect our members right to choose their own positions in this regard, to debate them at will and to disagree with each other."

It also noted the local has not taken a position on the resolution.

# Document links suspect to Nazi camp: expert

**ST. CATHARINES, Ont.** — A German historian testified last week that the name Josef Furmanchuk appeared in a weapons log from the Flossenburg concentration camp in Germany and that according to the log, he was issued with a rifle and bayonet.

Furmanchuk's name also appeared in guard transfer lists, historian Johannes Tuchel testified at an immigration hearing.

The Crown alleges that Josef Furman, 87, is Josef Furmanchuk, a Nazi guard who misrepresented his wartime service when he immigrated to Canada in 1949.

Furman, who lives in Edmonton, and Jura Skomatchuk, of St. Catharines, are facing possible loss of citizenship if a court finds they hid their wartime service.

Both men have denied the allegations against them.

The Crown alleges Furman took part in the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland in April and May 1943, and the Bialystok Ghetto in Poland in August of 1943. He was later transferred to the German concentration camp of Flossenburg, where prisoners were made to work at hard labour in granite quarries.

Skomatchuk allegedly served as a Trawniki guard when 40,000 Jewish inmates of the labour camps at Poniatowa, Majdanek and Trawniki were executed. He later allegedly guarded Jewish internees at the Poniatowa forced labour camp.

Tuchel told court it was highly probable that Skomatchuk, 85, was a guard at the Trawniki SS training camp and eventually served in Mauthhausen. Skomatchuk's name appeared on guard transfer lists along with an identification number, as well as on another wartime document after he asked that a misplaced pay book be forwarded to him.

# UTT arsonist's mother to be tried

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The mother of the young man who firebombed United Talmud Torahs will go on trial, but not before the fall.

Quebec Court Judge Martin Vauclair ruled last Friday that there was enough evidence to try Rouba El-Merhebi Fahd, 38, on the charge of being an accessory after the fact to her son Sleiman El-Merhebi's arson.

A trial date is scheduled to be set Sept. 5. El-Merhebi Fahd was arrested in May 2004 and has been free on $10,000 bail since her arraignment. She pleaded not guilty in December 2004.


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# Manitoba premier lauds Israel

By REBECA KUROPATWA
*Special to The CJN*

**WINNIPEG** — Premier Gary Doer said he is "dedicated to opposing any group, organizations or countries that is set on the elimination of Israel."

Doer was speaking at Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Canada's June 13 Negev Gala 2006 held at Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall, at which he was the guest of honour.

"I also believe it is important to speak at every opportunity. Silence is not acceptable," he said.

"Unspeakable acts of terrorism against innocent people happen [in Israel], just because they were Jewish, living in Israel."

Doer "was struck by the vulnerability of the geography [in Israel]," he said. "When you just hear the name 'Golan Heights,' you don't know it means lobbing bombs onto people in schools just below."

JNF Israeli emissary Rami Kleinman said Doer "has been very proactive in everything to do with Manitoba and Israel. His support for Israel extends beyond the [Israel-Manitoba] partnership– he also has a deep and sincere belief in Israel's right to exist."

The Israel-Manitoba partnership aims to work with northern communities in Manitoba and Israel by setting up greenhouses and tree cloning – methods that have proven very successful in the deserts of Israel.

The internationally renowned Voices of Israel, made up of Ruthi Navon, Shlomit Aharon, Ilanit, Yardena Arazi, and Margalit Zanani, performed for the 1,600-person audience at the gala. The singers come from Yemenite, French, Polish, Brazilian and Israeli backgrounds.

Proceeds from the event go to the Israel-Manitoba research partnership.

# High school student recognized for her efforts to help others

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Emily Rose says her first trip to Israel four years ago helped launch her on the road to social action.

Over the past four years, the Gray Academy high school student has organized school fundraising events for cancer research, the World Wildlife Federation and needy communities in Africa. This year, her Grade 12 year, she wrote, staged and directed a play at the school and served as a weekly teen columnist for the *Jewish Post & News*. A song she wrote won first prize at her school's annual Israel Song Festival.

Her last year in high school culminated with her being recognized as one of the YM-YWCA's Women of Distinction (she received the Gerrie Hammond Memorial Award of Promise), and at her graduation, her efforts on behalf of the Winnipeg Jewish federation were recognized when she was given the Gerry Koffman Tehila Award, created in memory of the longtime Combined Jewish Appeal executive director who died in 2004. The Koffman award includes a one-year scholarship to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Emily Rose

Rose first went to Jerusalem through Partnership 2000, a program established in 2000 to build relationships between the smaller Jewish communities in Halifax, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver and communities in Israel's northern Galilee region.

A major focus of Partnership 2000 is the Living Bridge Program, which connects students and teachers in the six Canadian communities with their counterparts in the northern Galilee, through phone calls, e-mails and exchange programs. Rose was one of the Gray Academy students who went on the first exchange visit to Israel in 2002.

"I was in Grade 9 at that time," she recalls. "Terrorism was at its peak, and not many students were willing to sign up. But my mother always talked about how important it was to support Israel."

That first visit to Israel opened a lot of doors for her, she says.

"It was a hands-on learning experience. That face-to-face connection with our peers in Israel can't be replicated in any other way. While we learned about Israeli society, we also had to examine our own society in order to explain Canada to the people we met."

Rose says she was a little shy before her Partnership 2000 trip to Israel, and "it helped me come out of my shell."

Her emergence as a leadership force also came from her family, however. "My family was always discussing world issues," she says.

In Grade 9, she decided to run for student council with the goal of heading the Gray Academy's environmental committee. It was a position for which there was not a lot of interest among her fellow students, she says, but "I had some ideas about what I wanted to do. I changed the name to the environmental and social action committee."

That first year, she arranged a six-hour "musicthon" to raise money for War Child International and organized the first of her four annual "30-Hour Famines," with funds raised going toward a project in Africa (Darfur this year).

In Grade 10, she started an annual event at the school to raise awareness of endangered species and collect money for the World Wildlife Fund.

She also helped organize the first "Loonie-Toonie Day" at the Asper Campus that year, to raise money for cancer research. The students raised $1,000 and donated it to Cancer-Care Manitoba in memory of popular English teacher and nationally known children's author Sheldon Oberman, who had died of cancer a few months before.

In Grade 10 as well, she began volunteering for the United Way, Winnipeg's major fundraising organization. Last year, the United Way honoured Rose with a Community Service Award.

Rose called the play she wrote and directed this winter *Radio*. She says it was based on her Partnership 2000 experiences in Israel and those of a follow-up visit two years ago. (She has been a drama student of the Prairie Theatre Exchange school through most of her school years.) The play ran for two evenings at the Asper Campus, and she donated the money raised – about $1,000 – to Magen David Adom.

Rose is working as a camp counsellor at the YMCA's Camp Stephens this summer. In the fall, she is leaving for Israel, where she is enrolled in a year-long leadership program usually reserved for Israeli young people.

"The program is for young Israelis about to join the army," she says. "The object is to get students more involved in politics and leadership. We will be spending three days a week studying Israeli history, politics and philosophy. There will also be hiking and camping outings."

She says she is also looking forward to studying Arabic as part of the program and maybe working with the Bedouin.

As to the future, she says she has a lot of possibilities open to her. "I want to be able to help people," she says. "And I really like journalism."

# *Teen jazz singer in demand with Canadian bands*

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — In just three short years, Sophie Berkal-Sarbit has graduated from playing leads in elementary school productions to singing with big bands in Winnipeg and Toronto.

Sophie Berkal-Sarbit

The 14-year-old has a number of jazz gigs coming up this summer. On June 18, she was to perform at the Winnipeg Jazz Festival as the vocalist for the Manitoba High School Big Band at Old Market Square.

On June 25, she will be performing at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto for the TD Canada Trust Toronto Jazz Festival. On July 14, she's back in Winnipeg to appear at the Canwest Global Jazz Concert with Walle Larson and Rick Boughton. On July 30, she makes a return trip to Toronto for the Beaches Jazz Festival. In August, she has been booked to sing in Winnipeg with both the Walle Larson Big Band and the Ron Paley Big Band.

Berkal-Sarbit is a granddaughter of Rabbi Louis Berkal, who for more than 50 years was the much-loved cantor at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, Winnipeg's largest congregation.

The youngster started singing in Grade 4. Her vocal interests at first were musical theatre numbers.

"My dad [nationally known investment analyst Larry Sarbit] has a large jazz collection," she said. "One day three years ago, he had me listen to some of the music. I really got into it."

While she still enjoys musical theatre, she said, right now she sings strictly jazz.

Berkal-Sarbit made an impressive debut in the world of jazz two years ago when the young singer won in the best Broadway vocalist category in the New York International Music Festival, which was held in Las Vegas. The showcase aims to help new singers and bands break into the music business.

Berkal-Sarbit competed against 200 other performers, almost all of them adults. Her mother, Harriet, said she received a standing ovation at the end of her performance.

To be eligible for the New York Festival, Berkal-Sarbit had to submit a demo CD with jazz and Broadway numbers. With accordionist Shayla Fink of the Klezmer group Finjan accompanying her, Berkal-Sarbit recorded a CD titled *Drop Everything – Have a Listen*.

After Las Vegas, she played the Los Angeles leg of the festival, which opened with a celebrity gala evening with performers, artists and filmmakers. She sang in front of distributors, record producers and talent agency personnel, as well as international media representatives.

Currently, she flies to Toronto once a month to study with vocal coach Elaine Overhalt. She is also looking forward to putting out her first album soon.

"I'm really excited about appearing at the upcoming jazz festivals," Berkal-Sarbit said. "I love singing with big bands."

She also enjoys singing with her zaida at the Sharon Home, Winnipeg's Jewish nursing home.

Coast to Coast

# Ottawa study looks at unaffiliated Jews

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — The 2001 census found that nearly 70 per cent of Ottawa couples in which both spouses were age 30 or younger were intermarried.

This is just one of the shocking statistics that prompted a community-wide review and call to action by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

Why are so many Jews not actively engaged in the Jewish community, and how can the community reach out to them in an effective way?

In its quest for answers, the federation engaged the Jewish Outreach Institute (JOI) of New York, which undertook an extensive "outreach scan" of the local Jewish community. JOI used a variety of methodologies, including anonymous e-mails, anonymous telephone calls, website scans and telephone interviews, as well as contacting all community synagogues and institutions, in order to give community leaders an overview of the community's "outreach capacity" and trends.

On June 5, Rabbi Kerry Olitzky, JOI's executive director, presented the scan's findings and recommendations at a meeting at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Representatives of various community groups heard the results and discussed the recommendations before a capacity crowd.

Rona Shaffran-Tannenbaum, chair of the federation's Jewish identity committee, said the priority is "to reach and engage more people – people who are unaffiliated, disengaged. If the community does not touch the lives of the majority of those who live here, we all lose."

Rabbi Olitzky spoke of the importance of taking every opportunity to make newcomers – the Jewish "unengaged" – feel welcome and wanted. Often, people answering the phone at Jewish institutions are either not well informed, not particularly helpful, or otherwise ineffective in engaging callers.

"The phone line is not a business line but a portal of entry, and all of our staff are gatekeepers to the Jewish community. Our front line is our bottom line," Rabbi Olitzky said.

JOI's "public space Judaism" model advocates holding programs in secular venues, in the public sphere, where people can "stumble upon" them and participate.

One example Rabbi Olitzky suggested was holding a Passover program in the matzah aisle of a local supermarket. Even the most unaffiliated Jews will buy a box of matzah at Passover, he said, so it's an ideal location to find and engage them.

Program costs, membership dues and other financial stumbling blocks were cited as challenges to engaging the unaffiliated. How and where to advertise programs, as well as how to engage members of intermarried families, immigrants and other minority groups within the wider Jewish community were also discussed and noted as areas of concern for further consultation.

"In the coming weeks, the committee will digest what we heard from the JOI and will come back to the community with suggestions for how to implement the recommendations," said Shaffran-Tannenbaum.

United Israel Appeal Federations Canada, the umbrella group for Canada's Jewish federations, is providing support for Ottawa's initiative as a potential national pilot project and will monitor the results, she said.

# Chabad dedicates new Torah

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — If any of the neighbours in the fast-growing area of Barrhaven in suburban Ottawa were looking out their windows on Sunday afternoon, May 28, they may have thought a movie was being made at a construction site on Cedarview Road.

What other possible explanation could there have been for the parade of singing and dancing people following a truck with speakers blasting unfamiliar music, or for the strange-looking canopy hoisted by men carrying four poles, or the children following in a miniature train with clowns along for the ride?

But this was no movie set. Under a tent erected across the street from the Ottawa Torah Center Chabad's storefront premises, on property destined to hold a new synagogue, a scribe was perched on a riser, where those assembled could watch him fill in the last few letters of a new Torah scroll.

The Torah was donated by the parents of Rabbi Menachem Blum who, with his wife Dena, arrived in Barrhaven 10 years ago to spread the Chabad message. They began by holding services in the basement of their home and as attendance increased, they established a shul in a strip mall across from undeveloped land.

Construction has now begun there for a new housing development and land has been purchased for a synagogue building. Several houses surrounding the property have already been purchased by Jewish families anxious to live near the new Chabad shul.

The new Torah was dedicated in memory of Rabbi Blum's late uncle, Yosef Yitzchak Lewin, who had lived in Belgium and Israel before his untimely death two years ago at age 54.

"My family came from all over the world from France, Israel, New York – to celebrate a special occasion as we remember a dear uncle who was very dear to us and it is a very special occasion for my family," said Rabbi Blum in welcoming the large crowd who joined the celebration. "But I address you as my family because when a new Torah comes to a community, it is a simchah for us all and we celebrate as a family."

In addition to members of the Jewish community and representatives of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the Israeli Embassy and other congregations, several local politicians also attended.

Lisa McLeod, newly elected MPP for Nepean-Carleton, spoke first. "I just opened up my constituency office. I couldn't be more proud to be here with Rabbi Blum today because he helped me open my constituency office and he allowed me to help you to celebrate the opening of your new spiritual home," she said.

McLeod promised to fight for "fairness in education."

"I am going to be pushing this idea forward in the legislature and I know that when this government changes and we have a Conservative government, this will come into being. I want to work with this community" she said.

Nepean-Carleton MP Pierre Poilievre spoke of his travels to, and support for, Israel. "There was no more proud moment for me, as a member of Parliament, than when Prime Minister [Stephen] Harper said in the House of Commons that we would no longer send a single cent to the Hamas government [in the Palestinian Authority]," he said.

The procession continued across the street to the existing synagogue, where the Ark was opened and the two older Torah scrolls were taken out to "greet" the new arrival.

# *Vote on jailhouse plan won't solve anything*

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

How ironic. At the same time that CUPE Ontario insists (wrongly) that Israel is in violation of international law by failing to withdraw "immediately" from the West Bank (see "CUPE's Sid Ryan obsessed with Israel," *CJN*, June 15), the international community is pressuring Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to halt his plan to unilaterally withdraw from most of the West Bank. Instead, Olmert is being asked to again try to negotiate with the Palestinians.

The *Economist* ("Quarrels as usual," June 10) gave some background on the situation. At issue is acceptance by the Palestinian public of the "prisoners' document," a proposal put together by mainly Fatah and Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails that according to some analysts implicitly recognizes the fact, but not the right, of Israel's existence. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas wants to hold a referendum on the document, emboldened by findings that approximately three-quarters of Palestinians favour a two-state solution.

The prisoners' document calls for an Israeli withdrawal from "all territories occupied in 1967," endorses the "right of return" of Palestinians to present-day Israel, and calls for "resistance" to an Israeli presence "in the West Bank and Jerusalem." All are impossible conditions for Israel to accept (as they imply continued terrorism and the elimination of Israel as the Jewish state – hence no real recognition of Israel, even implicitly). Still, some Israeli analysts see the document as an opportunity for Abbas to push Hamas into further international isolation by merely raising the possibility of some form of talks with Israel.

True to form, Hamas staunchly rejects the call for a referendum. Ideologically, Hamas cannot even implicitly recognize Israel, since it's committed to Israel's destruction. Moreover, Hamas is engaged in a power struggle with Abbas and Fatah, resulting in several armed conflicts, including scores of deaths and injuries over the past few weeks.

Israel is caught in the middle. According to the *Economist*, if a referendum on the prisoners' document is held, "pressure will grow on Israel from abroad at least to postpone [its] withdrawal plan."

Indeed, this pressure has already begun. On recent visits abroad, Olmert promised U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair that he will first try to negotiate with Abbas.

Abbas wants to move immediately to final status talks, including an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 Green Line. But according to *Ha'aretz*'s Akiva Eldar (June 7), Olmert is now considering a negotiated withdrawal from about 90 per cent of the West Bank and the creation of a "provisional" Palestinian state as envisioned in phase II of the internationally backed "Road Map" peace plan.

The major stumbling block, however, is that Abbas can't deliver on any proposed agreement while Hamas controls the Palestinian government. For this reason, Abbas seems determined to push ahead with the referendum on the prisoners' document.

Yet, according to former U.S. State Department Middle East negotiator Aaron David Miller, the referendum may be a step backward. In "Abbas' comeback plan is a dead end" (*Los Angeles Times*, June 14), Miller writes: "The problem… is that the prisoners' document that Abbas sees as the vehicle of his deliverance will only muddy the clarity of his own stand against terrorism and for negotiations – the very positions that make him credible with Israel and the U.S. The prisoners' document endorses armed resistance in the West Bank and Gaza, urges Palestinians to free prisoners by any means and gives preeminence to the Palestinian right of return."

* * *

Speaking of CUPE Ontario, in Jay Teitel's June 19 *Maclean's* interview with CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan, Ryan told him that he was in Israel when former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak put an "amazing offer on the table." Ryan added that he does not understand how the late Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat could have rejected the offer.

How can Ryan square this admission – that Israel, in effect, offered the Palestinians statehood – with CUPE Ontario's insistence that Israel must be punished through a boycott for refusing "to recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination"?

He can't, of course.

*Paul Michaels is communications director of the Canada-Israel Committee.*

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# Olmert convenes panel of former Israeli PMs

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was expected to convene the first meeting of the "ex-prime ministers" club Monday to discuss the Iranian nuclear issue and how best to deal with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Olmert and opposition head Benjamin Netanyahu last month agreed to the establishment of the informal forum to discuss sensitive security issues such as Iran.

Three of the five living former prime ministers – Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Shimon Peres – were expected to take part along with Olmert, while 90-year-old Yitzhak Shamir will not and Ariel Sharon remains in a comatose state.

Netanyahu said last month that since each of the prime ministers had dealt with the Iranian issue from different angles, integrating their knowledge and experience could help Olmert deal with the threat.

One source in the Prime Minister's Office said that there was no particular reason for the meeting to be held Monday and that it was not tied to any immediate new developments on the Iranian nuclear issue.

The source said that beyond Olmert's desire to tap into the experience of the former prime ministers, there was also a political component to the issue: these meetings would be a way for Olmert to build a national consensus on how to deal with Iran and to neutralize any possible future criticism of the government's Iran policy by Netanyahu, who is currently leader of the opposition Likud party.

Peres, meanwhile, met over the weekend with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as with leaders from both Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, at a security conference in Kazakhstan.

One of the aspects of the talks was Iran, and Peres, according to sources in his office, was expected to brief Olmert, Barak and Netanyahu on the Azerbaijani and Tajik take on Ahmadinejad.

Peres has taken a relatively hard line on Iran. He said in Kazakhstan that nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran would lead to the nuclearization of the region and nuclear spillage to terrorist organizations. As a result, he warned, every international conflict will have the potential of turning nuclear.

Peres was expected to repeat at this meeting his position that Israel does not need to lead the battle to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, but should clearly makes its voice heard regarding Iran's genocidal threat to wipe Israel off the map. He is also expected to say that Israel needs to ensure that Iran does not succeed in framing this issue as an Israeli-Iranian one.

Netanyahu was expected to report to the prime minister on his meetings over the weekend at the American Enterprise Institute conference in Boulder, Colo. Netanyahu spoke at great length on the Iranian issue with U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney.

Representatives from Arab countries at the conference compared Iran's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons with that of communist countries and suggested that obtaining such weapons does not guarantee that they would be used. Netanyahu disagreed, saying that radical Islam should not be permitted to acquire nuclear know-how because the Iranians would use the weapons.

Barak's spokesperson said he would not reveal in advance what he would say in the closed forum. But in a recent interview, he said that although a nuclear Iran with its current government threatens the world, there may eventually be a political upheaval in Iran.

"I strongly believe that in five years from now, the ayatollahs will not rule over Iran – probably earlier – and I still remember that Iran had never participated in a direct war against Israel and that the Iranian people and regime were our best friends in the Middle East just a generation ago," Barak said. "I suggest we consider very carefully, with far-sighted perspective, any concrete opposition to be taken or shaped vis-a-vis Iran."

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***Red Cross deal teeters***

Israel's acceptance into the International Red Cross movement may be in jeopardy. The Swiss foreign minister and an official with the International Committee of the Red Cross both cited problems in brokering the deal, which was set to be voted on this week. If passed, the decision would end nearly six decades of Israeli exclusion from the movement. Olivier Durr of the International Committee of the Red Cross said the deal, which is also slated to admit the Palestinian emergency services operation, has been "complicated by a deteriorating situation in the Middle East," Reuters reported. Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey reported problems in Israel with registering Palestinian ambulances, and allowing them to pass checkpoints.

***Annan questions IDF story***

Kofi Annan questioned reports that a Palestinian mine was behind the killing of at least seven picnickers on a Gaza beach earlier this month. "To find a mine on the beach is rather odd," the UN secretary-general said. An Israeli military investigation into the incident suggested a Palestinian mine was responsible and rejected claims an Israeli shell fired in exchanges with terrorists that day caused the deaths. An on-site investigation by Human Rights Watch concluded that an Israeli shell fired that day caused the deaths. Palestinian officials have called for a UN investigation. Israeli officials said they would co-operate with such a probe.

***French more pro-Israel: poll***

Israeli press reported that French attitudes toward Israel have improved greatly during the past four years, according to a new poll. Some 38 per cent of French citizens said they sympathize with Israel and an equal number chose the Palestinians, according to the poll, conducted by the Pew survey organization. Four years ago, 36 per cent sympathized with the Palestinians and 19 per cent with Israel.

***Rabin's killer to be a father?***

Israel's Supreme Court ruled that Yitzhak Rabin's assassin and his wife could try to have a child through artificial insemination. The court rejected an appeal seeking to block efforts by Yigal Amir and Larissa Trimbobler to conceive, saying the right to become a parent is a basic human right. Other convicted murderers had been allowed to become parents, the court noted. The Israel Prison Service said it would allow the couple to try to have a child through artificial insemination.

***Train accident kills 5***

Five people were killed and at least 40 injured when a commuter train hit a truck in central Israel last week. Most of the injuries were not life-threatening, Army Radio reported. Several people were trapped in the wreckage. The train derailed near the coastal city of Netanya when it hit a truck that had apparently stalled crossing the tracks. The train's locomotive and several cars were overturned in the collision.

***Co-ordinated pullout?***

Israel is reportedly drafting a plan for a West Bank withdrawal that officials hope might be carried out in co-ordination with Mahmoud Abbas. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has been promoting a unilateral withdrawal, but it has been criticized abroad and by Palestinians. The new plan would propose a deal with Abbas, the Palestinian Authority president, to establish a Palestinian state with provisional borders in Gaza and some 90 per cent of the West Bank. The provisional West Bank border would follow the route of the security fence, except in the Jordan Valley. In the past, Abbas has rejected the idea of a state with provisional borders, but *Ha'aretz* reported that Israeli officials expect the United States will encourage him to accept the proposal.

***Praying at the wall***

Israel's Supreme Court ordered the state and Israel's Conservative movement to find a compromise over egalitarian prayers at the Western Wall. The compromise should be made in the next month, the court said. The area in question, called Robinson's Arch, is at the southern end of the Western Wall, where non-Orthodox groups have been praying in recent years. The government has begun charging worshippers about $6 (US) each to pray there after 8 a.m., claiming their presence interferes with tourists visiting the site. The Masorti movement, the Conservative stream's name in Israel, petitioned the court, claiming discrimination

*with files from JTA*

# Revitalizing the Zionist movement

**Continued from page 1**

Breakstone is also the official representative of Conservative Judaism's Zionist arm on the WZO executive.

In the past, organizations aligned with the traditional Zionist political parties such as Labor and Likud were the main forces at the Congress. In recent years, Diaspora Jews have aligned themselves instead with the various religious streams.

The main theme of this year's conference was revitalizing the Zionist movement.

If in the past the focus was "strengthening and fortifying a Jewish state, than the emphasis now is on creating of Israel an exemplary society. The feeling is not that we are creating a new definition of Zionism, but going back to the original," Breakstone said.

A master showman, Herzl conceived the initial Zionist congress as a grand, almost regal affair. He even sent his friend Max Nordau back to his hotel to put on a tie when Nordau arrived without one.

Delegates at the initial congress voted for the Basel Program, which called for the establishment of a "home for the Jewish people in Palestine, secured by public law." They also established the institutions that made up the organization, including the Zionist Executive and the Zionist General Council, which meet between the quadrennial congresses.

The initial congress established institutions to carry out its policies that still exist today, including Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund, which focuses on land issues.

When Britain took control of Palestine in 1917, an organization was needed to represent the Jewish people. The Zionist Organization, as Herzl had dubbed it, first assumed that responsibility, but in 1929 a larger body, the Jewish Agency, was established to handle the task.

The Jewish Agency was built as a partnership between the Zionist Organization and other Jewish groups. In the years before the founding of the state, the agency was a quasi-government that helped build the country's infrastructure, create settlements and facilitate immigration.

When the State of Israel was founded, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion considered doing away with the apparatus of the Zionist movement.

"At first, Ben-Gurion said the Zionist movement was scaffolding that could now be taken apart. Whoever was a Zionist should just move to Israel, he said," recounted Amos Yovel, chief editor of the WZO's publishing house, which publishes books on Zionism.

But Ben-Gurion soon realized he would need Diaspora Jewry's support to make Israel a viable state. Furthermore, with the state consumed with issues of security and economy, it was thought that organizations like the WZO and Jewish Agency could focus on immigration, settlement and Jewish education in the Diaspora.

The role of the WZO shifted with the country's development. In the 1950s and 1960s, the focus was on agricultural settlement. In the late 1970s, it was on development towns.

By this time, a division of responsibility had been made between the WZO and the Jewish Agency, with the WZO focusing more on Diaspora issues and the Jewish Agency on immigrant absorption and educational programming for Israeli youth.

By the mid-1990s, Davis said, a growing rift was noted between Diaspora and Israeli Jews. Partnership programs were launched to bring a new generation of Jews to Israel, where they could see programs on the ground that they help support.


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# Argentine team has Jewish coach and team captain

By JOE GOLDMAN
*JTA*

**BUENOS AIRES** — A Jewish player is trying to help kick Argentina's national team to soccer's World Cup, with help from the team's Jewish coach.

Both the coach, Jose Pekerman, 56, and the player, Juan Pablo Sorin, 30, have their roots in the Buenos Aires-based club Argentinos Juniors, best known as the team where superstar Diego Maradona first honed his talent.

"In the past, Argentina has had a sprinkling of Jewish players in its local league," Adrian Stoppleman, an Argentine Jewish sportswriter, said. "But to have two such key people like the coach and team captain being Jewish is truly an achievement to be proud of."

Pekerman, 56, was born in Villa Dominguez – otherwise known as Moisesville, the area where the "Jewish gauchos," or cowboys, lived – in Entre Rios province, but he has lived much of his life in the Jewish neighbourhood of Villa Crespo in Buenos Aires.

He was a solid midfielder who played from 1970 to 1974 for Argentinos Juniors, in the first division of Argentine soccer. He then had a short stint playing for Colombia's Independiente Medellin, before becoming a coach.

At first, he worked as a youth division coach, in jobs that barely paid the rent. In fact, for a number of years, Pekerman drove a taxi at night. So it was a real surprise when he was named coach of the national youth teams in 1994. Under his guidance, the Argentine under-23 teams won three world championships. In 2004, he was promoted to coach the national team.

Sorin, 30, is a defender-midfielder whose dynamic blend of spirit and intelligence made him an obvious choice for team captain. The other players say he is a natural leader off the field. During the game, he is, in many ways, the player who sets the rhythm and tone for the Argentines.

Sorin has also played for teams around the world, and this year, led his small Spanish league team, Villareal, into the European UEFA Cup semifinals.

In Argentina, Sorin had his own radio show, and last year, he edited a children's book whose proceeds went to a foundation for children with health and nutritional problems.

Argentina has already qualified for the second round of the World Cup, which will crown its winner on July 9.

# *Ghana striker shows there is more to life in Israel*

By JEREMY LAST
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — This year's World Cup has provided its fair share of surprises – the ease with which Ecuador has managed to qualify for the second round, Australia's amazing comeback against Japan, and of course, Ghana's 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic.

When Ghana striker Asamoah Gyan fired the African side into the lead after just 70 seconds on Saturday, it was enough of a surprise.

But one thing few people expected was to see an Israeli flag waved straight at the television camera by one of the Ghana players celebrating the goal.

Hapoel Tel Aviv's John Pantsil didn't stop there. At the end of the game, he proudly paraded around the pitch holding the blue and white flag in the air.

Pantsil is one of three Israel-based players on the Ghana squad, but the only one to have played a significant part in the Black Stars' success. (Ashdod keeper Sammy Adjei has yet to make an appearance and Hapoel Kfar Saba's Emmanuel Pappoe only played in the first half of the loss to Italy.)

Pantsil's celebration was clearly planned in advance – he appeared to have kept the flag hidden in his sock and was hoping for an opportunity to show the world how much he cares about and loves the country he lives and works in.

Explaining his actions later, the defender told one Israeli sports website: "I love the fans in Israel. I have played at Hapoel and Maccabi Tel Aviv and the fans always made me happy. So I wanted to make them happy."

That was it. Pure and simple.

Too often Israeli soccer is directly connected with politics. When the national team or an Israeli club plays abroad, there can be protests against the situation in the territories, as occurred in the game against Ireland last year.

But at last we have an ambassador for Israel who doesn't care about politics.

The flag-waving spoke volumes about Israeli football and this country.

Israel is seen by many people as a dangerous and controversial country, the last place you would decide to move to for work.

But sports is different.

The Israeli Premier League is packed with foreign players, many of whom have lived in the country for years.

Some don't settle in. For example, Betar Jerusalem's Spanish striker David Aganzo left after only a few months.

But more often than not, they fall in love with the country, and especially with the passionate Israeli fans.

And, like Pantsil, when many foreign players leave the club they originally came to play for, they move to another within Israel and stay here for a significant amount of time.

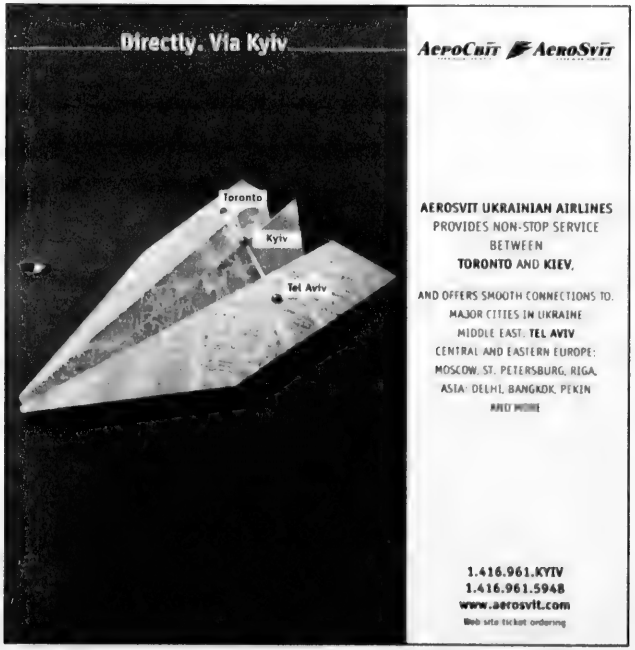
Croatian Giovani Rosso has been in Israel for the last 10 years. He first came to play for Hapoel Be'er Sheva in 1996 and has since played for four other teams, including Hapoel Haifa, Betar Jerusalem, Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

It's the same in basketball.

Maccabi Tel Aviv captain Derrick Sharp has been in Israel so long he even manages to slip in a few words of Hebrew during interviews with Israeli TV.

And former Maccabi star Sarunas Jasikevicius may have moved on to the NBA's Indiana Pacers, but he is one of the many foreign sports players to have found love with an Israeli girl (in this case, former Miss World, Linor Abergil), and he was back in Israel a few weeks ago to cheer on his former club in its championship game.

There's no doubt that Israel is a state fraught with controversy and problems. But last weekend, one Ghanaian showed the world there is more to life here.



# Boycott decisions a disgrace

By CHARLES SMALL and EMANUELE OTTOLENGHI

Comment

Britain's largest union of university teachers, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE), on May 29, decided to instruct its members to boycott Israeli academics who do not denounce the Israeli "government's policies in the territories." The decision was made only four days before NATFHE merged with the Association of University Teachers (AUT), the other British academics' union, into a new union that proceeded immediately to disavow the boycott and declare it "expired" on the day the two merged.

The same week, the Ontario branch of Canada's largest union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, followed a similar path, advocating a boycott of Israel until it reverses some of its policies, including its refusal to concede a right of return to Palestinian refugees.

Despite the limited reach of the Canadian decision and the short shelf life of the British one, both decisions were a disgrace.

The NATFHE resolution violated basic principles of academic freedom – a sharing of universal knowledge, irrespective of nationality, political creed or affiliation. It also breached the definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia .

The CUPE resolution amounts to a demand that Israel commit national suicide.

But the academic boycott, if enacted, would have been more insidious than CUPE's support for the right of return. CUPE is unlikely to affect foreign policy, but NATFHE's resolution could have had more enduring effects, because it undermines the free spirit of inquiry so central to academia. One can only hope that academic boycotters will now rest their case, but their persistence – the first effort was launched by British Jewish scholar, Steven Rose, in 2002 – suggests otherwise, especially given that the reversal of the NATFHE decision is based on a technicality, not on a substantive rejection of the principle of boycott.

NATFHE's totalitarian edict is tantamount to an oath of allegiance that scholars, just on account of their nationality and regardless of their expertise, research area and personal political inclinations, must undertake if they want to be welcome again in the academic family. It does not take much of an imagination to reminisce of a time when only a few select Jews were permitted entrance to societal institutions after they distanced themselves from their communal beliefs and values. The boycotters bring from Europe's past an echo of that legacy of brutality.

Especially for non-tenured and junior scholars, this policy, if adopted, could have potentially devastating consequences. Non-compliance would lead to papers not published, grants withdrawn, post-doctoral positions denied and ultimately careers ruined.

Incredibly, the boycotters are seemingly political hacks who demonstrate little understanding of the political and ideological reality on the ground in the region. Their approach was adopted at a time when Israel's new centre-left government reaffirmed with new vigour its predecessors' commitment to implementing the Road Map peace plan, evacuating settlements and promoting negotiations with the Palestinians. Successive Israeli governments have endorsed the ideal of a two-state solution and worked toward it. Sadly, this finds no equivalent on the Palestinian side. Currently, Palestine is under a Hamas-led government, an organization that perfected suicide terrorism as a tool of engagement, and continues to vigorously make the destruction of Israel one of its policy objectives. Yet, driven by an irrational hatred for Israel and blinded by ideology, the boycotters appear impervious to facts.

But even if Israel's record was worse and the Palestinians intentions were better, a boycott would still be wrong for three reasons:

- The standard adopted against Israel – a democracy – is much harsher than that used against any country in the Arab world, which are hardly beacons of democracy, minority rights and religious freedom;
- Isolating Israeli academics is bound to deprive the academic community of invaluable research from a group of scholars who have greatly enhanced knowledge in all fields over the years; and
- Promoting a one-sided political agenda against those who refuse to conform to ideological orthodoxy is contrary to the values of freedom for which academia, and indeed western democracies, stand, regardless of the policies pursued by the country where those academics happen to teach.

Ideas should have no passport, and scholarly endeavours should be considered as extra-territorial. To make the advancement of scholarship conditional on oaths of allegiance to political correctness is not bound to advance the cause of freedom. If anything, it does the opposite, as it transpires from the boycotters' true intentions. They claim to promote an agenda of freedom from discrimination. In fact, they provide succor to a Hamas government that not only calls for the destruction of Israel but also promotes, as evident in its charter, genocidal, anti-Semitic hatred rooted in the *Protocols of Zion* forgery.

When boycotters condemn Israel for the so-called apartheid wall, powerful and distorting images resonate. But the wall – or fence – has saved lives from the scourge of Palestinian terrorism, something that NATFHE has not even bothered to condemn because it does not, evidently, consider the murder of Jews as a crime worthy of being prevented by Israel and condemned by the world.

To compound hypocrisy with naiveté, NATFHE accused Israel of stymieing Palestinian academic freedom through its security measures – as if trying to save citizens' lives from terrorism was meant to silence academics. The truth is that even if Israel withdrew from the territories and the defence barrier were to disappear – indeed, even if Israel were to disappear – Israel's fate would pale in comparison to what is in store for Palestinians who do not agree with their authoritarian regime.

Even before Hamas came to power, there was little freedom and little safety for minorities and dissenting voices. What will happen now to religious minorities, women and gay people in the Palestinian society? When democratic values are replaced with theocratic governance, what will happen to Palestinian universities, civic society and intellectual life that NATFHE claimed its anti-Israel resolution would defend? Anyone observing Palestinian society today, with its brewing civil war and its rapid descent into anarchy, knows that boycotts will not save Palestinians from themselves. But don't despair. When that happens, there will surely be academic voices in Britain ready to blame Israel.

*Charles Small teaches at Yale University and Emanuele Ottolenghi teaches at St. Antony's College, Oxford University.*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# Dance teacher celebrates 36 years of Rikudiyah

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Teme Kernerman found her lifelong passion for dance as a young teenager at Camp Kvutza.

A dance teacher at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre for almost 40 years, Kernerman says she started out at camp as an arts and crafts instructor, "but when I became more and more involved in the dance program, they asked me to take over.

"That was the beginning of my journey. I never looked back," says Kernerman, who also met her husband Barry at camp that summer.

Teme Kernerman

Kernerman conceived of and initiated Rikudiyah, Toronto's annual Israel dance festival for children, which this year celebrated its 36th – double chai – anniversary.

She began Rikudiyah because she wanted to share something that means so much to her, she says. "When we started 36 years ago, 40 children danced in a BJCC classroom."

This year, the festival, which has been held in the Tait McKenzie Building at York University since 1979, involved more than 400 dancers ranging in age from eight to 80.

"It's strictly non-competitive, and instructors dance with their groups so there is no pressure. I want kids to come out and have a good time."

Her aim is to acquaint children with Israeli dance and have them recognize it as part of their heritage.

"It has become a cultural landmark in the community," she says.

In a "Generation to Generation" dance this year, Grade 2 students danced with their parents. "One of those pairs was my daughter Varda [she also has a son, Doron] and granddaughter Arielle."

Kernerman, who studied in New York under such dancers as Jose Limon, Hanya Holm and Doris Humphrey, became the Bloor Jewish Community Centre's first full-time dance director in 1957.

She worked there for several years before moving to Israel, and then in 1968, she came to what is now the BJCC, where she began developing its folk dance program.

Among Kernerman's many accomplishments is founding the Chai Dancers, a 27-year-old dance troupe for people 55 years and over. Also to her credit is founding the Nirkoda Israeli Dancers, a troupe that started up in 1955 at the Bloor JCC, which danced together for about 25 years before disbanding.

"In 2000, though, I asked the dancers to perform at Rikudiyah as alumni." They've been together ever since – with Kernerman as a consultant – under Ronit Eizenman, a former Nirkoda dancer. Next month, the group is performing at the Karmiel Dance Festival in Israel.

Along with co-ordinating Israeli and international folk- dance activities for youth, adults and seniors at the BJCC, she was supervisor of senior adult services for 15 years.

"I believe dance is therapeutic," says Kernerman, who founded the Ontario Folk Dance Association about 48 years ago, co-founded the annual weekend-long Ontario Folk Dance Camp, and founded the Folk Dance Teachers' Association.

"The music, the movement, the socialization – it is the best non-medicinal high that anyone can get. It is the universal language of the feet, and it's intergenerational," says Kernerman.

If students come to class feeling down or depressed, she says, they leave feeling exhilarated. "With the music playing and the people dancing, how can you feel down?"

If a person wants to learn to dance, they can, she says. "It takes time and continuity, though. You cannot learn to dance in one session. Like any skill, you just have to keep going. I can get rid of a person's two left feet, and leave them with one right and one left."

Dancing is also a confidence builder, she says. "The more you dance, the more you want to get out and do it, and the better you become."

Folk dancing is the dance of the people, she says, and in Israel it is still "wildly popular. There are thousands of Israeli folk dances, and they're still being created. People go out and dance every night."

Kernerman feels lucky that her career has been a labour of love.

"It has given me the opportunity to pioneer all kinds of dance activities, to choreograph, and to attend dance workshops. What could be better? I intend to go on as long as I can."

**INTERGENERATIONAL TREAT: Nursery school children and members of the Good Age Club at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre got together recently for an intergenerational activity of planting seeds and transplanting flowers into pots. In back, from left, are seniors Pearl Fielder, Alisa Poskanzer and Ursula Grey. At left is Claire Radner, and at right is Eli Harris.**

# Lilah's Fund event targets childhood cancer

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Lilah Petersiel is a little girl of two years, whose parents, Tami Moscoe and Eric Petersiel, describe her on a website as "charismatic and bubbly."

That's a description they weren't sure they would be able to use, when Lilah was diagnosed at birth with neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer that affects the sympathetic nervous system.

Since they can, however, and to help other children with this disease, they are planning the second annual "Sunday in the Park with Lilah," a picnic and all-day fun event, on June 25.

The event will be held at the Toronto French School, 296 Lawrence Ave. E., at Bayview and Lawrence. Registration is at 9 a.m.

Opening ceremonies and a short fundraising walk will start at 9:45, followed by family fun-fair activities, musical entertainment at 11:30, a barbecue lunch, a promotional draw and a silent auction.

Some of the activities are an athletes station, bouncy castles, rock climbing, face painting, carnival games, mural painting, arts and crafts and a science booth.

Lilah was born April 14, 2004. An abdominal scan immediately after birth found a golf-ball-sized tumour on one of her adrenal glands. After surgery, she seemed to be fine, until a later routine CAT scan showed tumour clumps on her liver.

More surgery and four bouts of chemotherapy followed, treatment that included frequent visits to SickKids.

Lilah Petersiel
[CJN File photo]

During her treatment, her family created Lilah's Fund, which works with the James Fund for Neuroblastoma Research. That fund is named after James Birrell, an eight-year-old Peterborough boy who died in 2001 after fighting the disease for five years.

Lilah, now two, and thriving in day care, will be there to join in the fun.

For more information, telephone 416-651-1229, e-mail info@lilahsfund.com or visit www.lilahsfund.com.

# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

### CYNTHIA OZICK TO READ AT INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS FEST

Famed essayist-novelist **Cynthia Ozick** has been confirmed as a guest reader at the 27th annual International Festival of Authors, scheduled for mid-to-late October at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

Ozick is the author of more than a dozen works of fiction and nonfiction, including the award-winning essay collection *Quarrel & Quandary*, and *Fame & Folly*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She will likely read from the newly released *The Din in the Head: Essays*, which focuses on the joys of great literature and investigates writers ranging from **Tolstoy** to **Sontag**.

American writer **Deborah Eisenberg** has also been confirmed as a festival author and will read from her latest story collection, *Twilight of the Superheroes*. The American writer **Jonathan Safran Foer**, who last year read segments from his second novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, at the festival, is scheduled to participate as an interviewer.

Canadian **Bernice Eisenstein**, the illustrator, editor and writer responsible for the recent acclaimed illustrated book *I Was A Child of Holocaust Survivors*, is also on the list of confirmed authors – along with **Margaret Atwood**, **Michael Collins**, **Mark Z. Danielewski**, **Kiran Desai**, **Charlotte Gray**, **Val Ross**, **Rosemary Sullivan** and about 40 others.

For more information on the International Festival of Authors, please visit www.readings.org or phone 416-973-4000.

• • •

**Yakov Yavno in Concert:** Show One Productions presents "Revelation," a concert with acclaimed Jewish singer and actor **Yakov Yavno**, in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

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Born into a musical family in Minsk, Belarus, Yavno moved to the United States in 1990. He performs at Leah Posluns Theatre, Wednesday, June 28, 8 p.m. Tickets $35, $40, $45. 416-737-6785, www.showone productions.com

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**Names in the News**

• The 53-minute documentary *Soferet: A Special Scribe*, produced, directed and written by **Donna and Daniel Zuckerbrot** of Toronto, was honoured by the Yorkton (Sask.) Film Festival as Best Documentary Biography. *Soferet* focuses on a Vancouver artist and calligrapher believed to be the first woman to write a Torah scroll.

• • •

**Musical Happenings**

• Toronto-born bassist, arranger and composer **Shelly Berger** has released a new CD, *Look Up*, his first in more than a decade. It features original material and performances by **Mike Murley** and **Hugh Marsh**. Berger launches the CD with a concert at Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W. on Wednesday, June 21, with sets at 8 and 9:30 p.m.

• **Amanda Martinez**'s debut album *Sola* presents a mix of original and traditional songs in Spanish, English and Portuguese, and stylized mixes of bossa-infused Afro-Cuban rhythms, Mexican folk and jazz. Martinez and a six-piece band perform a CD-launch concert at the Drake Hotel, Thursday, June 22, 9 p.m. Doors open 7:30 p.m.; admission $10.

• The **Sisters of Sheynville**, the all-female Yiddish-swing-roots sextet, perform during the Toronto Jazz Festival at the Trane Studio, 964 Bathurst St. (2 blocks north of Bloor). $10 at the door. Monday, June 26, 8 p.m. Reservations, 416-913-8197.

• **KlezFactor** brings its unique brand of "klezmer-fusion" to the Zukerman Amphitheatre at Earl Bales Park in North York for a free concert, Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. Expect to hear songs from the band's new CD, *The Golem of Bathurst Manor*, which *Wholenote* magazine has called "creative and daring." 416-558-9457.

• Avant-garde jazz innovator, composer and saxophonist **John Zorn** performs with the **Masada Quartet** at the Music Hall, Wednesday, June 28, 7 and 10 p.m. Seeking a new radical Jewish sound, Zorn merged traditional Jewish scales with the sound of **Ornette Coleman** to create the Acoustic Masada show. www.torontojazz.com

• • •

**Layton Tribute:** A tribute to the late poet **Irving Layton**, hosted by his son, **Max Layton**, takes place at the Brigantine Room at Harbourfront Centre, Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.

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From left are Toronto artist Ian Leventhal, his wife Renee and his daughters Natalie and Jordana, with Monica Berger, the national executive director of the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada, in front of Leventhal's mural *Jerusalem Welcomes*, in central Jerusalem.

# Canadian artist paints a mural in central Jerusalem

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Renowned Canadian artist Ian Leventhal recently completed a large mural titled *Jerusalem Welcomes* – a cityscape that is the first renewal project to revitalize central Jerusalem.

The Ben Yehuda pedestrian walk, between Zion and Zahal squares, is to be renewed by the Jerusalem Foundation and the city's municipal government. Young English-speaking visitors and students congregate there.

Leventhal, accompanied by his wife Renee and his daughters Natalie and Jordana, worked on the mural with six young clients of the Crossroads Drop-in Centre, which is located just off Ben Yehuda. The centre offers counselling services to youths at risk and helps teens to turn themselves around.

The colourful 20-by-10-foot mural depicts Jerusalem as a place of welcome, showing animated figures dancing in the Old City. The mural project was underwritten by a Toronto family that was inspired by the idea of reviving central Jerusalem and undertaken by the Canadian Friends of the Jerusalem Foundation.

"I packed my brushes and embarked on this creative experience," said Leventhal.

The mural, which Leventhal painted on site, is dedicated to Charles Coffey, vice-president of the Royal Bank and an honorary member of the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada.

During the dedication of the mural, David Azrieli, president of the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada, noted that Coffey is a strong supporter of the Jewish community.

The inscription on the plaque accompanying the *Jerusalem Welcomes* mural, written by Coffey, reads, "My Irish-Catholic father's friendship with Sam Meltz in Woodstock, New Brunswick, in 1925, that in itself is significant. That I became supportive and understanding of Jewish causes is the gift those two men gave me."

The plan for the revival of Jerusalem's city centre also calls for a light-rail system running from Pisgat Ze'ev past the Old City and down Jaffa Road to Mount Herzl.

"All eyes are on the revival and all the economic vitality and prosperity which will emanate from this project is of prime importance to Jerusalem," Leventhal said.

"I am delighted to have created the mural as a spin-off project of the revitalization."

Leventhal, who has been involved with the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada since 1990 and was recently appointed part-time executive director of the Toronto advisory committee, noted that the Jerusalem Foundation was dormant in Canada for a decade.

He said the foundation has been revitalized with the establishment of a new Canadian desk in Israel, headed by Steve Solomon, formerly of Montreal. Solomon now lives in Jerusalem. Monica Berger of Montreal is the Canadian executive director.

With offices in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, the foundation plans to expand to other locations in Canada.

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Arts & Travel

# *Klezmer player breaks down musical barriers*

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

David Buchbinder

David Buchbinder is probably the busiest musician in Toronto. At any one time he's got at least four projects on the go, and planning for a few more. However, when I visited him at home recently, he was surprisingly relaxed.

Wearing a ratty orange tank top and white shorts, he was sitting in his basement office next to his new assistant. He escorted me to his backyard to show off his new hobby. "I've been doing some gardening," he said, pointing at the colourful flowers blooming by his garage.

Before I visited Buchbinder, I expected the trumpet player to be practising for his two shows at the Toronto Jazz Festival. Instead, he was showing his assistant the ropes and finalizing another gig.

So how does someone so busy find time to train a new assistant and tend to his garden? "Infrastructure," he says referring to his new hire. "I've steadily learned to put infrastructure into place, where I don't do everything myself. If I have to do everything, the pressure becomes too intense."

Now that Buchbinder's got someone to take care of the business end of his work, he can focus squarely on his always-evolving oeuvre. Besides playing with the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Buchbinder's main project right now – or at least during the jazz festival – is his Shurum Burum Big Band.

Buchbinder put the group together two years ago as part of the Shurum Burum Circus, a theatrical performance that fused live music with acrobatics and dancing. The show ran for a limited time, but the music endured

Buchbinder released a full-length record of the Big Band's music last November. The jazz festival is the group's second gig.

"[The music] is pretty diverse – it's a pretty unique sound," says Buchbinder. "It's very theatrical. In live performance I really like to push all of us to be open to the moment. There has to be space for chaos and improv."

It shouldn't be hard for Buchbinder to find those chaotic moments – there are plenty of them on the record. From the rapid-fire horns on *Invectus* to the part klezmer, part salsa vibe of *Samarkand*, the band pushes jazz's boundaries to its limits.

Buchbinder has been breaking down musical barriers for about 20 years now, since he formed the Juno-nominated Flying Bulger Klezmer band in 1987. Since then, he's played with countless musicians, formed numerous bands, written a few film scores, all the while playing bar and bat mitzvahs.

"I love to learn," he says, explaining why he takes on so much at once. "I feel there's a lot I have to say musically. There's a lot of music I want to experience. For a long time I was doing one thing, the Bulgars, and staying in that new Jewish, Yiddish vein, but in a way that was my training ground. There were a lot of things I needed to learn to fulfil whatever this larger vision I seem to have is."

This vision still includes playing Jewish simchahs, something he's done since day one.

"I love doing them," says the former carpenter. "I'm always creating projects where I'm front and centre, so it's easy for me to embrace and enjoy being in service to someone else. Also, they pay well and that's really important because it allows me to do other stuff, and weddings, especially Jewish weddings, give me the chance and the band the chance to play klezmer for what it was invented for."

For now though, Buchbinder is concentrating on the Toronto Jazz Festival where, in addition to playing with the Shurum Burum Big Band, he'll perform with the David Buchbinder Klezmer Trio, a group that regularly plays Sunday brunches at the Free Times Café.

With several other projects in the works, including a recording session with Cuban jazz pianist Hilario Duran, it's hard to imagine Buchbinder ever slowing down.

"Why do I do so much?" he says. "There's just so much to do."

David Buchbinder's Klezmer Trio performs on June 25, 6 p.m., at GreekTown Sounds of the Danforth Tuborg Stage at Danforth and Logan avenues. His Shurum Burum Big Band plays on June 29, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., on the mainstage at Nathan Phillips Square.

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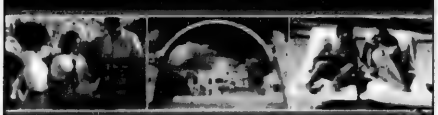
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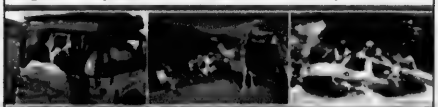
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# Documentary portrays Gehry as complex and prickly

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

**Architect Frank Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]**

Love him or hate him, Toronto-born Frank Gehry is an architect whose innovative designs scream out for attention.

His stark, sculptured, futuristic buildings of titanium, glass, concrete and steel, ranging from the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, to the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, trigger awe or scorn.

No one can feign indifference to Gehry, whose commissions have taken him to countries such as Canada, Germany, Israel, France, Switzerland and Japan. With Gehry, there is no middle ground.

Gehry, whose renowned colleague Philip Johnson describes him as the greatest living architect of our times, is the subject of Sydney Pollack's documentary, *Sketches of Frank Gehry*, which opened here on June 16.

The title of this 82-minute film, shot in a variety of locales, is inspired by Gehry's habit of starting a design with a simple, stylized sketch.

With the help of assistants at his studio in Santa Monica, Calif., he turns these abstract drawings into three-dimensional models, which are often made of cardboard bound together by strips of tape.

In an early scene in this generally interesting biopic, Gehry hovers over a model of an an ultra-modern work in progress, tinkering with it until he glumly pronounces it pompous and pretentious. Finally, after further adjustments, he is satisfied with the result.

Pollack, an Oscar-winning Hollywood director, spent five years making this film about his friend. It is, of course, pro-Gehry, but not totally uncritical.

Hal Foster, an austere American academic who is none too enamoured of Gehry, delivers quite a critique. Another critic, dispensing altogether with verbal niceties, claims that some of Gehry's buildings are "extremely ugly."

But these are, so to speak, voices in the wilderness. For the most part, Gehry's admirers fill the screen with words of praise for him.

The writer Mildred Friedman compares him to an artist, the filmmaker Julian Schnabel likens his critics to "flies on the neck of a lion," and the television mogul Barry Diller voices amazement over his original talents.

All of them, without exception, admire his acute understanding of scale and light and his ability to translate hazy concepts into practical realities.

Gehry comes across as a complex, prickly figure who is both palpably insecure and seemingly arrogant.

In a meditative voiceover at the beginning of the film, he confesses that new projects frighten him. But once he embarks on a commission, he recovers his poise and his egotism kicks in. In this respect, as one of his friends comments, Gehry has the biggest ego in the business.

Gehry's longtime therapist, Milton Wexler, discloses that he lacks self-confidence, but does not elaborate.

Pollack, however, leaves a trail of useful hints. In Gehry's second year at university, one of his teachers cruelly informed him that he was not fit to be an architect, an observation that left him devastated but uncowed.

And in 1954, when he was 25, he changed his surname from Goldberg to escape anti-Semitism. Pollack does not cite any incidents that might have prompted Gehry to take so drastic a step.

Much to the detriment of the film, Pollack spends far too little time on Gehry's youth.

We're told that he enjoyed "making things" with his hands, that his Jewish schoolteacher commended him for a drawing of the Zionist theoretician Theodor Herzl, and that his father, a truck driver, moved the family to California in 1947 for health reasons.

But beyond these unadorned facts, Gehry, as a person rather than an architect, remains something of a cipher.

Pollack could easily have eliminated some repetitive talking heads and replaced them with vivid background material about Gehry's formative years and his development as an architect. Nonetheless, *Sketches of Frank Gehry* is quite a feat of filmmaking.

## *CBC has a shallow encounter with Moses*

Moses Znaimer, a founder of CityTV, Much Music and Bravo!, is Tajikistan's gift to Canada.

One of Canada's foremost media figures, he started life as an immigrant, arriving here with his parents from that Central Asian republic when he was barely out of diapers.

His mother and father, the only members of their respective families to survive the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Europe, found refuge in Tajikistan, a mainly Muslim province of the Soviet Union, during World War II. They lived their until they immigrated to Canada in 1948.

Their experiences appear to have shaped Znaimer, the subject of *Encounters with Moses*, a CBC TV profile by Mike Sheerin scheduled to be broadcast Monday, June 26, at 8 p.m.

"His Jewishness defines him," says a former colleague who worked with Znaimer when he was young, brash, opinionated and too smart by half. As he reflects on his unusual past, Znaimer basically agrees with this assessment.

The biopic traces the arc of his career from the CBC to his current status as a media mogul, but since it is so brief, Sheerin can only skim over the surface. As a result, many details about his climb to the top are simply left out.

When Znaimer joined the CBC, he admits, he had "confidence to burn" and was blessed with a magnetic personality. In grainy clips from those days, he comes off as something of a smart aleck.

Speaking of CityTV, Znaimer observes that there was "a huge market" for a gutsy, upstart television station with "a sense of the street."

In the early years, when Znaimer was its dynamic creative force, CityTV produced an astounding 42 hours of original programming each week.

He was a visionary, says Jay Switzer, who succeeded Znaimer at City. Znaimer left in 2003 in what Switzer describes as "a turning of the page," but Saul Levine, Znaimer's friend, claims he was actually fired.

Asked to comment, Znaimer says he "mostly left." Then, in a pensive moment, he adds, "Nothing is forever."

As for his much talked about management style, Znaimer concedes that he is "a relentless improver of things." That sounds like an understatement.

It's also claimed that Znaimer's relationships with women are "the stuff of legend." A slightly bashful Znaimer acknowledges he has never concealed his "admiration and interest" in the fairer sex.

In the final moments of *Encounters with Moses*, he visits the offices of a Toronto classical radio station that he has just acquired.

Sheerin reveals bits and pieces about his elusive subject, but it's merely the tip of the iceberg.

— S.K.


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Books & Authors

# *Rembrandt's sympathy for Jews questioned by museum curator*

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

*The Jewish Bride* by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606 — 1669)

Did the 17th-century Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn have a special place in his heart for the Jewish People? Does sympathy for them pervade his work? Was he a Protestant painter who "possessed a Jewish soul," as Israel's chief rabbi once said in the 1930s?

As the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Netherlands' greatest artist approaches, museum curator and author Edward van Voolen wishes to dispel the legend about the painter's relationship with Dutch Jews that many Jews along with non-Jews accept as fact.

Supposedly, Rembrandt learned about the Kabbalah from rabbis, painted a plethora of Jewish subjects, visited synagogues and attended Jewish weddings.

Such stories produced an image of a Rembrandt inspired by Jewish culture and fascinated with the Jewish people.

Speaking at the Art Gallery of Ontario recently, Van Voolen, the curator of the Jewish Historical Museum in Rembrandt's hometown of Amsterdam, said the idea of Rembrandt as a lover of the Jews is a myth.

It gained momentum because Rembrandt lived in the same quarter of Amsterdam as the Jews who had fled Spain and Portugal after the Inquisition a century earlier, he said.

In 17th-century Holland, Jews had the right to participate in international commerce and they could be shareholders of the Dutch East and West Indian companies.

During Rembrandt's lifetime, well-off Jews living in the Netherlands were not openly persecuted, so they were commonly seen in the streets of Amsterdam. Beautiful Portuguese and Ashkenazi synagogues, as portrayed in one of Rembrandt's landscapes of the harbour, were prominent features of the city.

"The visibility of Jews at this time and place contributes to the myth of Rembrandt as a friend of the Jews," van Voolen said.

"The next question becomes, did Rembrandt himself ever step foot in a synagogue?"

As a Protestant, Rembrandt was fond of painting scenes from the Hebrew Bible. His biblical works include *Samson and Delilah* (1628), *Sacrifice of Abraham* (1635), and *Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph* (1656).

The idea that Rembrandt loved Jews and had friendships with many of them gained momentum because of his interest in Bible stories, van Voolen said.

It is claimed that the synagogue depicted in Rembrandt's etching *Pharisees in the Temple* (1648) is modelled after a contemporary synagogue Rembrandt visited in Amsterdam.

"This work does not resemble the inside of any synagogue in Amsterdam," van Voolen said, proving his point by juxtaposing Rembrandt's etching with slides of synagogue interiors from 17th-century Amsterdam.

And what about the "Jewish garb" the subjects wear in the picture? "Jews in 17th-century Amsterdam wore the same dress and headgear as other people living in the city, like the fur hats and oriental turbans you see in this work [*Pharisees in the Temple*]," van Voolen said.

"We have no way of knowing if these were Jews or not. The subjects could be migrants from anywhere in Europe…"

In two instances, Rembrandt did paint Jewish subjects, van Voolen acknowledged.

The first is a portrait of Ephraim Bueno (1647), a physician and poet who had fled Catholic Spain and Portugal. "The portrait of Bueno is a real example of positive contact between Rembrandt and one Jew," van Voolen said,

The second Jewish subject painted by Rembrandt was the daughter of a rich Jew. "The Jew didn't like the portrait because he thought it did not resemble his daughter, so he sued Rembrandt," van Voolen noted.

Another famous Rembrandt painting supposedly depicts a Jewish woman, but according to van Voolen, she may not be entirely kosher.

In *The Jewish Bride* (1666), a woman stands in front of a man while he embraces her. The painting, originally titled *The Couple*, was renamed *The Jewish Bride* in 1833, more than 150 years after its completion.

"We have no way of knowing who this couple was," van Voolen said. "It could be Rembrandt's son and his wife, a husband and wife from the Hebrew Bible, or maybe they could be real people."

Van Voolen has some theories about why the pair was deemed Jewish.

"The intimate, warm gesture of the man's hand on the woman's belly might have made people think that the two are Jewish," he said.

The presence of a ring on the woman's index finger, where the Jewish wedding ring is traditionally worn, added fuel to the Jewish fire.

"Yet if you look at her other hand, the woman is plainly wearing several rings on other fingers," Van Voolen pointed out.

If you're in Amsterdam this summer for Rembrandt's 400th birthday, visit the Rijksmuseum and see *The Jewish Bride*. Is the "Jewish" Rembrandt historical fact or merely wishful thinking? See his work and decide for yourself.

# Journalist shares cancer story in posthumous book

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — Daniel Feist's unflinchingly candid articles in the *Montreal Gazette* about his determination to beat the lung cancer that ultimately killed him at age 51 touched untold numbers of people, as the hundreds of letters he received attest to.

Daniel Feist

The series ran from September to December 2004, and some of the letters and other tributes have now been published as a book, *Cancer: My Story* (CanWest Books), by Feist and Stan Shatenstein, his friend of more than 40 years.

Feist was a smoker who tried to quit many times. Shatenstein is a freelance journalist and editor specializing in exposing the health risks of smoking and the "murderous" tobacco industry.

The book's publication is both a memorial to Feist and a way get the message out that lung cancer causes the greatest number of cancer deaths in Quebec. It also furthers his goal of sharing his experiences with others in the same situation, and Shatenstein has added information useful to cancer patients.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Jewish General Hospital's (JGH) division of pulmonary oncology and its palliative care unit.

Many relatives, friends and others who knew Feist through his writing gathered for the book's recent launch. They described an extroverted man who had a remarkable zest for life and who did not go quietly into that good night. As the poet Dylan Thomas counselled, he raged, but as his articles revealed, he did so with an irreverent sense of humour and a journalist's curiosity.

Feist was a longtime music columnist for the *Gazette*, specializing in the world music scene, as well as host of the Mix 96 radio program *Rhythms International* for 16 years. He was also a karate enthusiast, and a husband and father of two children.

He had a passionate interest in other cultures, particularly of the Caribbean and Africa. He also travelled extensively and had lived in Warsaw, Johannesburg and Botswana, where he worked in radio.

Soon after being diagnosed with lung cancer in the summer of 2004, he began to chronicle his experiences, not hiding the fears, pain, indignities and desperate hope. He died in February 2005.

"The word courageous is maybe used too often, but Daniel deserves it," said Dr. David Small, chief of pulmonary medicine at JGH. "I remember when he first came to my office. He was a force. He was going a mile a minute, asking me questions, some the most original I have heard in 20 years of treating people with lung cancer."

A desire to have some control over what was happening to him underlay his need for even the most arcane information, like what side he would wake up on after surgery, Small said.

"He made me promise a lot of things, including that he would make it through this. Unfortunately, I couldn't do that."

Dr. Bernard Lapointe, head of JGH's palliative care unit, where Feist spent his last weeks, said that to the end, Feist "lived each moment, convinced that every second was precious."

His mother, Ursula Feist, said that the younger of her two sons was born on Jan. 27 – Mozart's birthday – which may explain his perfect pitch. He was a noisy, rambunctious baby, "but to me pure joy."

The family had recently arrived from England, where leaving windows open all year round was normal. Here, though, three-week-old Daniel came down with pneumonia, and she remembered being at his hospital bedside every day.

He grew into "a mischievous, sensitive, curious child, who was never boring," and who hated authority and doing homework, but had many friends. One was Shatenstein, whom Feist met when the family moved next door to his in Cote St. Luc in 1964.

As an adult, Feist "often argued, was impulsive and impatient, often in an emotional turmoil," his mother said.

But he was a devoted son, calling almost every day or e-mailing when he was abroad, and "sending flowers for no particular reason."

Daniel was afraid of death, but tried to hide that from her, she said. "His death in the prime of life is a real tragedy, an insurmountable loss… The pain will never go away."

As Feist would probably have wanted, the book launch concluded with a few a cappella lines from jazz singer Lorraine Klaasen, a friend of his since she moved to Montreal more than 20 years ago from South Africa. She is grateful to Feist for helping her to establish her career here, giving her some exposure when she was not big enough to have her own manager.

*Cancer: My Story* can be ordered online at www.canwestbooks.com, or by phone at 1-866-870-3428.

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*Classified Deadlines:*

**Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.**
**8 days prior to issue date.***

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**Clark/New Westminster** Fabulous 4 bdrm, 4 baths, 2 car garage fin. bsmt. Shows great!

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Bathurst/Steeles 1 bdrm condo, like new, balcony, parking, locker $ 178,000

**FOR RENT**

**Promenade** Exclusive. 2 bdrm, 2 full bath, fully renovated, CN Tower view, 5 appl, $1650

**OTHER RENTALS AVAILABLE:** 3 & 4 bdrm det., 3 bdrm townhome

**IAN & SARAH MAGED**
Sales Representatives
Sutton Group Admiral Realty
416-739-7200

## 15 HOUSES FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Clark,** 3 bdrm., fin. bsmt., walking distance to Shul & school, avail. end of Aug. Call Leon 416-388-8918.

**Cedarvale house for rent,** 4 bdrm. + den + finished bsmt. 1 year from approx. Aug. 1st. 416-785-9770 / 416-978-6416.

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**Promenade Towers** - 7460 Bathurst, 2nd flr., newly reno'd New appl., new carpet/floor, all amenities, prkg +loc. Price $246,000. Call 416-706-7454

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**DESIGNER CONDO**
Ravine view / walk to park & shopping. 2 bdrms., 2 baths, open balcony & solarium, parking & locker, upgraded appliances & much more. **ACT FAST!**
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**3000 Bathurst St.**
**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitch, solarium, prkng Shabbas elevator, just reduced, must sell at under market price. $ 275,000 Zidner Realty
**416-249-3356**

## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**LUX. UNIT — ARNOLD AVE.** In prestigious Thornhill, 1 bed. & bath, walk to synagogue, large rooms. See it to believe it — all incl. for $1090 / month. It won't last!
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**Bathurst/Baycrest,** large 2 bdrm., 1.5 baths, 2 balc., avail. July 1st. Call 416-518-0323.

**Bathurst-Wilson.** 1 bdrm. condo w/balc., ensuite laundry, A/C, 5 appls., pkg., 24 hr. sec. Access to sauna, gym & party rm. 647-282-7730, leave message.

**Bath./Sheppard,** large 3 bdrm., approx. 1600 sq. ft., 2 bathrooms, corner suite, 2 pkg. spots, indoor pool, exer. room, etc. 100 Canyon Avenue, immed. poss. $1700/mo. Call 416-226-1875.

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OPEN HOUSE every Sunday 10-2

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**120 SHELBORNE AVE.**
***"THE CORONET"***
Suites available immediately.
Walk to synagogues & shopping.
Sabbath Elevator. TTC at your door. ***Call...***
**416-282-6631**
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

## 84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT

**Young senior woman,** quiet, soft-spoken, non-smkr., seeking a room in a Jewish home. Bathurst/Steeles area pref. 416-661-7127.

## 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Muskoka,** 3 bdrm. cottage, 3 season, Lake Mckay, child friendly sandy beach, in friendly Jewish community co-op. $125,000. Contact Sherry at 416-789-0206 or sherry.zweig@pearsoned.com

**Lake Couchiching waterfront,** all-season, 2-storey, 5 bdrms., 4 baths, sauna, fully fin. bsmt. & rec. rm., pine & cedar thruout, peg pine floors, f/p., new kit., new appls., cac, alarm system, undergrnd. sprinklers, dock, fully furn., immac. cond. inside & out, 1 hr. 15 mins. from Yonge/401. Close in time for summer. $650K. Call 416-487-3999.

## 110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Belle Ewart,** 4 bdrms., private lot, short walk to shul, steps to lake. Available July-August. Call 416-995-9630.

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**Exp. lady seeks** p/t job to care for elderly or babysitting. Live out. Days, weekends, nights. 416-298-3335.

## 275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

Vibrant, vivacious, tall, attractive woman, mid 50's looking for a companion-soul mate who enjoys life and wants to share it. Please respond to CJN #5109.

**Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?**

*Address your mail to:*

**The Canadian Jewish News**
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**Suite 205**
**North York, Ont.**
**M3B 3K4**

***Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.***

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**Ben, 416.826.0574 or 416.372.2255**

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
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# Sports & Leisure

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# This guy's got game: Israeli makes mark in Ukranian hoops

By YULIANNA VILKOS
*JTA*

**KIEV, Ukraine** — Israeli basketball player Afik Nissim doesn't like to play on Saturday for his Kiev team, but he recently had to do so for a big game.

"I try not to violate Shabbat, but basketball is the only thing I can make an exception for," said the 25-year-old, who was raised in a suburb of Tel Aviv. "If I have to travel with the team or play on Saturday, I do. It's my job, and I love it," said Nissim, who has played basketball since he was six years old.

Unfortunately, Nissim's team, BC Kiev, lost in the finals to Azovmash. But Nissim, who averaged just under 10 points a game this year, established himself as one of the key players on one of Ukraine's top teams.

A guard known for his outside shooting, the six-foot tall Nissim is the shortest player on the team. His height is not the only thing that makes him stand out. He's not the only foreigner on BC Kiev – in fact, the team largely consists of foreigners – but he is the only Israeli, and he's likely the only Israeli playing in any professional sport in Ukraine this year. No Israeli has ever played in the NBA, but a few have starred on U.S. college teams.

When Nissim arrived in Kiev earlier this year, his teammates were amazed at how little he ate and drank when they went out.

Nissim is not Orthodox, but he doesn't eat non-kosher meat and he is not keen on alcohol. He ate mostly vegetables when he first got to Kiev.

"My non-Israeli teammates would say, with sympathy, that it must be so difficult for me not to be able to eat everything," Nissim recalled. "But it's something that's normal for me and what I feel good about."

Nissim has been away from Israel for three years, playing for basketball teams in France, Rostov-on-Don, Russia, and now in Ukraine. Living far from home has made him more observant.

"When you are in Israel, you are like everybody else, and you don't think about these things much," he said. In Ukraine, he prays every morning and tries to go to synagogue in Kiev every week.

"Now, far away from Israel, holding on to my religion is the only thing that makes me closer to home," he said.

It was tough for him in Rostov, where the Jewish community is small and kosher meat was difficult to obtain. But in Kiev, Nissim seems happy.

His best friend in Ukraine's capital is the director of the King David, the city's only kosher restaurant, and Kiev's Central Synagogue is about 300 metres from the apartment that the team rents for him. Nissim may be the only player on the team whose diet requires that the team bring kosher meals on every road trip, but he says he doesn't feel very different or awkward about it.

And it doesn't hurt that BC Kiev's sports director and an assistant coach are Israeli, too.

"BC Kiev is almost half-Israeli," joked sports director Rani Kahane, who took up the position a year ago.

Kahane had 25 years of experience coaching Israeli junior and national basketball teams when BC Kiev's owner, Aleksandr Volkov, invited him to Kiev.

Kahane says he's been friends with Volkov, a Ukrainian businessman and a former NBA player, since 1989.

"He needed somebody to be with the team 24 hours a day," said Kahane, who left a good job at the Israel Electric Company to work for BC Kiev.

Volkov established BC Kiev seven years ago with the goal of making it one of the top basketball clubs in Europe, Kahane said.

For the Israelis, language isn't a problem: The players and coaches speak to each other in English.

"Nationality in today's basketball doesn't really matter, as long as you've got a good player who fits in with the team," Kahane said.

Nissim said he's been fitting in well and is looking forward to next season, which starts in August.

"The only thing that bothers me is being far away from my family back in Israel," Nissim said. "So I spend a lot of time on the Internet and on the phone, and I hope my parents and my three brothers can visit me in Kiev next season."

# Comedy, generosity in great form at Winnipeg sports dinner

By REBECA KUROPATWA
*Special to The CJN*

**WINNIPEG** — The president of the Rady Jewish Community Centre's board of directors has proclaimed the recent 2006 Y Sports Dinner the most successful yet, after close to 1,000 people showed up.

Keynote speaker was baseball legend Pete Rose, described by board president Jeff Lieberman as "very candid about his situation in baseball. He told a number of funny stories. People come to the dinner to be entertained, and he did a good job of it."

The annual dinner honoured 16-year-old fencer Maxwell Stearns as Winnipeg's Jewish athlete of the year and recognized the athletes set to represent the Rady JCC at the JCC Maccabi Games in Vancouver this summer. Stearns received $500 in prize money and a one-year membership to the Rady JCC.

Rose holds the all-time major league hit record, eclipsing hall of famer Ty Cobb's earlier mark of 4,191. By the time he ended his baseball career in 1986, Rose had totalled 4,256 hits, and he held the records for most games played (3,562), most singles (3,315), and most 200-hit seasons (10).

Pete Rose

Alonzo Bodden

*[Rebeca Kuropatwa photos]*

"It was a good thing I never played against [Babe] Ruth. If I did, I'd be dead," he quipped.

"When people talk about steroids, they always talk about Barry Bonds," said Rose. "Why? He is one of the best baseball players. It's the press who do it. Someone would have to prove it to me for me to ever believe it.

"I am the only guy in the United States who can't get a second chance," Rose said. "A guy was just let out of jail, and he [tried to] kill the Pope. I have a life suspension."

Comedian Alonzo Bodden, with a style of humour that he described as "cynically good-natured," had the audience in stitches. He opened with the line, "I can't tell you how amazing it feels to be the only black man in the room, on the podium, just before an auction is about to get started. I don't know if I should laugh or try to quietly slip out of the room."

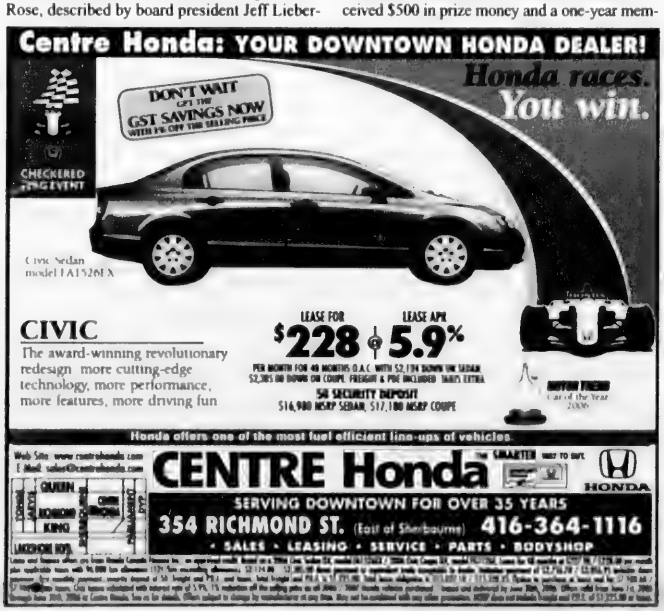
The audience reacted with good-humoured applause. He joked that he came here "in the summer and hockey was still on the front page of the newspaper. Like, let it go guys."

On the subject of stepped up airport security in the United States, Bodden quipped, "We had one shoe bomber four years ago, and we still have to take off our shoes at the airport. My question is: where is the bra bomber?"

Funds raised at the dinner "help to underwrite costs for our senior adult centre and after-school and year-round children and special needs enrichment programs," said Sharilyn Johnson, executive assistant at the Rady JCC.

The auction included a $22,000 boat, a six-month lease on a new convertible, a sports weekend package in Toronto (including tickets to a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game and a Toronto Raptors basketball game), and a round-trip travel package for four to Churchill, Man., to see polar bears. A silent auction and a rainbow auction rounded out the night's fundraising program.

Among the dignitaries to address the audience were Ernie Nairn, Ken Kronson, Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz, Jim Daly, Paul Nusgart and Bob Picken.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Inside Back

# Guilt leads to positive outcome

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Senior Side of Life

I was speaking at one of many presentations that have resulted from the publication of my book *Parenting Your Parents*, at a large Canadian multinational company. The audience consisted of 15 female, mostly middle-aged, employees.

As the presentation progressed, it was clear from the audience reaction that many of the topics resonated strongly among them. The topics of getting a proper geriatric assessment and the issue of guilt and its position in the equation of feelings that are shared between parents and their children were clearly of great concern.

It was acknowledged by the audience that feelings of guilt were quite pervasive among them. There seemed to be a challenge in what to do with guilt feelings and discussion centred around whether they promoted or interfered with the relationship with the aging parent, or ultimately resulted in better care despite the uneasy feelings related to this deep-seated emotion.

A member of the audience, an only child, recounted a recent experience in which she faced the challenge of arranging for an in-home geriatric assessment in the face of objections by her parents, who lived quite far from where she lived and worked. What drove her determination to get the assessment was that she could not provide the kind of care that she believed her parents, both still living with some difficulty in their home, needed to remain there.

She lived more than an hour's drive from their home. She spoke about her feelings of extreme guilt from having chosen to work in a place that was far away from her parents' home, for good career and personal family reasons, even though she knew it would present difficulties at some time in the future. Now, the future was at hand and she was racked with guilt for not fulfilling her duties as a loving daughter, even though she recognized her parents' strong feelings of independence and need for privacy. For these reasons, they had previously rejected an in-home geriatric assessment and expressed strongly that "it was not necessary" and that "they were fine."

Then the mother fractured her wrist in a fall, and the impact was substantial. She needed help in dressing, toileting and bathing. Her husband realized that he could not attend to her needs, especially the ones that required substantial physical effort and personal and private care such as toileting.

Fortunately, on relatively short notice, the local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) was able to provide some in-home assistance and that, coupled with some private daily, helped the couple during the eight-week period before independence could be regained. But the involvement of the CCAC allowed the daughter to arrange for a geriatric assessment that now was welcomed by her parents even with some pride- and privacy-driven reluctance.

The daughter recounted what a beneficial impact the assessment had not only on home-safety changes but also on how some daily tasks such as shopping and cooking were structured. Most important, after the interaction and while the changes were being implemented, the father acknowledged to his daughter that the input from the "team," especially the assessment nurse, was "really good."

He went on to welcome future suggestions and care plans that he now understood would enhance the safety of himself and his wife and their ability to remain in their home. The daughter acknowledged that it was a long struggle, but now that the plan was implemented, the guilt she felt so deeply when trying to help her parents was partially assuaged. Guilt had led to a positive result, the most favourable outcome of that powerful emotion.


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2 tblsp vegetable oil
2 tblsps honey
1 tblsp soy sauce

Place chicken breasts in shallow dish. Mix onion, lemon juice, vegetable oil, honey and soy sauce in small bowl. Pour 1/2 c. onion mixture over chicken; turn to coat. Let stand 1 hr. at room temperature or refrigerate up to 4 hrs. Pour remaining onion mixture into small saucepan. Boil until slightly reduced and thickened, about 2 min.; reserve for glaze.

Turn on BBQ. Brush grill rack with oil. Remove chicken from marinade, shaking off excess. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Grill chicken until cooked through, brushing occasionally with reserved marinade glaze, about 8 min. per side.

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## Epi on Education

# Embracing Israeli culture in Toronto

Seymour Epstein

I recently attended a conference run by the North American Coalition for Israel Engagement (NACIE), a project of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Education Department. Toronto has just signed an agreement to be a partner community with NACIE, and this is one of a series of encounters planned to help us re-invigorate the relationship that the organized community has with Israel. While education, formal and informal, is one of the most important vehicles for this renewed relationship, this particular conference was devoted to the place of Israeli culture in a community such as Toronto – or Pittsburgh, or San Francisco.

There were a variety of discussions that ranged from the usual questions – What are the parameters of culture? What is Israeli culture? Is it Jewish? Are culture and religion separate endeavours, or are they related, even intertwined? What is the goal of introducing Israeli culture into our institutions, homes, and streets? Is it culture for culture's sake or something beyond that? What happens when it offends? to the practical issues of finding out what's available, when, and how to present it properly.

The conference ended with some challenging summary remarks by NACIE director Jonny Ariel in which he quoted a Toronto icon, the late University of Toronto English professor Northrop Frye. In noting Frye's four categories of literature – romance, tragedy, irony/satire, and comedy – Ariel stated that we usually present Israel in the first two modes, but find it more difficult to deal with the real Israel in terms of irony and comedy. While the mythic Israel requires romance and tragedy to tell the story, the up-to-date current Israel demands the addition of irony and comedy to deal with the more ambiguous and complex parts of the great narrative that is our homeland.

It was an excellent learning experience, and I hope to pass the lessons on.

*Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto*

# Rediscovering the community's spirit

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

Where have our Jewish activists gone? What happened to the days of the Communist, socialist and conservative Jewish community members who courageously stepped out of their safe zone to protect and enhance the lives of our people and the community we live in?

Jews started unions; Jews busted them. We established community centres when nobody else would take us and even figured out a way to build a golf course when hateful cowards turned us away (they were likely afraid of our awesome putting game).

Where are those Jews, Jews with balls, who at Christie Pits fought off nasty anti-Semites threatening our safety and dignity?

What ever happened to those high-profile, fearless rabbis – the Rosenbergs, Slonims and Wertzbergers – who were brimming with leadership, and sometimes craziness, but were mostly unafraid of being castigated for having a different point of view?

Where are the Jewish students of old, the thousands who participated in university movements, the "radical" young men and women who thought nothing of challenging the organizations funding them in the name of social justice and were receptive to alternative approaches to Jewish issue and practice?

Where is our Jewish creativity? What happened to the many left-wing and right-wing journals, magazines and newspapers one could pick up at a Jewish or other bookstore in days not so long ago? What has happened to our Jewish writers? There are thousands of them, yet we mostly read the same content, style and writers that we did 20 years ago. Are we not sophisticated and strong enough to be challenged?

What about Jewish television and radio? How is that the Greek community, half our size, has had a Jewish radio station for years, and we only have two radio shows? We are a brilliant people who know well how to articulate ideas, and with more opinions than the American Congress on the abortion issue. Yet our use of the media is flat. We have become dull. Why?

Where is the Jewish coffee shop? I can't find it, unless I take a left on West End Avenue and 86th Street in New York. How great it would be if Jews of all ages could frequent a well-run, creative joint with local Jewish musicians (of which there are aplenty), and critique artwork on the walls painted or photographed by the flood of Jewish talent living in Mississauga and the Beach area, on Danforth Avenue and Bathurst Street, and in Thornhill and Richmond Hill, and other surrounding areas.

What ever happened to the intellectuals, artists, troublemakers and protectors that used to make the Toronto Jewish community oh so colourful? Where have they all gone? Why are the artists afraid or discouraged to come out and proudly show their wares?

We need to mix this place – our community up so that it is brimming with controversy, creative growth and life. Let's start by creating a fund to finance our very own Jewish coffee shop, or if that doesn't work, one of you entrepreneurs out there, step up and open one. Trust me, it would rock!

Rabbis, give us something to dig our teeth in. Hold open debates on issues that are pertinent, that challenge our intellects, and will encourage spiritual growth. Aren't you bored of the surfacy Jewish study and the one game in town that offers black and white Jewish thought?

Man, let's rediscover the spirit of the Toronto Jewish community and drop our fear of diversity; of showing our true selves. Let's build on a strong existent and wealthy structure to create a unique village unlike any other, one that will show the very real and colourful sides to what it means to be a Jew. Don't you think we need a real serious party?

*Avrum@veahavta.org SUDAN?*

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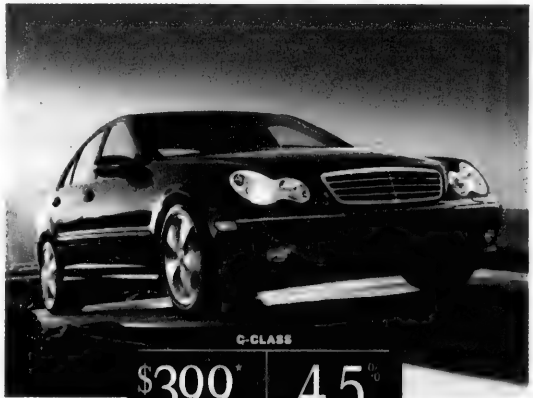

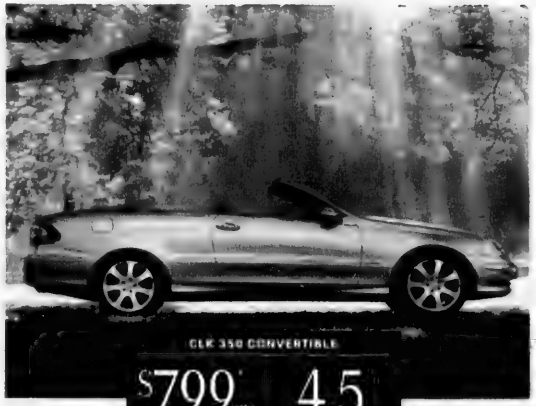

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# ISRAEL

[Keith Levit photos]

[Marcia Cantor photo]

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## A stunning, emotional experience

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
*Editor*

Bleary-eyed, our group of 27 editors from Jewish media around the world arrived at the old terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport on May 11 not much later than the sun did in the low eastern sky.

Editorial Feature

We were met there by a social worker with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and Boris Hellman, formerly of the Soviet Union, a thin reed of a man whose face is so angular he could have been a model for a cubist painter. Hellman works for the Ministry of Immigration. He has been on hand to see every oleh chadash – new immigrant – arrive in Israel since he began his employ with the ministry more than 20 years ago.

That morning, he was planning to receive a group of 80 olim who were expected at any moment to be landing merely metres away on a wide-open runway after a four-hour flight from Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

Our group of editors was there to watch it all happen. The depth of the emotional experience that unfolded over the course of the next few hours stunned even the most veteran of the scribes among us.

We were privileged to witness the culminating moments of the rescue of these 80 Ethiopians.

No word other than "rescue" is appropriate. In Ethiopia, their fate would be of certain misery or worse. Yet no people other than the Jewish people care about their fate and no country other than Israel cares to take them in.

The photos by Keith Levit and Marcia Cantor, accompanying this article, show some of the faces of the individuals who were among the rescued and poignantly capture that shivering instant of tearful embrace when relatives reunite after so many years apart.

There is also a photo of a plaque installed among the rocks in the cemetery of Woloka near Addis Ababa. Its shiny brass proclaims the commitment from the Jews of the United Israel Appeal Federated Communities (UIAFC) of Canada to the Falash Mora of Ethiopia. It also enshrines the essence of Jewish peoplehood and encapsulates one of the sustaining existential strengths of Jewish history.

A group of 18 Canadians from Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax and Winnipeg had travelled to Ethiopia on May 8 to enable, support, assist and observe that rescue and returned to Israel with the new olim on May 11.

The decision in Israel to rescue the Falash Mora was not without controversy. They are descendants of the Beta Yisrael, the Jews of Ethiopia, disparagingly and derisively called *falasha* (strangers). But they were forced to convert to Christianity. Most of the Falash Mora tenaciously clung to cornerstone aspects of their faith and identity.

In the mid-1990's – after the breathtaking conclusion of Operation Solomon in May 1991 in which 14,310 Beta Yisrael were airlifted to Israel during a tense period of 36 hours – small numbers of Falash Mora began arriving in Israel. But an estimated 30,000 Falash Mora remained in Ethiopia. Still, some voices in Israel and in the Diaspora opposed the special efforts to bring them to Israel.

In 2003, then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ended the debate and declared that the government of Israel would rescue the Falash Mora, too. The United Jewish Communities (the federations of North America) decided to help in the rescue effort, pledging to raise $100 million (U.S.) for that purpose

**Continued on page B2**

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# An incongruous, momentous sight

**Continued from page B1**

The 80-person group that arrived on May 11 was part of the 300 Falash Mora olim that Israel hopes to bring in each month. But to rescue the estimated 20,000 Falash Mora – now in a far more dignified manner called Zera Yisrael, the seed of Israel – remaining in Ethiopia before the agreement between the Jewish Agency for Israel and the government of Ethiopia expires in 2007, the government is determined to double the pace of rescue to 600 per month.

To qualify for immigration to Israel, the Zera Yisrael must have relatives in Israel who have petitioned for reunification with them; express a clear intention to return to their Judaism; and provide some manner of proof that they are in fact part of Zera Yisrael.

Today, some 105,000 Jews from Ethiopia live in Israel. The first wave arrived in 1984 in a rescue effort ordered by then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin, called Operation Moses.

But their absorption into Israeli society has not been easy. It has been marked by many social, educational cultural and economic problems. The older olim have very little chance of finding employment.

But in Ethiopia, the average life expectancy does not exceed 47 years. Twenty per cent of the population dies before they reach the age of five. The Gondar region, where most of the Beta and Zera Yisrael live, has been frozen in ancient times. The people live in huts whose floors are dirt, whose roofs are thatched straw and whose walls are made of dried cow dung. Running water is non-existent in their villages. Education is nil. And disease is rampant.

**Micha Feldman and Mulu Allem**
*(Marcia Cantor photo)*

How could Israel not try to rescue the Falash Mora? And how could the Jews of the world not help Israel in that rescue?

The vile accusation so frequently leveled against Israel that it is an apartheid state is patently false and obviously contrived. Like a malodorous fluff of dust in a windstorm, it is blown away by the truth of Israel's compassionate caring for those whose lives matter not at all to anyone else in the world

* * *

Our group of editors is at the old terminal of the airport, the one no longer in use for commercial flights. It is familiar to us all from our former travel to and from Israel. But it is totally empty except for our group, our JAFI escort and Hellman. The signs, equipment and paraphernalia of the former airport are still in place, but the arrival halls, the departure halls, the duty-free shopping space, the restaurants are a vast hollow space. It is an eerie feeling.

We wait for the olim at a large glass door that opens up to an outside runway, where the buses used to pull up unloading their cargo of tired travellers to the Jewish state.

Our curiosity climbs.We fidget. We chatter. The excitement is palpable.

Then, just like in former times at this empty, retired terminal, two buses pull up alongside the curb.

They have arrived. We see a a sight that is at once incongruous and momentous. A huddled mass of tentative and wary strangers, much like Emma Lazarus might have envisioned when she wrote her famous poem, *The New Colossus*, walks slowly toward us in clusters we suppose of family units.

We hold open the two large glass panels of the old terminal's door, their gateway to a new life and a new, modern century.

We try to act naturally, as it were, and I suppose most of us do. We try not to gawk, although I suppose some of do. We try to contain our emotions for the moment brims with emotion, but most of us are overcome with a sense of surging happiness.

Walking past us very slowly on their way to a reception and documentation centre on the second floor of the hollow building are parents, children and grandchildren from Ethiopia dressed, for the most part, in formal evening wear. The men wear suits or jackets, kippot or other caps on their head; the women are in formal gowns; and the children, adorably, in various selections of cute high fashion for little people. They were given the clothes by the American Joint Distribution Committee the night before at the transit camp in Addis Ababa.

Our two groups look at each other with an awkward but comforting warmth. We smile at each other, they look straight at us, into our eyes, without guile or artifice. Shy, wary, they are wanderers no more.

Our JAFI guide reminds us that the flight from Ethiopia lasted about four hours but actually carried the travellers about 2,000 years forward in time.

In the reception room on the second floor, the olim begin the process of becoming citizens of the State of Israel. They also eat a meal of sandwiches and drinks. For all of them it is the very first time they see cellophane wrapping or juice boxes.

I meet Micha Feldman, JAFI's special envoy to the Jews of Ethiopia. Fluent in Amharic, Feldman moves among the group of olim like a respected, beloved older brother.

He introduces me to Mulu Allem, a 15-year-old dressed in basketball sweats and a jersey. Mulu's father died many years ago; his mother left him soon after. He is on his way to Natzrat Illit in the Galilee, where he will live with his paternal grandparents. His smile is so broad, it seems to reflect light onto my face. He teaches me to say "welcome home" in Amharic. *Enkouan m'tachou.*

**Continued on page B3**

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# Shy, wary, they are wanderers no more

**Continued from page B2**

Like an oversized wind-up bobblehead doll with a broken lever, I walk among the olim who are happily occupied with eating their novel meals and say to whoever will lift their eyes away from their food, *Enkouan m'tachou*. I am on my own private mission to greet everyone who has just arrived. They smile back at me politely, wondering, I am sure, if I was suffering from a nervous tic.

After they have completed their fast-food meal and the bureaucratic documentation, the olim again mount buses to get to the new terminal where their respective family members are waiting for them in the shopping-mall-like, high-ceilinged arrivals hall.

Our group of editors rushes by bus to the new terminal, now to join with the relatives anxiously awaiting the olim.

The wait is longer than expected.

I stand alongside 18-year-old Ania and her grandfather. He has not seen his son and grandchildren for nine years.

There is a sense of history unfolding as we struggle, once again, to contain the emotions stirring in our hearts.

Then the first of the 80 walks into the public space. Others soon follow. The scenes of reunion are like hot fingers caressing one's heart. People rushing toward each other, embracing, kissing, laughing, sobbing.

Before our increasingly bleary eyes, the abstract, the *idea* of rescue, has become real parents embracing their children and grandchildren.

The older members of this group of Falash Mora have arrived to end their days in a land where the sun does more than scorch human bodies or parch the earth. The younger ones will try to adapt to an entirely new life in an entirely new land in an entirely new civilization. The youngest, of course, will become part of the growing soil of the land, as natural to its ways, customs and language as a newly planted tree is to the forest it eventually joins.

* * *

Against the backdrop of the touching and tender scenes of reunion at the airport, some of the Canadians who travelled with the Ethiopian olim from Addis Ababa spoke to *The CJN*.

**'Look at the lives we have saved'**

"Witnessing first-hand part of the return from Ethiopia to Israel is beyond words," said Barry Cantor of Ottawa. "That we could contribute to this, helping bring Jews from all corners of the world back to Eretz Yisrael, is unbelievable."

"It was an adventure of a lifetime. We went to Gondar, and then the embassy compound in Addis and saw the schools that have been set up for the children. Then, being on the airplane flying together to Israel. I am so overwhelmed." His eyes welled with tears as he spoke to me. And so did mine as he was speaking and as we watched the families in disbelieving embrace.

Montrealer Stanley Plotnick, president of the UIAFC, said, "Ethiopia makes you remember what our responsibility is to other Jews. No one should have to live in conditions like the ones in which they live in Ethiopia.

"We have made a promise – and not in a small way that promise has made us – to rescue Jews in distress.

"To have left the Jews of Ethiopia there all those years is embarrassing. What took us so long? We cannot wait any longer to get people out."

With emotion rising in his voice and a sense of achievement peaking through he said, "Look at the lives we have saved. Within six months of their arrival in Israel, the life expectancy of the Ethiopian immigrant goes up to age 65. And when we save their lives, we are also saving the lives of the generations that follow.

"This is the responsibility of Jews to each other. Why should it be Israel's responsibility alone? It falls to Jews all over the world to save other Jews. Israel, thank God, is the place where Jews have their haven."

"It is about 600 miles from Gondar to Darfur," Plotnick pointed out. "It is devastating to think of what is being done to the people there."

Victor Goldberg of Halifax travelled to Ethiopia with his 19-year-old son, Eric.

"It is shocking to see such squalor there. And yet, only the State of Israel and the Jewish people are taking Jews out of Ethiopia or helping them while they are in Ethiopia, for example with health clinics, feeding stations, schools, and rescue co-ordination. One can only marvel at the work that the people there are doing. On a human scale, it is simply amazing."

In witnessing the drama of the homecoming and family reunification of the Falash Mora, many small ironies of Jewish life became evident. The Ethiopian olim were served their first cellophane-wrapped sandwiches by a woman from Ukraine.

The group that walked into the arrivals hall after the Falash Mora was from the former Soviet Union. The flight that preceded the Falash Mora was of birthrighters from Atlanta. Goldberg had also noticed this and commented on its significance.

"The birthrighters' link to their Judaism is just as tenuous as the Falash Mora, if perhaps not more so, than the newly arrived immigrants from Ethiopia," he said.

"That connected the dots for me; Israel is where all our lives join. It builds and reinforces our own identity."

Goldberg's son, Eric, celebrated his 19th birthday in Ethiopia. He recounted the following story: "The Israeli embassy staff in Addis Ababa had arranged for a large white, angel-food birthday cake to be baked for my birthday. It was cut into 80 pieces and each of the 80 olim received a piece. Of course, they had never seen, let alone tasted, anything like it before. Some of the olim, didn't quite know how to hold the cake. This is the best birthday I could ever have."

The Ethiopians celebrated Eric's birthday. But they also celebrated their own, too, as all of them said they would now count the day of their departure for Israel as a new beginning, a new date of birth.

Mazel tov!

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**[Israel Sun photos]**

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Tribute to Israel

# Israel marks 25 years since Osirak

By DAN BARON
*JTA*

**TEL AVIV** — Twenty-five years ago, eight Israeli fighter pilots took off in their F-16s on a crucial and extremely dangerous mission that forever changed the Middle East.

The June 7, 1981, strike against Iraq's atomic reactor at Osirak, which many believed denied Saddam Hussein the bomb, has long been a case study in air power virtuosity.

Of late, with Western jitters building over Iran's nuclear ambitions, it is also being examined as a model for a pre-emptive action to deprive a dangerous regime of doomsday weaponry.

Israel has been celebrating the 25th anniversary of Osirak by lifting some of the secrecy over the mission.

The seven surviving pilots have been giving interviews, while real-time footage of the mission, captured by the planes' onboard cameras, was publicly broadcast.

"I felt that it was the future of the State of Israel on my shoulders," recalled Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin, a former F-16 pilot turned military intelligence commander.

At the time, of course, there was no place for triumphalism. Israel knew that no matter what the outcome, it would be accused by the international community of brinkmanship, even warmongering.

There were also U.S. ties to consider.

Israel had received its first fleet of F-16s from Washington by chance, after a shipment destined for Iran was cancelled in light of that country's Islamic Revolution in 1979. And despite the warplanes' advanced capabilities, getting them to make the round trip to Baghdad without support required a major gamble of Israeli technical ingenuity.

Israel was also in the midst of implementing its landmark 1978 peace accord with Egypt, and knew that this could be imperilled should Cairo choose to back an aggrieved Baghdad.

But for Israel's then-prime minister Menachem Begin, almost all risks were worth taking in order to ensure the continued survival of the Jewish state.

"We decided to act now, before it is too late," Begin would say. "We shall defend our people with all the means at our disposal."

Relik Shafir, who flew last in the eight-plane formation, would later confess that he expected to be killed by Iraqi ground fire, along with his wingman Ilan Ramon. As it happened, the late Ramon went on to an illustrious air force career, culminating in his appointment to become Israel's first astronaut on the ill-fated Columbia space shuttle mission.

Any small mishap might have ended the mission. The chief of Israel's air force at the time, David Ivry, said that one of his main concerns was that one or more of the F-16s would suffer a mechanical problem as they zoomed at an ultra-low altitude from a secret base in the then-Israeli controlled Sinai Desert across Jordan and Saudi Arabia and into Iraqi territory.

**Menachem Begin**

Then there were the freak glitches. A Mossad agent almost blew the mission when, in front of air crew servicing the F-16s, he dropped a briefcase full of Iraqi dinars that were to be given to the pilots to use for bribes if they were shot down. The formation was also spotted after takeoff by Jordan's King Hussein as he was holidaying on a yacht in the Red Sea. Thankfully for Israel, his efforts to alert Saddam about the incursion failed.

The Osirak mission went off almost without a hitch. The reactor core was destroyed in a surgical strike that was timed for a Sunday afternoon to reduce civilian casualties. The pilots made it home to the embrace of families that they had kept in the dark about the planned operation for months.

As predicted, there were condemnations across the board, from the United States to the United Nations to the Arab League. But no serious sanctions against Israel materialized, and some insiders recounted feelings of relief and sympathy in Western halls of power.

Richard Allen, U.S. national security adviser at the time, was the first to inform then-U.S. president Ronald Reagan of the Osirak strike. According to Allen, Reagan was nonplussed, but quick to quip: "Boys will be boys!"

Bereft of his prized, French-supplied reactor, Saddam ordered a secondary, secret nuclear program to be enacted. It was uncovered by the UN International Atomic Energy Agency in 1991. Few dispute that had the Osirak strike not been carried out, U.S.-led forces would have faced off with a nuclear-armed Saddam in the first Gulf War.

Ivry, who served as Israel's ambassador to Washington in the late 1990s, has a satellite image of the destroyed reactor that he received as a gift from U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney. A handwritten note on the picture reads: "With thanks and appreciation. You made our job easier in Desert Storm."

Today's Iran, of course, is not Saddam-era Iraq. Its nuclear facilities are numerous, dispersed and fortified – a challenge that many foreign experts believe is beyond even Israel's formidable capabilities.

Patrick Cronin of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said that for Israel, "while tactically military options are not nil, they are close to nil" when it comes to Iran.

Yet while Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has backed U.S.-led efforts to curb Iran's nuclear program through diplomacy, like U.S. President George W. Bush, he has refused to rule out Osirak-like pre-emptive strikes.

A bluff? Anyone who knows is not saying.

But Ivry has suggested that some assessments of Israel's current military limitations are based on the wrong assumption that the objective would be to destroy Iran's capabilities.

"When Israel struck Osirak, the intention was never to get rid of Saddam Hussein's nuclear plans. We wanted to buy time, and we succeeded in doing that," he told Reuters last year.

"You cannot eliminate an idea, a national will. But you can delay progress on a nuclear program with the appropriate military action."

But surely, thanks to Osirak, Israel or its U.S. ally have lost the key element of surprise?

Ivry pointed out that the Osirak strike was not unprecedented, as Iraq's reactor had previously come under repeated attacks from its foe Iran. The secret, it seems, is in the audaciousness of the execution.

"If and when Iran is attacked, I think I can assure you it will come as a surprise to everyone," Ivry said.


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Tribute to Israel

# Warren Buffett's Jewish connection

By CHANAN TIGAY
*JTA*

**NEW YORK** — Warren Buffett is not a Jew, and in fact describes himself as an agnostic.

Still, the billionaire investment guru, who last month made big news when his Berkshire Hathaway corporation bought an 80 per cent share in Israeli metalworks conglomerate Iscar for $4 billion (US), for years has been making his mark on the U.S. Jewish community back home – though sometimes in a roundabout way.

"Proportionally, if you look at the number of Jews in this country and in the world, I'm associated with a hugely disproportionate number," Buffett, the second richest man in the world, told JTA in a recent telephone interview.

Among the first companies Buffett acquired after launching Berkshire Hathaway, the Omaha-based investment and insurance giant, was the Sun Newspapers of Omaha, then owned by Stan Lipsey, onetime chairman of the *Jewish Press*, Omaha's Jewish newspaper. "At the time, the Omaha Club did not take Jewish members, and the Highland Country Club, a golf club, didn't have any gentile members," Lipsey recalls. "Warren volunteered to join the Highland" – rather than the gentile club – "to set an example of non-discrimination."

Buffett happily recalls the fallout from his application. "It created this big rhubarb," he says. "All of the rabbis appeared on my behalf, the ADL guy appeared on my behalf. Finally, they voted to let me in."

But that wasn't the end of the story, Buffett tells JTA. The Highland had a rule requiring members to donate a certain amount of money to their synagogues. Buffett, of course, wasn't a synagogue member, so the club changed its policy: members now would be expected to give to their synagogues, temples or churches.

But that still didn't quite work, Buffett recalls with a laugh, because of his agnosticism. In the end, the rule was amended to ask simply that members make some sort of charitable donation, and the path to Buffet's membership was clear.

"He's an incredible guy," says Lipsey, today the publisher of the *Buffalo News*. In 1973, the *Sun* won a Pulitzer prize in local investigative specialized reporting for an expose on financial impropriety at Boys Town, Nebraska.

"Warren came up with the key source for us knowing what was going on out there," Lipsey says.

Buffett himself researched Boys Town's stocks to bolster the story, Lipsey adds. In the 1960s, Omaha Rabbi Myer Kripke decided to invest in his friend Buffett's new business venture. Their wives had become friendly, he says, and the foursome enjoyed playing the occasional game of bridge together.

"My wife had no card sense, and I was certainly no competition to Warren, who is a very good bridge player and a lover of the game," Kripke, rabbi emeritus of Omaha's Conservative Beth El Synagogue, told JTA. "He's very bright and very personable and very decent. He is a rich man who is as clean as can be."

Rabbi Kripke, father of the noted philosopher Saul Kripke, bought a few shares in Berkshire Hathaway and quickly sold them, doubling his money, he says. Recognizing a good thing when he saw it, he bought a bunch more shares in his friend's company, shares that by the 1990s had made Rabbi Kripke – who says he never earned more than $30,000 a year as a rabbi – a millionaire.

Rabbi Kripke met his late wife, the children's book author Dorothy Kripke, at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the flagship institution of the Conservative movement, where Kripke was ordained as a rabbi in 1937. In 1996, flush from their prescient investment with Buffet's company, the couple decided to make a major gift to JTS – $7 million in cash to restore the building's damaged tower, and a deferred gift of some $8 million, which the seminary will receive after Rabbi Kripke passes away.

"Rabbi Kripke had the heart to make a donation to JTS, he had the will to make a donation, he had the desire to make a donation – but if he had not had the means to make a donation, the recreation of our tower would never have happened," says Rabbi Carol Davidson, the seminary's vice chancellor for institutional advancement.

"It was really only possible because of their prior investment many years ago with Warren Buffett."

Rabbi Kripke – who says he's still got a picture of Buffett's late wife, Susan, on his bulletin board – concurs. Asked if he credits Buffett with his financial success, he doesn't hesitate.

"Entirely, yes," he says. "I never had much of an income."

The Israeli government stands to reap about $1 billion (US) in taxes on Buffett's purchase of Iscar. Shortly after announcing the deal, Buffett says he was surprised to learn that a Berkshire subsidiary, CTB International, was purchasing a controlling interest in another Israeli company, AgroLogic.

In Israel – which Buffett plans to visit in the fall – the hope is that the deals will have longer legs: Buffett himself has not ruled out future purchases there and, considering his status as a leading investor, observers say others also may take a look at Israeli companies now that Buffett has done so.

"You won't find in the world a better-run operation than Iscar," Buffett says. "I don't think it's an accident that it's run by Israelis."

The Sun newspaper group was not Buffett's only early purchase of a Jewish-owned company. In 1983, sealing the deal with a handshake, Buffett bought 90 percent of the Nebraska Furniture Mart from Rose Blumkin, a Russian-born Jew who moved to the United States in 1917.

In 1989, he purchased a majority of the stock in Borsheim's Fine Jewelry and Gifts, a phenomenally successful jewelry store, from the Friedman family.

"He has many friends in the Jewish community," says Forrest Krutter, secretary of Berkshire Hathaway and a former president of the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

Buffett's former son-in-law, Allen Greenberg, is a Jew, and now runs the Buffett Foundation, much of whose work has dealt with reproductive rights and family-planning issues. Buffett's personal assistant is Ian Jacobs, who goes by his Hebrew name, Shami. Buffett himself counts the late Nebraska businessman Nick Newman and philanthropist Jack Skirball as among his "very closest friends."

"He is very much honoured in the Jewish community," Rabbi Kripke says.

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# Asian electronics firms investing in Israeli startups

By JOEL BAINERMAN

Not too many Asian multinationals invested in Israeli technology in the past 15 years, but that situation is changing.

Now that they want access to Israel's unique technology, more Asians are investing in Israeli startups.

**THE ISRAELI INVESTOR**
By JOEL BAINERMAN

Nippon Venture Capital Corporation has made a direct investment in the Israeli digital pen startup, Pegasus Technologies. Hitachi Ltd. invested in the company in 2002.

Pegasus has developed an electronic pen that captures natural handwriting on any surface onto any computing device in real time. The company's product line includes handwriting capture devices for personal computers, personal digital assistants and cellphones. The devices are available either as an accessory to a computing device or as an embedded chipset solution.

Another Japanese multinational, Fujitsu, has participated in an $8-million round of investment in ASOCS, an Israeli fabless semiconductor startup company.

ASOCS is developing a baseband chip that supports multiple wireless technologies and standards. The technology will enable cellphones to access a wireless network anywhere in the world, and will also support fixed mobile convergence with only a single processor. Currently, at least two processors are necessary for this purpose.

The technology will enable companies such as Nokia, Samsung and Motorola to introduce different cellphone models using the same platform. At present, cellphone makers must produce separate platforms for each wireless technology, which substantially increases their costs. ASOCS is also in talks with Fujitsu for manufacturing the baseband chip.

Another Asian electronics firm, Taipei, Taiwan-based Inventec Appliances, is working with Siano Mobile Silicon, an Israeli fabless manufacturer of integrated semiconductor receivers for mobile digital television (MDTV). They will be focusing on the integration of Siano's semiconductor MDTV receivers into multiple products produced by Inventec, such as cellphones and other smart hand-held devices.

Asian multinationals are not the only companies investing in Israel's tech industry. The region's financial investors are investing, too.

Last month, Tel Aviv-based Platinum Neuron Ventures signed an agreement to set up an $80-million venture capital fund with China's Shenzhen Capital Group, to invest in joint ventures between Israeli and Chinese startups.

***Also attracting Asian financial investors***

Another Israeli venture capital fund, Infinity Venture Capital Fund, has teamed up with China's China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park Venture Co. to create a fully dedicated, $75-million "China-Israel" fund. The fund was the first venture capital fund registered in China, having received the licence number 00001 from the Chinese government in June 2005.

The Infinity-CSVC Fund has invested $15 million in a Chinese plant being established by Jerusalem-based Shellcase, which makes packaging for digital consumer products and telecom infrastructure markets.

"Shellcase was doing manufacturing and R&D in Jerusalem. But you cannot manufacture for the Far East in Jerusalem," Amir Gal-Or, managing partner of the fund, said.

"So the research and development will remain in Jerusalem and the manufacturing in China. This is a good business model for other Israeli companies to emulate and an excellent way for Israeli technology-based firms to penetrate the vast Chinese market."

*Joel Bainerman is an investment consultant helping private investors in the Diaspora identify suitable investment opportunities in Israel. He can be reached in Israel at israetech@netvision.net.il*


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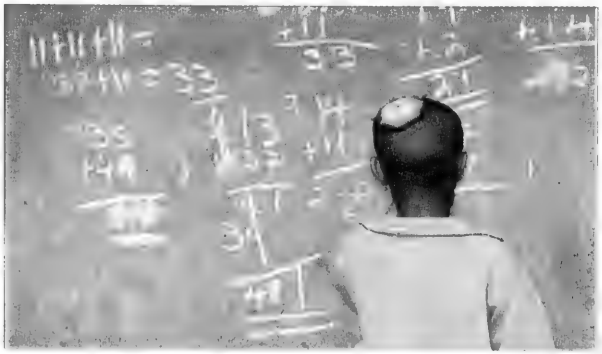

**Clockwise from top left, members of the group of 80 new olim to Israel on the eve of their departure for their new home in the Jewish state; a youngster learning arithmetic basics at a field school in Gondar; looking out the window of the plane carrying the group to Israel; and photographer Keith Levit in the middle of a group of children in Gondar.**

**[Keith Levit photos]**

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**Clockwise from top left, prospective new immigrants to Israel at the offices of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Addis Ababa; in the new terminal at Ben Gurion Airport; a husband and wife hold onto a tzdekah box; and two scenes of family reunification in the arrivals hall in Ben Gurion Airport. [Keith Levit photos]**

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# Ecological projects underway to save Israel's rivers

By EDGAR ASHER

Compared to most countries in the world, especially in view of its size, Israel is a country with an extraordinary variety of scenery, climate, flora and fauna. But Israel has few rivers. Moreover, none of the rivers that flow in the Jewish state is commercially navigable except in crafts with shallow drafts. And even then, only a few kilometres of the rivers can be used and only at certain times of the year.

Many rivers, *nahalim* in Hebrew, dry up completely in the summer months. Even in the winter, the rivers are dry most of the time and become short-lived torrents of water only in the desert regions during the winter rainy season.

The rivers where there is water all year round are mainly on the coastal plain or flow into northern Israel from Lebanon. But even in these, the flow is reduced during the summer months and the rivers become shallow streams.

When there is water, the rivers are polluted, since most of them have been receptacles for industrial and human waste. This created a situation where they could not support fish, could not be used for drinking water and were not suitable for recreation.

Another concern is that Israel's rivers have been tapped, usually at source, for their potable water. The Yarkon and Jordan Rivers are prime examples of this.

The Yarkon River, from its source in Petach Tikvah, used to flow strongly down to the sea until most of its water was utilized for drinking and agriculture. But the Yarkon became more and more polluted as its flow and level dropped.

Softshell turtle once again breed in the area.

In 1997, a footbridge across the Yarkon at Ramat Gan collapsed during the Maccabiah Games, throwing several Australian athletes into its stagnant waters. Two athletes died and many who swallowed the river water became seriously ill.

This accident brought to the attention of the public the critical situation of Israel's rivers, and although the clean-up had already started some years earlier, it was clear that the process had to be accelerated.

Nahal Alexander, which runs into the Mediterranean between Netanya and Hadera, is one of the country's longest and now most attractive waterways. Like the other rivers, it suffered from heavy pollution, but in 1994, the Alexander River Restoration Administration was created. With the cooperation of the Palestinians, a program was launched to reverse the degradation of the river, with the aim of making it attractive for visitors and clean enough to support fish.

Continued on page B11

The bend in the Alexander River

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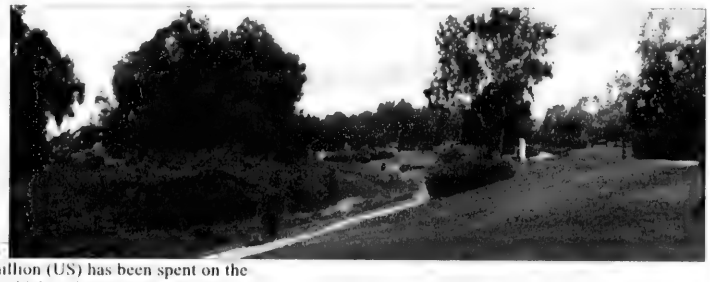
Tribute to Israel

# Area rich in flora and fauna

Continued from page B10

The Alexander flows year round and now supports a wide variety of vegetation and animal life along its banks. It also has a significant population of soft-shelled turtles, the largest species of freshwater turtles in the world. They can weigh up to 50 kilograms each.

The river is administered by the Israel Nature & National Parks Authority (INNPPA). Over the past 10 years, the quality of its water has improved to the extent that fish once again breed there and the unique population of turtles is flourishing.



Above, shallow dams, called riffles, help aerate the water in the river. The views from along many vantage points of the river are delightful and scenic. [Israel photos]

At one time, it was thought that the turtle population was nearing extinction, but now, thanks to the INNPPA intervention, they are no longer considered to be in such danger. About $2 million (US) has been spent on the first stage of the project, which includes sewage treatment pools.

Another INNPPA innovation has been the placing of large stones in strategic places across the width of the river to create shallow dams about 20 centimetres deep, called "riffles." The flow of the river over the riffles aerates the water while still allowing the fish to swim easily up and down the river.

The most attractive and interesting part of the river is a landscaped section about ten kilometres from the sea, known as Italy Park. It can be reached by an unobtrusive, paved footpath that runs beside the river. The area is rich with birds, flowers, fish and reptiles and offers delightful, scenic views from many vantage points.

About four kilometres from the sea along the river is the turtles' main habitation. A bridge crosses the river here, and observation balconies have been built to enable strollers to observe the turtles and enjoy an extended view of the scenery beyond the river.

The Alexander River project is one of several now underway to improve Israel's ecology. It has been an unquestionable success and is regarded by many as the standard by which to measure other ecological efforts.

The other projects, including the Kidron River project near Haifa, still have a long way to go. Industrial toxic waste is still finding its way into the river, despite the fact that it is illegal to dump waste into it.

In time, however, with goodwill, determination and co-operation, all of Israel's water resources will be given a newer, cleaner life, like Nahal Alexander.

*Edgar Asher is a journalist in Israel.*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**Hebrew University scientists scan a cave near Ramle which they say is a previously undiscovered prehistoric ecosystem dating back millions of years and containing life forms never before seen by man. [RNS/Reuters photo]**

# Teen to conduct research with Israeli scientists

**By JESSICA FREIMAN**
*CJN Intern*

Toronto high school student Simon "Shimmy" Bromberg is preparing for anything but a regular summer vacation.

Soon he'll be on his way to Jerusalem for six weeks of scientific research alongside some of Israel's leading academics.

Bromberg, 17, is one of 30 high school students from North America chosen to participate in the Legacy Heritage Internship for Young Scientists. The W. L. Mackenzie Collegiate Institute student will be based at Hebrew University in Jerusalem this summer and will get the opportunity to work with world-renowned leaders in their respective fields, including Itzchak Parnas in molecular neurobiology, Avishai Dekel in astrophysics and cosmology, Shabtay Dover in molecular biology, and Eshel Ofir in animal physiology.

"Science has always been one of my favourite subjects," said Bromberg, who departs June 25. "It's been clear since the start of high school that a career in the sciences is the way I'll end up going."

Bromberg names biology as his favourite topic in science, "although there is no one area that is not interesting to me," the Grade 11 student said.

"I find biology especially interesting because it can give you a new understanding of the world around you.

"Chemistry is a close second."

**Continued on page B15**

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# Predictions for Arab rapid population growth are wrong

By BENNETT ZIMMERMAN, ROBERTA SEID and MICHAEL L. WISE
*JTA*

"Arab demographic momentum" has become part of the Israeli lexicon.

According to this theory, the Arab sector, with its rapid population growth, will soon overwhelm the Jewish population, as "baby boom" generations of Arabs give birth to an even greater number of children. Arab births will accelerate even if birth rates remain stable or drop slightly because such a large number of women will enter their childbearing years.

But the evidence is now in, and it shows something surprising: demographic momentum indeed exists – but among Jews, not Arabs.

Jewish births grew rapidly, from 80,000 per year in 1995 to 96,000 in 2000 and to more than 103,000 in 2003. The demographic outlook for Jews has been improving because the Jews' total fertility rate, or the number of children a woman is likely to bear over her lifetime, has been rising.

In 2005, the Jewish fertility rate reached 2.7, the highest of any advanced industrial nation. While the fervently Orthodox contributed to this rise, secular Israelis and immigrants from the former Soviet Union also experienced increasing fertility.

When returning Israelis who have lived abroad – an average of 20,000 per year from 2001 to 2004 – and aliyah are added to the mix, the demographic weight of the Jewish sector grows even further.

In contrast, the absolute number of births in the Israeli Arab sector grew from 36,500 in 1995 to 40,800 in 2000. After rising slightly to a record 41,400 births in 2003, the number of Israeli Arab births fell in 2004 for the first time, back to 40,800.

The overall Israeli Arab fertility figure – which includes Muslims, Christian Arabs and Druze – declined from 4.4 in 2000 to 4.0 in 2004.

Israel recently enacted policies that are impacting the highest fertility sectors of the Arab population. In 2004, the government stopped granting stipends for every child born to a family, restricting them to the first two children. There was an immediate drop in Bedouin pregnancies.

The problem with demographic predictions is that they apply yesterday's or today's fertility rates to tomorrow's forecast. However, earlier childbearing patterns may have little relationship to the number of children the next generation will have.

Applying Muslim fertility rates from the 1960s – nine to 10 births per woman – Israeli demographers had projected that Israeli Arabs would overtake Israeli Jews by 1990.

When the fertility rate dropped to 5.4 in the early 1980s and 4.7 in the second half of the decade, demographers applied this rate to their next series of forecasts. However, by 2005, the Arab fertility rate had dropped even further, echoing dramatic drops reported throughout the Middle East, where most nations display fertility levels of about three births per woman.

Furthermore, Israeli Arab women now in their 20s won't necessarily repeat the childbearing characteristics of their older counterparts. Israeli Arab women who are having fewer children in their late teens and 20s might also have fewer children in their 30s than do today's 30-year-olds, who still display the fertility characteristics of earlier generations.

In contrast, Israeli Jewish women in their 20s who are having more kids might carry that choice into their 30s at rates above those of current 30-year-olds.

The practice of forecasting tomorrow's population growth from yesterday's rates is a common mistake. The United Nations' Population Division predicted in 2000 that the world's population would balloon to 12 billion people by 2050. Four years later they dramatically revised the forecast, and now predict that today's global population of 6.3 billion will plateau at 9 billion by 2050.

With constantly changing birth patterns, what's a forecaster to do? To have any relevance, a forecast must constantly be updated with the most current information and to reflect any changes in trend.

The Gallup organization recently published the results of a survey that showed a convergence in desired family size among Jews and Arabs west of the Jordan River. The ideal family size has fallen to 5.1 for Arabs in Gaza and 4.5 in the West Bank. The desired family size among both Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs is now 3.7.

While Gallup found no difference in the preferred number of children among younger Israelis, younger West Bankers, 15 to 19, believe an ideal family should have 4.1 children, compared to relatives over 50 years old, who believe the ideal family should have 5.0 children.

The convergence in desired birth activity among Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs, and particularly among younger West Bankers, is likely to further impact the future demographic outlook for Israel and the West Bank, where Jews now form a two-thirds majority.

Demographers who concentrated on past patterns in the Arab population missed the evidence of a slowdown in the Arab sector and the demographic revolution occurring among Jews. By focusing on the past, forecasters anticipated demographic momentum in the wrong sector and produced an outlook that couldn't even get the present correct, let alone the future.

*Bennett Zimmerman, Roberta Seid and Michael L. Wise are the authors of* Arab Population in the West Bank and Gaza: The Million Person Gap, *recently published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Israel.* Forecast for Israel and West Bank 2025 *was introduced at the Herzliya Policy Conference in Israel and at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. The studies can be found at www.pademographics.com.*

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Tribute to Israel

# Captain Kirk helps disabled Israeli children

By DINA KRAFT
*JTA*

TEL AVIV — William Shatner's eyes grow wide recalling the sight of an Israeli quadriplegic blind boy jogging a horse around a ring.

The eight-year-old learned to ride at a therapeutic riding centre. The centre is one of about 30 in Israel that will benefit if the Montreal-born-and-raised television star and his fourth wife are successful in raising $10 million (US) as part of an initiative, launched with the Jewish National Fund, to help children with disabilities.

"Horses make miracles," said Shatner, who was in Israel last month, translating from an alliterative Hebrew slogan. "We've fallen in love with that phrase."

The couple is hoping that horses will help create even more miracles by bringing together disabled children from Israel, the Palestinian areas and Jordan.

William Shatner

This is about "using horses as a tool to forget differences," said Shatner, who is Jewish. He first found fame as Captain Kirk on *Star Trek* and has recently returned to TV success playing lawyer Denny Crane on the hit show *Boston Legal*.

"We are extending a hand to say we want to help kids. We want to help Israeli Arabs, Palestinians, Bedouin, Druze – whose only common denominator is that they are children," Shatner said. "It's about extending a hand of peace as well as healing handicapped minds and bodies."

While in Israel, Shatner and his wife, Elizabeth, both avid horseback riders, visited several of the main therapeutic riding centres in the country, from the Galilee to the Negev Desert.

The benefits of riding for people with disabilities are vast. Horseback riding moves the rider's body in a gentle and rhythmic way, as the horse moves in a similar way to the human gait. Riders who have physical disabilities from accidents, terrorist attacks or disease often improve their flexibility, balance and coordination.

Those with mental or emotional disabilities often benefit from the patience and self-esteem they get from forging a connection with the horse.

It's also about self-confidence. For people in wheelchairs, for example, suddenly finding themselves high in the air on a horse can be an image-altering experience. For them, the horses become their legs.

"This is all a result of a horse that has managed to take them out of themselves," said Elizabeth Shatner, who has worked with horses for years.

One of her and her husband's most memorable moments on the visit was meeting a teenager whose mental disabilities make it difficult for him to speak. While sitting on a horse near them, he blurted out in perfect English, which no one realized he spoke, "I love to ride horses."

[illegible] sive. The horses they ride must be trained very well, and each rider has several trainers accompanying him or her during the ride.

The William Shatner/Jewish National Fund Therapeutic Riding Consortium Endowment for Israel aims to raise $10 million to support the some 30 therapeutic riding centres in Israel and provide scholarships for children.

The idea to help the centres in Israel started over a lunch at a Los Angeles diner between Shatner and his old friend Marvin Markowitz. Markowitz, a real estate developer and a major JNF donor, suggested Shatner bring his interest in therapeutic riding to Israel.

"Jerusalem existed in the Haggadah. That's all I knew. Now suddenly we are here," he said.

For more information, contact smorr@jnf.org

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# Combining science and Judaism

**Continued from page B12**

The Legacy Heritage Internship, a fully subsidized scholarship program, will give Bromberg an experience that few high school students can even dream of: the chance to work in a real research laboratory before deciding what to study in university.

"I'll get to experience what it's like to work in a lab and be a researcher before I have to make the choice if that's what I want to do or not."

***'It's probably the best way I could spend a summer'***

In addition to encouraging the continuation of scientific studies, the internship is designed to strengthen the students' Jewish identities and ties to Israel.

Bromberg feels that his own Jewish identity has been strengthened by his involvement with National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY). Recently, he was appointed vice-president of education on the NCSY regional board.

The internship will mark Bromberg's first visit to Israel, and he's not sure what to expect.

"I do know that it should be an amazing experience, because not only will I be involved in a lot of modern scientific endeavours, I'll also be experiencing many aspects of Israel's culture and Jewish religion, and other areas of Judaism across the country."

Bromberg is especially thankful to the funders of the Legacy Heritage Internship. "These are Jewish families supporting the community. The trip is a full scholarship and is very expensive for 30 students. It comes from generous people throughout North America," he said.

"Throughout high school I've been becoming more religious and observant on a bigger scale. This Israel program popped up as a perfect opportunity to combine the two main things in my life: science and Judaism.

"It's probably the best way I could spend a summer," Bromberg said.


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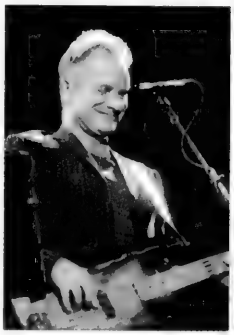
Tribute to Israel

# Celebrities bring greetings to Israel



A number of celebrities visited Israel in the past few weeks. The following is a sampling: Clockwise from top, Italian superstar Sophia Loren, Ilinois Senator Barrack Obama, Sharon Stone, Will Smith and Sting.

[Israanet, Israel Sun photos]

INSIDE

Spring 2006


***Serving Canadian Jewry and Partnering with Israel and World Jewry for 40 years***

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# Jewish Canada

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## What an Incredible Year...

# *In Fact, 40 Years!*

Stanley Plotnick with Dr. Raanan Gissin, strategic analyst, international spokesman and senior adviser to Israel's Prime Minister.

It has been an incredible and extraordinary year for me to have the privilege of serving as the president of UIA Federations Canada, the central address of Jewish Canada and partnership with Israel!

I'm fortunate to have this opportunity to lead our incredible organization as we celebrate UIA Canada's 40th Anniversary... forty years of helping to build, support and bond with the people of Israel... forty years of outstanding success.

We recently celebrated our achievements in Israel during Yom Ha'Atzmaut, as we hosted an extraordinary festival for more than 750, including 7 Canadian missions and friends from Australia, France, Venezuela and Israel.

Biking, one of many optional activities at the 40th Anniversary celebration.

We have made a real difference, both to the people of Israel as well as to our communities and the next generations. Canadian Jewry has contributed to the *aliyah* and absorption of more than 1,000,000 *olim* from the FSU, Iran, Iraq, North Africa, and Ethiopia. We have helped rescue Jews from distress, and in turn they are contributing to the future success of Israel.

Israeli superstar, David Broza performs at the celebration

In Israel, we have supported the social needs of Israelis, and particularly educational and youth-at-risk programs that focus on the specific and extraordinary needs of the people in the periphery... the Negev and Galil. We have stood with the people of Israel, in good times and tragic times, with thousands of Canadians visiting Israel at all times, even during the height of the Intifada, reaffirming our bond, and solidifying our partnership.

*Continued inside front cover*

*Message continued from cover*

*And...* we have committed to doing more for the future. We gladly accept our share of responsibility for the State of Israel, the homeland and haven of all Jews; the only country in which we will always be welcomed. And, we recognize how much more there is to do.

As we visited nearly 14,000 Ethiopians awaiting their chance to emigrate to Israel, we witnessed the devastating poverty, overwhelming sickness, and unbelievable squalor in which these people are forced to live. We, the Jewish people, can, and will save them. And they, particularly the younger generation, will ensure continued vibrancy and prosperity for Israel.

We have also achieved so much in Canada. Having visited every Canadian Federation and met with the leadership, I have been overwhelmed by the achievements of each. UIAFC has played an exciting role in impacting lives across Canada. Youth and adults have been touched by missions to Israel, by campaign support, programs for the next generation and enhancing Jewish identity, and the impact of a greatly enhanced program of advocacy, both regionally & nationally.

As I listened to the needs across Canada, I realized that we can do even better. We are evaluating every program, examining our governance, exploring our funding formulas, and leaving no stone unturned to ensure that what needs to be done is being done... effectively and efficiently.

As we celebrate our 40th year, and bid au revoir to our dear friend, leader and exceptionally talented colleague Maxyne Finkelstein, thanking her for all that she has accomplished over the last 6 years, we welcome our new Executive Vice President, Linda Kislowicz, to carry on the enormous success.

We are blessed with talented, dedicated and generous professionals and volunteers who will ensure we continue to go from strength to strength.

Thank you for the privilege of being a part of this incomparable team.

Stanley Plotnick
*President*
UIA Federations Canada

Addis Ababa Transit Camp:
Stanley Plotnick (standing) his wife Barbi and UIAC Director General Yossi Tanuri (centre) with a group of Ethiopians who were preparing to emigrate to Israel 2 weeks later.

Ottawa Leadership Mission

# Canadians Celebrate 40 Years *of Living Generously*

UIA Federations Canada recently commemorated its milestone 40th year in Israel, while celebrating Israel's 58th Independence Day. UIA was born at a time of great drama and peril for the Jewish people. In 1967 the response of the Canadian Jewish community for the Emergency campaign was nothing short of miraculous. The financial support of the Canadian Jewish community towards Israel was overwhelming, necessitating the organization of a united and efficient body to oversee our efforts in Israel.

Since then, the Canadian Jewish community has time and again risen to the challenges of Israel's growth and success. From the six-day war through to today's Operation Promise – UIA has always offered a superb fundraising response to historical events and will always continue to support Israel.

Collectively, Canadian Jewry has established more than 240 physical projects in 85 locations throughout Israel, and funded more than 1,000 programs assisting the vulnerable. Canadian projects throughout Israel include the building of libraries, auditoriums, kindergartens, community centres, sports facilities and other projects that benefit Israelis of all ages.

"Canada's partnership with Israel is a long, exciting and proud relationship that has yielded wonderful benefits to both Canadians and Israelis," says Stanley Plotnick, president of UIAFC. "Our 40th anniversary is clearly a promise of our dedication to the future of Israel. We are here as one family, ***together forever.***"

# Shaping the Face of Israel *in Canada*

The overarching strategy of shared values between Canada and Israel, based on scientific public opinion data, has shaped the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) and its family of agencies in the undertaking of a number of successful national campaigns. In the past year, coordinated programs have been implemented to strengthen the Canada-Israel relationship and the interests of the Jewish community in Canada.

- CJC and NJCL have generated public and student support as well as vital media and government attention for the victims of Darfur through public rallies and the Green Ribbon campaign.
- National student conferences, held in Vancouver, Montreal, and Halifax, have introduced new supporters of Israel to the world of Jewish advocacy and have coached activists to ensure a vibrant, safe campus community for Jewish students, working to build future advocacy leadership.
- In Quebec, QIC has reached out to government and media to communicate the Jewish community's ongoing commitment to Quebec cultural, health, and business institutions.
- CIJA and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto have partnered in carrying our messages to prominent non-Jewish audiences of business and political leaders through the first *Words & Deeds Leadership Award Dinner* in Toronto.

The foundation of a successful advocacy program is based on access to and relationships established with key political decision-makers. As the 39th Parliament settles in, we can take a measure of pride in CIJA's positioning, which reflects its solid strategic planning over the last three years.

This past year saw many Parliamentarians and political staffers visit the State of Israel through Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) Parliamentary missions. Other CIC missions directed at opinion leaders also help to promote and advance the relationship between Canada and Israel.

Through the work of various agencies, CIJA represents our efforts to translate the community's advocacy agenda into tangible results. Greatly enhanced by CIJA's investment in the missions program, we're able to make magnificent strides in shaping the future of Canada-Israel relations.

Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper (centre) with (l-r) Brent Belzberg, Co-Chair of CIJA; Mark Waldman, Honorary Adviser to CIJA Board of Directors; Professor Ed Morgan, President of CIC; and Hershell Ezrin, CEO of CIJA

Charles Bronfman, UIAFC Honorary President, in Israel surrounded by Canadian youth on a Taglit-birthright israel visit

## *Shalom Friends,*

I am pleased to congratulate you on your outstanding accomplishments over the past 40 years. I have personally witnessed the evolution of UIA Federations Canada into a leading organization serving the needs of Jewish Canada, Israel and world Jewry. Your ongoing dedication and commitment to our people and homeland is what gives us a special bond and passion for what we hold so dear.

This summer, will mark Taglit-birthright israel's 100,000th participant in Israel. As you know, this program holds a special place in my heart, yet is just one of the many initiatives UIAFC and the Canadian Federations support that help to strengthen Jewish identity. Taglit-birthright israel has had a profound and lasting impact on Jewish youth and their identity, resulting in more positive attitudes towards Israel, Judaism and the Jewish people.

I'm always touched when I see birthright israel groups from around the world meeting and imagine the impact on each as they experience Israel in a new light. However, when I see the Canadian flag among the groups, it especially warms my heart. I thoroughly enjoy being invited to share Kabbalat Shabbat with fellow Canadians at the Old City.

Even around Israel, when you mention the words Taglit or 'birthright,' people's eyes light up. To me, it's an astonishing success. Another astonishing success is Jewish Canada's wholehearted dedication to Israel through the work of UIAFC.

It is my pleasure to join you in celebrating your successes.

Best Regards,

Charles Bronfman
*Honorary President*
UIA Federations Canada

*June 2006*

# Touching the Hearts, Minds *and Souls of the Next Generation*

Canada Israel Experience (CIE) was born of the collective vision to strengthen Jewish identity among Jewish youth and young adults across Canada, and continues to be an international leader in the field of Israel Experience programming and informal Jewish/Zionist education.

For the second straight year, CIE will, CIE will send over 3,000 young Jewish Canadian adults to Israel through its many programs. Taglit-birthright israel, a cornerstone program, reaches out to Jewish youth who have never been to Israel on a peer experience. Highlights of this summer's program will include the Cuba/Canada and British/Canadian *Mifgash* (encounter) and the celebration of Talgit-birthright israel's 100,000th participant who will arrive in Israel this summer.

On Yom Ha'Shoah, close to 700 Canadian *March of the Living* (MOL) participants marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau honoring the memory of those who perished under Nazi rule. The Canadian MOL program is instrumental in building a strong Jewish identity in our youth and teaching the lessons of the *Shoah*. Holocaust survivor and hidden child, **Anita Ekstein** of Toronto chaired this year's March, and along with 12 other Canadian Holocaust survivors, shared her personal story with the young people throughout the trip.

This year CIE worked with Jewish schools across the country and this has resulted in community high school Israel experience programs from schools in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. CIE has also undertaken to be the local partner of MASA in Canada, a unique partnership between the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency, which aims at increasing the number of young Jewish adults spending time on long-term programs in Israel.

Offering innovative and creative programming, CIE and the Israel experience professionals across the country are planning and delivering a wide variety of programs for potential participants and post programming for alumni. Under the leadership of **Dale Boidman,** Chair of the CIE Management Committee, we're looking forward to another successful year of building tomorrow's Jewish community leaders.

March of the Living participants in Israel with Montreal's March of the Living Chair, Howard Stotland, and Barbi & Stanley Plotnick

Campus Leadership Mission

# *Training Campus Advocates:* Zionism Inside and Out

*"An organization has achieved a measure of success when its strategies become part of the organizational culture."* The Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), through the leadership of the Canada Israel Committee, has placed "Shared Values" at the centre of its advocacy agenda - and the message is spreading.

National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL), along with the other CIJA agents, has embraced and integrated "Shared Values" into campus advocacy strategies across Canada. The large majority of student leaders and student groups advocating for Israel have embraced this framework and the results are positive.

Students are now articulating the values that Canada and Israel both hold dear and are able to contextualize them so that they make sense to other students. Many students have become quite effective in using the "Shared Values" approach to advocacy, working with the media to obtain positive coverage of Israel, while others are focusing their attention on students who are open to learning about the Middle East in an intellectually honest manner.

Now that our students are communicating the values that Canada and Israel share, it is time to educate them further on the factors that make Israel special and unique. Our advocates need to understand the history of Zionism, the spectrum of Zionist thought and most importantly why they are Zionists.

As more and more students are making the connection of how Israel and Canada are similar, they must also be educated as to why Israel is special and unique.

It is clear that Israel, Jewish identity, advocacy and leadership are interconnected. NJCL will be dedicating significant professional, financial, and programmatic resources this year toward leadership development and Zionist education. In doing so, the Canadian Jewish community is preparing students to be the most effective, eloquent, knowledgeable, and passionate advocates in the world.

# *A Home Away from Home*
## for Jewish Students

**The Albert and Temmy Latner Foundation** has established three Jewish student centres on or near the campuses of Dalhousie University, Wilfred Laurier, the University of Waterloo and the University of Western Ontario.

Albert Latner's investment investment in the infrastructure of Jewish campus life has proved to be invaluable. Latner Centres provide a physical space for a large range of programs and activities including Shabbat and Holiday celebrations, socials, educational events, Hebrew classes, meetings and more. But most important, the Latner Centres have become homes for Jewish students when they are away at university. They have become places of comfort and serve as the foundation for building Jewish life on campus.

A student at Dalhousie University expressed the impact of the Latner Centre, (otherwise known as "bayit", which translates to "home" in Hebrew):

"Every community needs a solid centre, which serves as a common reference point to all of its members. This is what the Bayit has meant to us. The Bayit is essentially a magnet, as it gathers together the many disparate Jewish students of the Halifax student community. It is no coincidence that since we've had the Bayit, our average numbers for events have increased astronomically, to points unimagined in years past. It is truly a blessing... (for)... the students of Halifax... (to)... have a warm and loving new home that welcomes them with open arms."

Western Hillel Student Executive in front of Albert and Temmy Latner Centre

**Albert Latner** has demonstrated a tremendous level of commitment to Jewish university students across Canada and we are quite confident that the three centres will keep students and the Latner Foundation connected with an unbreakable bond of commitment to Jewish life and Israel.

# Keeping Canada's Emerging Leaders
## *Inspired and Passionate*

National Young Leadership TO'05 Conference co-chairs Josh Cooper, Liann Granovsky, Alison Hillel and David Spiro.

The National Young Leadership (NYL) Department of UIA Federations Canada is helping develop leaders for today and tomorrow. The NYL works with a group of already identified young leaders from across Canada, known as the NYL Executive, which is comprised of the Young Adult or Young Leadership chairs and vice-chairs from each community, and is steered by a Management Team. Also on the NYL Executive are the national program, mission and portfolio chairs.

Our community message has resonated with each of these dedicated leaders initially but it is our responsibility to help keep each engaged. NYL coordinates system-wide, enabling our leaders to spend time in different leadership positions.

Current Chair of NYL, **David Spiro,** for example, has chaired UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Young Adult Division, as well as Co-Chaired its Young Lawyers' Division, prior to joining the NYL Executive Management Team. David's leadership career will continue as he becomes installed as the UJC NYL Co-Chair-Designate in August of this year. We are proud of David's accomplishment in being the first Canadian UJC NYL Co-Chair. There is no doubt that David will continue to answer his community's call.

Similar strides have been made by NYL Vice-Chair, **Stephen Gaerber.** Stephen helped to establish a Ben Gurion Society chapter in Vancouver, and is very involved on a national level. He is currently Chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's Israel and Overseas Department.

NYL Israel Advocacy Initiative partnership with Canada-Israel Committee ensures that our National missions, Executive Retreats and Leadership Institutes continue to help keep our emerging leaders inspired and passionate. Both Stephen and David continue to be active members of UIA Federations Canada Board of Directors.

## *RJCO Holocaust Education Program* Continues to Expand its Reach

The Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO) Holocaust Education program offers workshops to teacher and teacher candidates in university Faculties of Education in Ontario, and is beginning to expand throughout Canada. This program also reaches numerous public schools and Boards of Education across the Province, particularly where Jewish presence is very limited or non-existent.

Speakers and facilitators have had a particularly busy year spreading valuable knowledge as well as effective pedagogical strategies suitable for classroom use. "From northern Ontario's Nipissing and Lakehead universities, to southern Ontario's universities, students have appreciated this unique combination of academic and practical teaching techniques, as well as the opportunity to meet with survivors of the Holocaust," notes **Professor Michael Grand,** chair of RJCO.

In partnership with Canadian Jewish Congress, a grant of $50,000 US was secured from the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany Inc. to subsidize these workshops on campuses outside Ontario. Recent interest in effective Holocaust education has soared and the program is currently booked well into spring 2007.

UIAFC's 40th Anniversary Celebration in Israel

Israel UIAFC staff at 40th Anniversary Celebration

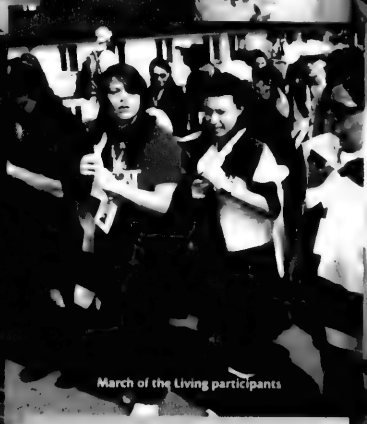
Montreal's CIA FEDERATION Chairmen's Mission

Canada Israel Experience (CIE)

UIAFC Board Meeting Reception with Keren Hayesod-UIA Leadership

(L to r.) Mark Leibler, World Chairman, Board of Governors, KH; Greg Mauel, Director General, KH; Richard Vinneberg, President, Montreal FEDERATION CJA; and David Engel, President, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

UIAFC Leadership Mission to Ethiopia



March of the Living participants

4th Annual Gon of Judah Luncheon

Canadian UIAFC Staff

CIE's Taglit-birthright Israel participants

UIAFC and Halifax leadership in Halifax

National Women's Leadership Rocky Mountain Chai Conference

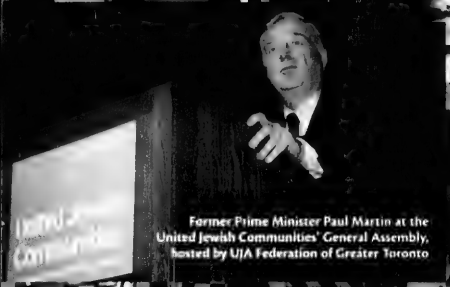
Top Gifts Mission to South Africa

[illegible] Children Welcoming a Canadian Friend [illegible]

School Children Welcome Toronto Friends and Supporters

National Jewish Campus Life Supports STAND's (Students Taking Action; Darfur) Initiatives

Partnership 2000 Coast-to-Coast Steering Committee



Former Prime Minister Paul Martin at the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly, hosted by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

[illegible] Young Leadership Tel Aviv One Mission

[illegible] CIJA FEDERATION [illegible] Ivor Ch'ng Shimon

Partnership with Israel Coast-to-Coast Living Bridge

UJA Toronto and CIJA First Words & Deeds Leadership Award Dinner

UIAFC Leadership with former Israeli PM Ariel Sharon

UJA Toronto Prime Minister's Mission meets with Israeli PM Ehud Olmert

Students from National Jewish Campus Life engage in Tikun Olam in New Orleans

**Yossi Tanuri,**
*Director-General*
*United Israel Appeal of Canada*

I have been lucky to serve as Director General of UIA of Canada in a particularly significant year, as we launch a year of celebrating our 40th Anniversary since the establishment of UIA Canada.

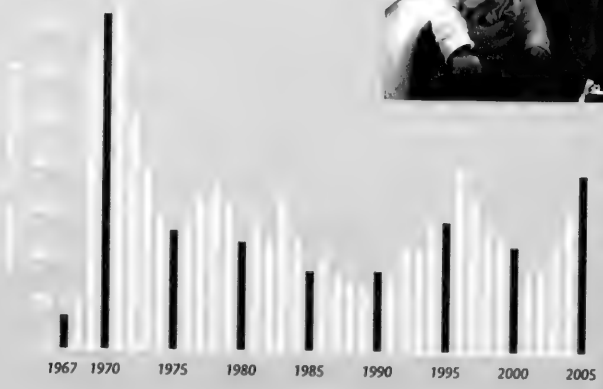
UIAC has grown into one of the most prestigious, significant and renowned institutions in the country. In our 40 years of presence in Israel, the Canadian Federations, represented in Israel by UIAC, have established and supported more than 1,000 programs and built more than 240 physical projects across the country, from Eilat in the south to Metulla in the north.

And as we look back on our achievements with tremendous pride we also look towards to the future, with the knowledge that we will partner with the State of Israel to overcome the challenges it faces. Together, we are trying to create a better Israel that will ensure a better future for the Jewish people wherever we choose to live.

Israel has been the most spectacular Jewish dream in more than two thousand years of Jewish history, and we are all privileged to live in a time when our dream is being fulfilled. *UIAC has been the vehicle to fulfill our dream and will continue to do so for many years to come.* UIAC is committed to *medinat yisrael* and *am yisrael,* ***together, forever.***

*June 2006*

## Canadian *Aliya* Statistics




## Living Bridge Celebrates a

Thousands of Israelis have benefited from Canadian funding throughout the years. Over the past decade, a unique connection has been made between the people of Canada and Israel through the *Gesher Chai (Living Bridge)* Program, an extension of the Jewish Agency's *Project Renewal* and *Partnership 2000.*

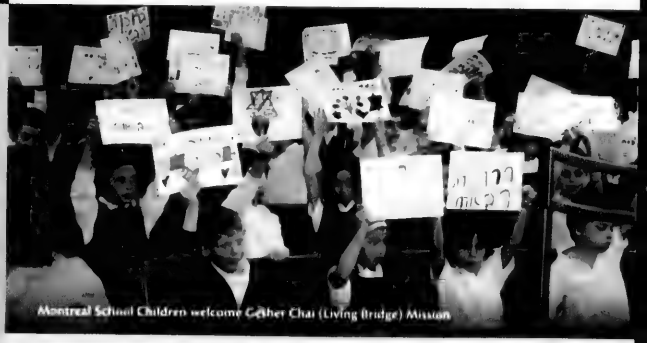
The *Gesher Chai* program responds to the needs of Israeli society in economically and socially disadvantaged regions such as the **Galilee Panhandle, Beer Sheva/B'Nei Shimon** and **Eilat/Eilot.** Professional connections have been formed between educational professionals and Canadian students are in contact with their Israeli peers via e-mail and video-conferences. The *Gesher Chai* framework has allowed our youngsters to deal with the central and crucial issue of Jewish identity on both cognitive and emotional levels.

**Toronto**'s partnership with **Eilat/Eilot,** the southern-most region of Israel, has had a powerful effect on the improved quality of education. The *Youth Futures* program involves personalized intervention, ensuring that each child has the opportunity to successfully complete high school and move into the future as a confident adult. The program is strengthening Israel's civic responsibility, closing social gaps and creating a grassroots volunteer network.

**Montreal** recently enjoyed the benefits of the *Gesher Chai* through a reciprocal program in which 17 Israeli students visited their Canadian peers. Four of the Israeli students assisted Bialik High School in the organization of a *Yom Hazikaron* assembly. "The assembly was among the most powerful and emotionally driven gatherings in years," said one teacher. "Amid restrained tears and heartfelt goodbyes, they have left several people with countless memories and a revived connection with Israel," commented Corey Omer, a graduating student of Bialik.

In **Metulla,** the northern-most Israeli town, **Canada's Coast to Coast communities** have helped to reinforce the commitment of local youth toward their own community. Students are asked to volunteer time to help the community, which in turn builds and empowers new leaders for the future. "Our youngsters have become more active in helping out during emergencies and have become real partners and even initiators in the community-at-large", says one teacher.

The *Gesher Chai Schools* project is now celebrating its 10th birthday. It is truly a special gift and a unique Israel experience for all.



Montreal School Children welcome Gesher Chai (Living Bridge) Mission

"I was part of the Operation Solomon Mission and came with my two siblings, but without my parents. I have worked hard and achieved a lot. The *Atidim in Industry Program* is helping me to achieve even more."

Benny Ferede was 14 years old when he arrived in Israel with his 28-year-old brother and 13-year-old sister. His parents remain in Ethiopia until today. Suddenly catapulted into a completely different society, he had to learn a new language and new culture.

Benny began his education at a residential school in the north and completed his studies in central Israel. He served in Israel's navy, and upon his discharge, decided to pursue a higher education degree. "I received a Jewish Agency supported Student Authority Scholarship to study photography and web design at the Camera Obscura School of Art in Tel Aviv," says Benny.

In 2005, Benny married Yirus, who recently received her bachelor's degree in biology from Bar Ilan University. The young couple live in Kiryat Ono and have a baby girl.

Benny Ferede

Benny now teaches photography at the Holon Technological Institute (HTI), and is furthering his education with the assistance of the Jewish Agency's *Atidim in Industry program*. He receives full financial support from *Atidim* while learning Instructional Systems Technologies.

"*Atidim* develops what would have been wasted potential of some of the most talented youth in the country, and changes their lives, allowing them to fulfill their potential and contribute fully to Israeli society," says Benny Landa, a leading Israeli businessman involved in the *Atidim* program.

*Atidim in Industry* is just one program which will benefit from the Operation Promise Campaign. Operation Promise is initiating vital programs to provide Ethiopian youth and young adults with equal educational opportunities and ensure their full integration into Israeli society.

# *Loving Kindness for Elderly Jews*

## in the Former Soviet Union

With no family, Sara now relies on the services of her local *Hesed* Centre, at which she previously volunteered.

With the collapse of the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and its economy, came a serious deterioration in the health and welfare of its people, especially the aged and disabled. Today, there are fewer Jewish people to care for their elderly than in the general population. Previously, many Jews fled blatant discrimination to pursue careers in under-developed regions, while others emigrated and the weakest were left behind.

The Jewish Federations of Canada are responding to the despair of the elderly Jews through Operation Promise and the establishment of *Hesed* centres. *Hesed* (Hebrew for "loving kindness"), a community-oriented program based on volunteerism and Jewish values, uses welfare as a unifying force. Today, thousands of volunteers care for the elderly at many *Hesed* welfare centres which have been created by the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) throughout the FSU. Services include: food packages, meals-on-wheels, social clubs, soup kitchens, heating fuel, medical equipment loans, home care, winter clothing, aid to the visually and hearing impaired and medical consultations.

UIA Federations Canada is committed to making a difference in the lives of the elderly Jews in the FSU through Operation Promise. We are committed, as part of a world-wide effort to raise $30 million to meet the social welfare needs of the underserved elderly. Through Operation Promise we are working to fulfill our legacy and take responsibility for one another's safety, health and quality of life. Operation Promise embodies all our traditions and values of generosity and justice that are the hallmark of the Jewish people.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Jewish residents in FSU | 1.5 million |
| Jewish residents over 60 years of age | 30% |
| Annual income of Holocaust Survivors | $260 |
| Annual income of remaining Jewish elderly | $150 |
| Elderly without adequate nutrition and medication | 200,000 |

# *Missions*

**June 24 - July 4**
**July 18 - 28**
**Sept 3 - 10**
**Sept 5 - 12**
**Sept 14 - 19**
**Sept 19 - 23**
**Oct 31 - Nov 6**
**Nov 22 - 28**
**Dec 15 - 23**
**Dec 25 - Jan 4**

**Jan 22 - Feb 2**
**Jan 26 - Feb 5**
**Feb 11 - 17**
**Feb 12 - 17**
**Feb 14 - 17**
**Feb 20 - 27**
**Mar 1 - 9**
**Apr 2 - 7**
**Apr 23 - 29**
**Apr 27 - May 5**
**Apr 27 - May 7**
**May 1 - 7**
**May 1 - 8**
**May 7 - 11**
**May 7 - 18**
**May 15 - 19**

## Consolidated Summary of Statement of Operations

United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc.

*for the year ended December 31, 2005*

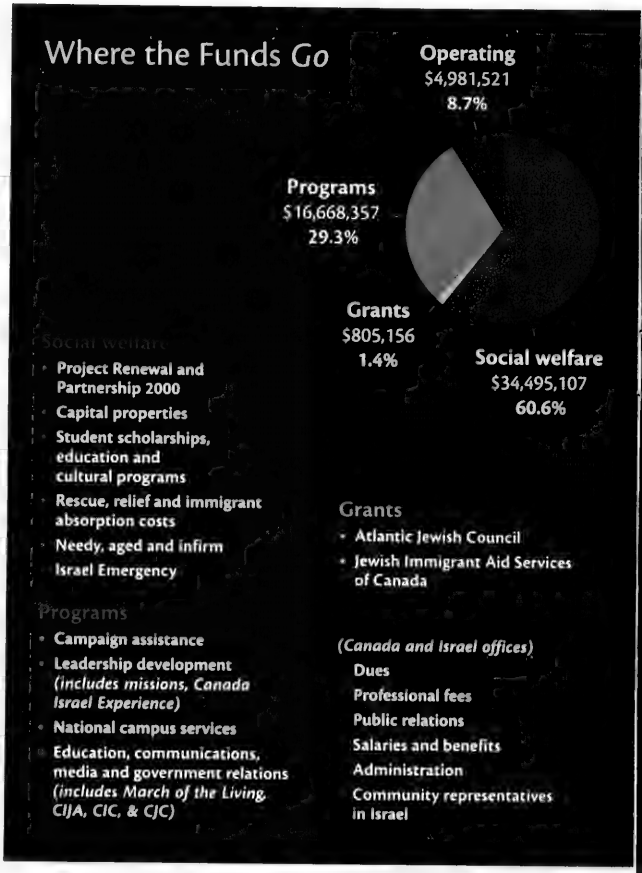
### Revenues

| | |
|---|---|
| Donations | 60,294,158 |
| Interest | 638,020 |
| | **60,932,178** |

### Expenditures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Israel Direct Social Welfare Programs** | |
| Rescue, relief and immigration absorption costs | 14,538,327 |
| Student scholarships and higher education | 9,962,661 |
| Needy, aged and infirm | 4,149,161 |
| Canadian capital projects | 2,908,830 |
| Project Renewal and Partnership 2000 | 2,068,381 |
| Israel Emergency | 867,747 |
| | **34,495,107** |
| **National Grants** | **805,156** |
| **Program and Operating Costs** | |
| Leadership development and Canada Israel youth program subsidies | 3,235,888 |
| Campaign assistance | 1,086,218 |
| National campus services | 2,024,436 |
| Education, communications, media and government relations | 10,321,815 |
| Operating costs | 4,981,521 |
| | **21,649,878** |
| | **56,950,141** |
| Excess of Revenues over Expenditures | **$ 3,982,037** |

## Where the Funds *Go*




Regional Jewish Communities of Canada

# *Campaign 2005*

UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) provides Regional Jewish communities across Canada with the campaign support, community and organizational consultation required to help preserve Jewish life locally and strengthen ties with Israel and world Jewry.

The Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO), a department of UIAFC, offers access to Jewish identity programs and services, including community development, youth and adult outreach, Holocaust education and missions to Israel. Highlights of the past year inclded youth Shabbatons, participation in Toronto's Walk for Israel Day, and a group of high students participating in an Israel summer experience. The 2005 UJA Campaign continued to be strong, reaching $640,000.

The Atlantic Jewish Council organized a very successful 2005 UJA Campaign totalling $635,000. Growth in Halifax is evident with the increase of younger families joining community activities. Saskatchewan Regional Council campaigns in both Regina and Saskatoon continued in a tradition of strong community support for local needs and Israel. Saskatoon's commitment to the community is further reinforced by the Jewish Agency's "Young Shlichim" program, which has energized the community to new levels of activity.

**Thank you to the past leadership of UIA Federations Canada including those who have served UIAC and CJF prior to our merger in 1998.**

### UIA Federations Canada

| | |
|---|---|
| Shoel Silver | June 2003 - June 2005 |
| Yoine Goldstein | June 2001 - June 2003 |
| David Goldstein | June 1999 - June 2001 |
| Harvey Wolfe | Jan 1996 - June 1999 |

### UIA Canada *(prior to merger with Council of Jewish Federations in 1998)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Gerald Halbert | Oct 1992 - Jan 1996 |
| Julia Koschitzky | Aug 1990 - Oct 1992 |
| Sol Lederman zl | Aug 1988 - Aug 1990 |
| Martin Levine | Sept 1986 - Aug 1988 |
| Allan Offman | Aug 1984 - Sept 1986 |
| Morton Brownstein | Oct 1982 - Aug 1984 |
| Joe Ain zl | May 1980 - Oct 1982 |
| Jack Rose | Sept 1977 - May 1980 |
| Phil Granovsky zl | Oct 1975 - Sept 1977 |
| Thomas Hecht | June 1973 - Oct 1975 |
| Gordon Brown zl | Dec 1970 - June 1973 |
| Jacob Lowy zl | Sept 1967 - Dec 1970 |

### Canadian Jewish Federation *(prior to merger with UIA Canada in 1998)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ted Zacks | Peter Wolkove | Hillel Becker |
| Richard Vineberg | Irving Halpern | Jack Rose |
| George Wasserstein | Donald Carr | David Satok |
| Herb Rosenfeld | | |

**Honorary President**
**Charles R. Bronfman**

**President**
**Stanley K. Plotnick**

**Immediate Past President**
**Shoel Silver** *(Chair Nominations Committee)*

**Vice Presidents**
**Dr. Ralph Shedletsky,** *Administration (Chair Budget & Finance)*
**Victor Goldberg,** *Financial Resource Development*
**Barbara Bank,** *Israel and Overseas (Chair National Jewish Campus Life)*
**Marilyn Blumer,** *Israel and Overseas*
**Richard Diamond,** *Planning Allocations and Services*
**Barbara Farber,** *Planning Allocations and Services*
**David Spiro,** *Young Leadership*
**Barbara Bregman,** *National Women's Division*
**Jewel Lowenstein,** *National Women's Division*
**Harvey Wolfe,** *Keren Hayesod Representative*
**Donald Carr,** QC, *Secretary/Honorary Legal Counsel*

**Federation Representation**
**Marc Gold,** *Montreal*
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## Welcoming our new *Executive Vice President*

**Linda Kislowicz** will assume the position of Executive Vice President in September of 2006. Linda is a senior experienced professional who brings to this position a strong commitment to community, and Israel and Jewish continuity. She has served in many professional and volunteer capacities throughout her career. We welcome Linda and look forward to working with her.

# Dear Friends,

As the end of June approaches, I will complete my term as Executive Vice President. I come to this juncture with mixed feelings. A decision to move on to new opportunities has forced me to reflect on accomplishments and that which remains to be completed...

My personal time line includes seeing the true conjunction of our two predecessor organizations and the evolution of UIAFC, the incredible impact of Taglit birthright Israel, the role we assumed in encouraging the outstanding Israel Emergency Campaign, the reorganization of JIAS, a reassessment of the application of national collective responsibility and the development of CIJA. I believe that I can step away with pride when considering these major achievements as well as the renewed emphasis on the next generation, increased and more defined resources directed towards Israel, improved accountability, growing attention to those who provide major philanthropic support, enhanced relationships with Federations and the development of a strong lay leadership core.

One of the greatest assets of our organization is the outstanding staff. In both Canada and Israel we are blessed with an accomplished, dedicated team who understand the importance of quality service and dedication to our basic values.

I would like to thank Harvey Wolfe who encouraged me to apply for this position. A special thanks to David Goldstein, Yoine Goldstein, Shoel Silver and Stanley Plotnick – the Presidents who led this organization and allowed me to benefit from varied and outstanding styles of lay leadership.

I wish for my successor Linda Kislowisz, as great a professional and personal experience as I have had in Toronto. She is most fortunate to have this opportunity.

In my new position as CEO of the Jewish Agency for Israel, North America (JAFINA), I look forward to continuing to work with my many friends and colleagues in Canada.

*B' shalom*

Maxyne Finkelstein
*Executive Vice President*
UIA Federations Canada

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## This Week

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**Quebec Jews** told to stay neutral in sovereignty dispute. *Page 18*

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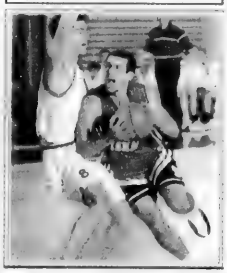
**Leonard Cohen** documentary lacks focus. *Page 30*

Sports & Leisure



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# Two Israeli soldiers killed, one abducted in raid on IDF base

By DAN BARON
*JTA*

TEL AVIV — Days away from a planned summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, a deadly clash on the Gaza Strip border has raised the spectre of major escalation.

In their first successful raid out of Gaza since Israel quit the coastal strip last year, Palestinians on Sunday tunnelled under the border fence and stormed an Israeli military position near Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

Two soldiers, Lt. Hanan Barak, 21, from Arad, and Sgt. Pavel Slutsker, 20, from Dimona, were killed and Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, was taken captive. The soldiers returned fire, killing three attackers, and the rest retreated to Gaza.

Shalit, from Mitzpeh Hila in the Galilee, was wounded at the time of his capture and was said to be in stable condition. Palestinian sources said Shalit had stomach and chest wounds.

"This situation is extremely grave," said Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz, Israel's military chief.

Armed groups historically have used captured Israeli soldiers as bargaining chips for the release of Palestinian prisoners. However, Olmert ruled out negotiations over Shalit's release.

In a Sunday night meeting, the government's political-security cabinet decided that the army would begin planning a military operation to rescue Shalit, an operation that Olmert was quoted as saying "will last more than a day or two."

Continued on page 25

**Israeli forces assemble at the Israel Defence Forces base that was attacked on the weekend by Palestinian terrorists. Two soldiers were killed and one was abducted in the raid.** [*Isranet photo*]

# Canada pledges to fight terrorism

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Terrorism and radical Islam were jointly condemned at a rally last week addressed by Canadian Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day and backed in a written message by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who pledged that Canada is committed "to combating terrorism internationally."

The United Against Terrorism event, initiated by Aish Toronto and Ezer Mizion, was supported by a variety of organizations, ranging from Canadian Jewish Congress and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem to the Canadian Coptic Association, the Hindu Conference of Canada and the Canadian Lebanese Human Rights Federation.

Featured speakers included the president of the Muslim Canadian Congress, as well as a former U.S. government official, relatives of terrorist victims and the father of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan a few months ago.

Harold Nashman, co-chair of the rally, attended by hundreds of people and held at the cavernous Toronto Centre for the Arts, probably struck the theme of the night when he declared, "Terrorism is very close to home. It knows no borders."

In a brief speech, Day said that Canada will be increasing its counter terrorism co-operation with other countries.

Continued on page 5

**Korach**
**Candlelighting: 8:46**
**Havdallah: 9:51**

*Greater Toronto Area*

*Don't mi*
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**Magen David Adom admitted into Red Cross movement — see page 26**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Hospital Gets $25M

**TORONTO** — Construction and sports magnate Larry Tanenbaum last week gave $25 million to Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, the largest donation ever for the downtown facility. The money will go to the hospital's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute to fund annual research awards. Last month, Tanenbaum, chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, gave $50 million to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. His latest gift comes after recent ones by other prominent Jewish philanthropists: Peter Munk's $37-million gift to Toronto General Hospital and Gordon and Leslie Diamond's $20-million gift to Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital Foundation.

#### Clarification

**TORONTO** — Barbara Farber has started her term as president-elect of United Israel Appeal Federations Canada and will replace Stanley Plotnick as president next June, when he completes his term. *The CJN* printed incorrect information on Farber last week.

### WORLD

#### Conviction Nixed

**MOSCOW** — Russia's Supreme Court has overturned the conviction of a man who attacked shul-goers. The court said the reasoning behind the June 20 ruling will be publicized later. Earlier this year, Alexander Koptsev was sentenced to 13 years in jail for stabbing nine people at a Moscow shul last January. A new trial is expected.

#### Man Unfit For Trial

**MOSCOW** — A Russian man who stormed into a shul and tried to attack worshippers in January was found mentally unfit to stand trial. A court in Rostov-on-Don ruled June 9 that Vadim Domnitsky should get psychiatric treatment. He was facing hooliganism charges. Witnesses said he also shouted anti-Semitic threats before he was subdued.

#### Looted Art Auctioned

**NEW YORK** — A Holocaust-era looted painting that was recently returned to its heirs was auctioned for $104.1 million (US). The Gustav Klimt painting will now be displayed at the Neue Galerie, a New York gallery owned by Ronald Lauder. The 1907 portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer was recently returned to Bloch-Bauer's niece, Maria Altmann. Now living in Los Angeles, Altmann, 90, pursued litigation for seven years against Austria to get back the painting, which was first taken from the Bloch-Bauers by Nazis, then taken over by the state. After a 2004 U.S. Supreme Court ruling backing Altmann and subsequent negotiations, the painting was finally returned.

#### Divestment Repealed

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — The Presbyterian Church USA has backed away from its 2004 decision to divest from firms that do business in Israel. Meeting at its General Assembly in Birmingham, Ala., the church voted 483-28 to replace a resolution of its last assembly that called for a "phased, selective divestment in multinational corporations operating in Israel." The new policy of "corporate engagement" would restrict investments in Israel, Gaza and West Bank to peaceful pursuits and alters church policy on Israel's security barrier. The 2004 resolution called for the barrier's removal, but the version approved last week asks that the barrier be dismantled where it extends beyond Israel's 1967 borders. The new resolution "puts us back in the place of being an advocate for both" sides, said Rev. Bob Henley of Idaho.

#### Fighting Missionaries

**NEW YORK** — Several Jewish groups are launching a campaign to counter one by Jews for Jesus in the New York area. Jews for Judaism is working with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Jewish Federation of New York and the New York Board of Rabbis to oppose the "grand finale" of the Behold Your God campaign, which has already targeted cities worldwide, including Toronto and Montreal.

### Crown Appeals Ruling in Ahenakew Case

**REGINA** — The Crown last week said it will appeal a recent decision by a Saskatchewan court to overturn native leader David Ahenakew's hate crime conviction.

David Ahenakew

Ahenakew, a former national head of the Assembly of First Nations, was convicted last year of wilfully promoting hatred and fined $1,000 for comments he made to a reporter in 2002, in which he praised Hitler and described Jews as a "disease." The remarks came after he told a native health conference that the Jews started World War II.

In a decision this month, the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench said the trial judge erred in not considering if Ahenakew had wilfully intended to promote hatred. Chief Justice Robert Lang said the reporter approached Ahenakew, who seemed reluctant to get into a discussion about Jews.


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# Controversial sheik will speak at youth conference

## *Ul-Haq has said that Jews are the enemies of Islam*

**By SHERI SHEFA**
*Staff Reporter*

A controversial British imam who is known to speak out against Jews, Hindus and moderate Muslims is scheduled to address a youth conference in Toronto this week.

Sheik Riyadh ul-Haq, the keynote speaker at the June 30 to July 2 Youth Tarbiyah conference, will educate Muslim youth about Islam and address issues facing Islamic youth in Canada, said Mohammad Alam, president of Islamic Foundation of Toronto, the event organizer.

Immigration Minister Monte Solberg has denied requests made by Canadian faith groups to bar ul-Haq from entering the country, but organizers of a McMaster University seminar as well as a Montreal conference at which ul-Haq was scheduled to speak have decided to cancel the imam's appearances.

The McMaster Muslim Student Association cited a scheduling conflict as the reason, while the organizers of the Montreal conference cancelled his appearance over concerns of negative publicity.

Alam stands behind ul-Haq as a motivational speaker and said he believes the media has painted an unfair picture of him by pulling quotes from a lecture posted on an Islamic website and taking them out of context.

In a speech titled "Jewish Fundamentalism and the Muslims," ul-Haq, formerly the imam at a Birmingham, England, mosque, has been quoted as labelling moderate Muslims as homosexuals "who feel absolutely no shame, or they don't see any sense of irony in the fact that they openly declare that Israel should be recognized as a Jewish state."

Ul-Haq also said that Jews and the chief idolaters, Hindus, are the enemies of Islam.

"Of the whole of mankind you shall find that the most intense in their hatred towards the believers, the most intense in their hatred and enmity towards the believers... the Jews and the *mushrikin*, the idolaters," ul-Haq said, translating a verse from the Qur'an.

"Of the peoples of the earth, the ones that hate Muslims the most, the ones who are bitterest in their enmity towards Muslims, the most unrelenting, unforgiving, are the Jews and the *mushrikin*, idolaters in all their forms," he added, paraphrasing from the Qur'an.

The imam also spoke about a Jewish superiority complex that leads Jews to treat members of other faiths differently, and suggested that the State of Israel is based on a foundation of "trigger-happy soldiers" who shoot "little children, girls and boys in the head with live ammunition without any shame, without any loss of moral feeling."

He said Jews monopolize everything, including the Holocaust, God, the media and politics, and prayed that Allah would "give all Muslims... the understanding and the sense to see through their propaganda, their lies and deceit, and to view them as they really are and thus treat them accordingly."

Len Rudner, the national director of community relations at the Canadian Jewish Congress, said that while Alam's claim that the imam's quotes may have been taken out of context is conceivable, in what context, he asked, would those quotes be acceptable?

"[His visit] is a matter of great concern. We work hard to create an environment where people can agree and respectfully disagree in a public forum and his comments are the antithesis of what Canadians have worked for," Rudner said.

"He's saying that the basic tenet of Judaism is to hate Muslims and to be possessed by an innate sense of superiority. If the sheik were to make these comments on Canadian soil, this would constitute as a violation of the Canadian [Criminal] Code and I'm confident that the law enforcement would recognize that," Rudner added.

But Tarek Fatah, the Muslim Canadian Congress communications director, is opposed to giving the sheik even a chance to say something inflammatory and hateful.

"The moment he lands in Canada he should be charged," he said.

Fatah predicted that with the media scrutiny, ul-Haq will make sure to talk about peace, brotherhood and unity, rather than make controversial political statements.

"He says one thing when the mike is on and another thing when the mike is off.

"His speech will be a façade. He'll put on his best British accent to charm the Canadians because Canadians are suckers for British accents," he said with a laugh.

Fatah believes that regardless of his message during the upcoming conference, he should be arrested and charged for spreading hate and should be forced to defend his views in court.

In response to the allegation that the ringleader of the 17-person terrorist group that was recently arrested in Toronto distributed DVDs that glorify terrorism and the 9/11 attacks at a Toronto-area mosque, Rudner said that "there are those who believe this is a new thing and there are those who think it's always been going on.

"But this raises a warning bell in the heads of members of all communities, not just the Jewish community. We all have a responsibility to be aware of what is going on in our own community."

Fatah said "we have not learned anything" from the recent arrest of the Muslims allegedly involved in a terrorist plot.

"It's like we have gone through the whole trauma for nothing," he added.

"I don't know if the 17 young men are guilty, but within the Muslim community, it seems that hate and deep disaffection is spreading."

But Alam said that inviting Muslim scholars like ul-Haq to speak to the youth in Toronto will educate them.

"After what happened, we want to teach youth how to handle situations within the context of our culture," he said.

"We're bringing in scholars to speak about it within the Islamic context."

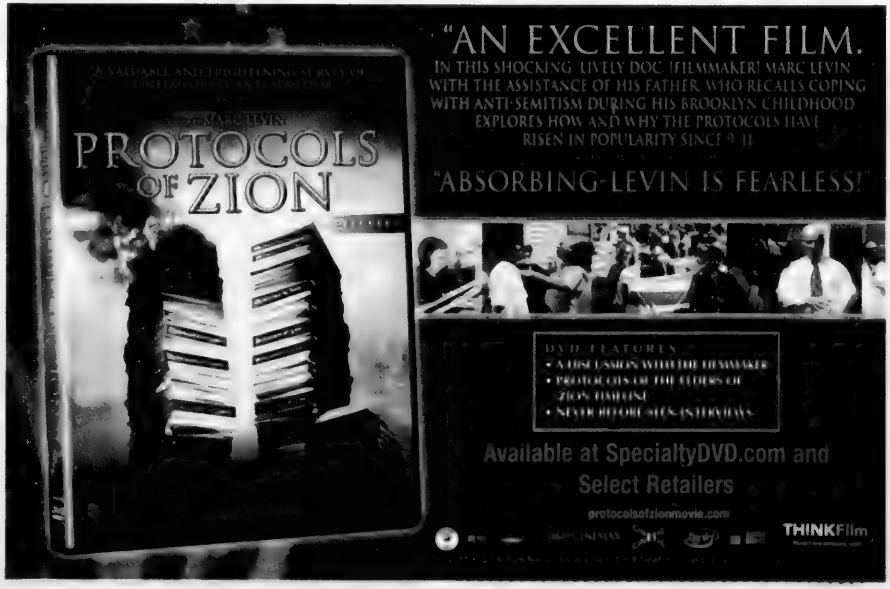
He said he is not yet certain what the topic of the imam's lecture will be, but insisted that it will have a spiritual rather than a political theme.

Alam added that all Canadians are welcome to attend the lectures and should feel free to ask questions in hopes of gaining a better understanding.

"Canadians should be patient and give him the opportunity to speak, attend the conference and ask questions."

Rudner said that while he is concerned about the imam's Toronto appearance, he has faith in Canadians to be critical.

"We are always concerned when individuals who have a track record of speaking the language of intolerance are given a platform... Our job is to create a society where we are critical thinkers. I have faith in the Canadian society and Canada as a whole. This doesn't stop me from being concerned, but it does stop me from being fearful."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# Flying in the upper reaches

*From the editor's desk*

Last week El Al announced that beginning July 23, it will reduce to five the number of weekly flights that will connect Toronto and Tel Aviv in the summer. That number will decrease even further to three on Sept. 1.

The prohibitive landing fees in Toronto were cited as the main reason for the airline's decision. "Toronto has the highest operating costs of any airport in the world," said Stanley Morais, general manager for El Al in Canada. Given that the airline was recently privatized, the high costs associated with flying in and out of Toronto made the decision more or less inevitable. What a pity.

One of the other consequences of the company's recent privatization is its reinvigorated commitment to high-quality customer service equal to that of the other great international carriers.

This writer can personally attest to that newly enhanced commitment.

Last month, I flew as a guest of the airline in its recently launched platinum class for business travellers. It was a flying experience that soared. True to the airline's name, I truly felt that I was flying in and to the upper reaches.

The luxury begins while settling into one's seat, which is spaciously removed from the seat across the aisle with, it seems to the novice business-class flyer, a virtual boulevard of space in which to stretch one's legs. The stewardesses offer a drink of water or juice while we are still on the ground. After we lift off and the "seat belt" sign has been turned off, they jump up from their seats in the fore cabin to begin their work, which consists primarily of ensuring we are comfortable.

We receive little flight kit-bags of gray plastic and nylon with an EL AL logo pressed into the bag's tweedy pattern. Each bag contains a toothbrush, toothpaste, lip moisturizer, earplugs, eye coverings and socks. We also receive a bottle of water.

A few moments later, one of the stewardesses pushes a mini-bar down the aisle, offering us a pre-meal alcoholic beverage and salty cashews. I chose a suitably platinum single malt scotch. I now feel ready for the long flight ahead.

The adjustment possibilities on the seat are more than I have ever experienced on an airplane flight. I familiarize myself with the electronic controls of the various angles of pitch and recline, which at full extension, approximate a little bed. As I would pleasingly discover over the course of the next half day, this is the single most important difference between economy class and business class – the freedom of movement within the chair and the unencroached sense of personal space beside the chair. Thus, I settle into my "chaise longue" as, inevitably, the scotch begins to settle in me. We then receive little heated hand towels, scented with a minty aroma. They feel warm and soothing against the face.

But, of course, there are other key differences between platinum and economy class. The stewardesses provide dinner, which is served on a heavy, pressed cotton tablecloth with "EL AL Platinum" embossed in gold in the lower right-hand corner.

The menu rivals that of any top-flight restaurant. The appetizer consists of smoked salmon tartar with cucumber and crushed black peppercorns, organic green salad with olive oil and lemon dressing and an assortment of warm rolls and pesto spread. The main course is a choice of either orange-ginger stir-fried chicken, served over jasmine rice with green beans and water chestnuts; or beef bourguignon with pearl onions and button mushrooms and fettuccine noodles and baby carrots; or herb-scented penne pasta served with tomato, olive and caper sauce. Dessert consisted of a selection of cakes and fresh fruit.

I chose the stir-fried chicken. It was served on china. The food was generously portioned and superbly flavoured, nuanced with delicate spicing and presented with obvious attention to esthetics. The smoked salmon tartar, for example, was presented on the plate as an impression of the sun with half-circle cucumbers decorated with spottles of black pepper encircling it like a corrugated aura of sunshine.

The cumulative effect of the ergonomic comfort of the seat, the pleasant buzz of the scotch and the full stomach were like a mother's lullaby to a cradling infant. They soothed me into a deep sleep.

After nearly six hours of slumber, I awoke, but without the crumpled-up and grungy feeling that usually accompanies sleep on an overseas flight. I had slept through two first-run movies, but I felt no sense of regret at having missed them.

Breakfast was then served. It comprised fruit juice, freshly cut fruit, a cheese plate with vegetable crudités and grapes; smoked salmon; yogurt; and a selection of either: an omelette with cheddar cheese, fresh chives, hash brown potatoes and herbed roma tomatoes; or a mushroom quiche; and of course, assorted warm rolls, butter, jam, honey, coffee or tea. I chose the omelette and, again, ate very well and very heartily. After breakfast I dug into my book. Thirty pages later, the captain announced our imminent arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport.

The thoughtful steward staff, fine dining and the restful sleep high above the clouds were a dreamy experience. I was privileged, of course, to have been carried with such doting, careful attention to platinum details all the way from Toronto to Tel Aviv, in the cool blue upper reaches of the sky. – *MBD*

SeeJN

## JEWISH AND ARAB CHILDREN LEARN TOGETHER

**Jewish and Arab youngsters in grades four and five play and learn together at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. They are part of a educational project called The Image of Abraham. Now in its second year, the program is based on understanding a common aspect of Arab and Jewish heritage, namely, Abraham the Patriarch. The project enables the children to meet, communicate and to overcome negative stereotypes.** [Isranet photo]

# Terrorists motivated by sheer hatred: Day

**Continued from page 1**

Rejecting the proposition that "root causes" such as poverty trigger terrorism, Day said that the 17 Canadian Muslims in southern Ontario who were recently charged with plotting acts of terrorism were not impoverished.

Rather, Day said, terrorists are motivated by "sheer hatred" of different viewpoints.

"If you don't agree with them, they'll kill you. We have to stand up to that."

Defending Canada's current military deployment in Afghanistan and describing it as a peace-making mission, Day said Canadian troops are there to try to stabilize that war-torn nation.

In a veiled reference to Islamic fundamentalism among Muslim Canadians, Day said that "twisted religious notions" must be challenged.

Saying that "the slaughter of innocents" in terror incidents cannot be tolerated, he urged the Muslim community to unequivocally squelch the notion that the "promise of paradise" awaits Muslims who perpetrate terrorism.

Tarek Fatah, founder and president of the secular Muslim Canadian Congress, said Islamic radicals threaten and bully ordinary "nine to five" Muslims.

"Our faith has been hijacked. We will do what we can to take back our religion from these murderers," Fatah said.

John Loftus, a former U.S. justice department prosecutor, claimed that Muslims in Canada are oppressed by "a Wahhabist minority."

The enemy, he said, is not Islam, but radical Islam, "those people who want to kill us."

Loftus said that the typical Al Qaeda recruit in North America is 15 years old, hails from a non-religious background, feels displaced, was subjected to discrimination at school and is computer literate.

As the rally got under way, an Indo-Canadian woman who lost her husband in the 1985 Air India bombing issued a sharp condemnation of terrorism and added, "Let history not repeat itself."

Lynn Goldberg, the mother of an Israeli man killed by terrorists in Jerusalem several years ago, described terrorism as "an ugly, vicious cancer that must be obliterated."

Sarah Phillips, wounded in a 2002 terrorist incident at Los Angeles Airport, called on Canadians to support Canadian combat soldiers in Afghanistan.

She was followed by a man who said that he had been brutally tortured by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, and he was followed by a woman whose husband died in the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center attack.

She lent her support to a bill pending in the House of Commons that would allow spouses and relatives of terror victims to sue foreign governments.

The father of Matthew Dinning, a Canadian soldier who was killed while on duty in Afghanistan, paid tribute to other Canadian troops who have been killed in action there.

There was also a screening of *Obsession*, a documentary that draws chilling parallels between Islamic radicalism and Nazism.

**FIGHTING FIRES: During a recent visit to the Yorkville Fire Hall, Grade 1 students from the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School got first-hand instruction on how firefighters use hi-tech heat sensors to save lives. Pictured from left with firefighter Neil Reynolds are Maya Freeman, Jeremy Penn, Jake Katz, Adam Pukier, and Natan Aber-Krusner.**


## Compensation for Hungarian Holocaust Survivors

**Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada** wants to inform Hungarian survivors and their families of a Hungarian government compensation program.

**This is *NOT* part of the Hungarian Gold Train Settlement.**

*Application forms in English and Hungarian can be found at:*

Claims Conference:
www.claimscon.org

Hungarian Central Restitution Bureau:
http://www.karpotlas.hu/adatlap/karpotlas_adatlap_2006.pdf

*Or by writing:*

Kozponti Karrendezesi Iroda
1116 Budapest
Hauszmann Alajos utca 1.
011-36-1-371-8900

info@karpotlas.hu

***Application deadline is July 31, 2006***

For assistance filling out applications, please contact:
Melinda Boxzik at 1-202-362-6730 ext 263 email
Hungariansurvivors@huembwas.org

Molly Resnick

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Interested applicants are invited to send their curriculum vitae and cover letter to Franklin Smith, Executive Director, via email only, not later than Wednesday, July 12, 2006, to hr@torontoheschel.org (no telephone calls please). We thank all applicants for their interest, but we will only be able to respond to those individuals selected for an interview.

Greater Toronto Area

# Congress says newspaper column was anti-Semitic

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

A syndicated newspaper column has been accused of being anti-Semitic in the way it defended a labour union's recent decision to boycott Israel.

Steven Shulman, Ontario regional director and national counsel of Canadian Jewish Congress, said that a column by Toronto-based writer Eric Dowd was anti-Semitic because it "crossed the line from fair comment to defaming the Jewish community."

In a piece carried by regional Ontario newspapers such as the *Orangeville Citizen*, *Pembroke Daily Observer* and *Midland Free Press* in mid-June, Dowd wrote about last month's controversial resolution by the Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) to boycott Israel.

After declaring that CUPE Ontario dared to take on the province's "most influential lobby," Dowd singled out an Ontario cabinet minister for being "in the pocket" of his Jewish constituents.

Lambasting Dowd, Shulman accused him of using his column to focus attention on "Jewish power" in the province. Shulman denounced the allegation as "offensive and untrue."

Dowd also used "untruths" about Israel to support his claim that "inordinate Jewish power in media and politics is the only reason for public criticism" of CUPE's resolution, Shulman said.

"This canard about Jewish power is at odds with the greater good, has been used to provoke anti-Semitism for centuries and is deplorable in the Ontario of 2006," Shulman declared in an e-mail to *The CJN*.

"Dowd's piece clearly feeds these ugly perceptions," he added.

Congress intends to send a letter to the publishers of the newspapers in which Dowd's column appeared, Shulman said.

"We'll ask how they can allow their newspapers to become a conduit for this kind of message. We hope that this sort of piece will not be published again. It goes beyond fair comment. It's important… to express community concerns."

Shulman said that while Dowd has written "problematic" columns about faith-based courts in Ontario and a visit to Israel by 30 provincial police chiefs last spring, his latest column on CUPE Ontario "crossed the line" and was anti-Semitic and anti-Israel.

In response, Dowd rejected the accusation that his column fostered anti-Semitism.

"It is time to recognize that criticizing Israeli government policies is not anti-Semitic, any more than criticizing policies of the government of Zimbabwe is anti-black, and the public should be aware when any group has power to influence politicians," he said in an e-mail to *The CJN*.

Accusing Israel of oppressing Arabs, Dowd said Israel "is not only withdrawing extremely slowly from Arab land it seized by force, but indicating it will continue occupying much of it."

He added, "Israel has brought in millions of Jews from other countries to settle on this land."

Dowd, who declined to be interviewed about his allegations, said Shulman has not produced facts to show that his piece is inaccurate, "but expresses opinions that the column was reprehensible."

Dowd continued:"One indication of the Israeli lobby's influence is many Ontario residents have shown they disagree with Israeli policies over the years, but this has not been reflected in the stands taken by politicians. I know from my talks with them they fear losing the votes of Jews, who are public-spirited and vote, and to many of whom commitment to Israel is their deepest passion."

In his column on CUPE, Dowd opened with this paragraph: "A labour union has dared take on Ontario's most influential lobby and its unfailing ally, government."

Defending CUPE's position, Dowd wrote, "Israel has kept saying it wants separation [from the Palestinians], but indicated it is unwilling to give up anything like all the land it seized, continued building new homes on it for Jews, tightened its grip by building a wall around much of it and dropped many hints it may set boundaries unilaterally."

He added: "Israel also refuses to negotiate with the Hamas party Palestinians chose recently to represent them them on the stronger ground it has called for the destruction of the state of Israel and approved suicide bombings."

Dowd went on to say that the "pro-Israel lobby" is successful because "hundreds of MPPs" from all parties have expressed solidarity with Israel, "knowing the value of Jewish votes, which are crucial in some ridings."

Elaborating on this theme, Dowd said that "pro-Israel lobbies also dominate editorial opinion and letters in three out of four major Toronto newspapers. Now CUPE has incurred the full wrath of Jews and their supporters."

Turning to Israel's conflict with the Arabs, Dowd commented, "Israel had only 700,000 Jewish residents in 1948, but now has five million, who speak in New York, London and Russian accents and must have taken land from Arabs."

In a reference to the 1946 bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, Dowd wrote: "Israel claims it cannot negotiate with Hamas because it is terrorist, but Menachem Begin [a former Israeli prime minister] led a group which blew up a hotel, killing 91 Britons, Arabs and Jews.

"Yitzhak Shamir [another former Israeli prime minister] was prominent in another [incident] which murdered the United Nations' mediator. Yitzhak Rabin [Israel's two-time prime minister] was high-ranking in a third [incident] which slaughtered British peacekeepers and left their bodies hanging in trees."

After writing that Ontario Immigration Minister Mike Colle urged CUPE to withdraw its resolution, Dowd observed, "Colle has many Jewish voters in his riding and is very much in their pocket. He told one of their rallies that Israeli Jews suffer terribly from Arab suicide bombers, but expressed no sympathy for Arabs."

Shulman said that he has not been in contact with Dowd.

"We haven't spoken to Dowd. This is not a discussion to have with him. The newspapers are responsible. We're in the process of sending a letter to the publishers."

Several of the newspapers that published Dowd's column are members of the Ontario Press Council, said Shulman.

Dowd, 75, has been in the newspaper business since the age of 15. He was formerly a staff reporter at the *Globe and Mail*.

**VICE-REGAL VISIT: Middle school students at the United Synagogue Day School's Beth Tikvah campus hosted an assembly June 14 with Myra Freeman, centre, the lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia. Freeman spoke about being the province's first-ever Jewish, and first-ever female, lieutenant governor. Pictured with her are, from left, Sam Venis, David Garbuz, Daniel Freedman, Daniel Minuk and Kevin Himel.**

# Israeli childhood cancer organization opens Canadian office in Toronto

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

A non-profit organization whose goal is to improve the quality of life for Israeli children with cancer opened a Canadian office recently.

Through its office in Toronto, Larger Than Life has begun fundraising here. Shortly, some Jewish day schools will sell such items as multi-coloured "flower" highlighters, cellphone necklace bands and key chains at book fairs, in support of the organization.

"It's children for children, that's the idea behind it," said Anat Strauss, managing director of Larger Than Life Canada Association.

"We're going to have a Purim celebration, we're going to have a Chanukah celebration, we're going to have a talent show, we're going to have an auction – things like that."

The local initiatives have involved students of the Associated Hebrew Schools, said Strauss.

Earlier this month, the students hosted a talent show at the North York Public Library, and donated all the proceeds to Larger Than Life. On June 15 at the Leah Polsuns Theatre, a performance and a movie about Larger Than Life raised funds for the Canadian association.

Established five years ago by Zion Abitboul, whose son was diagnosed with cancer as an infant, Larger Than Life is the sole organization in Israel dedicated to helping children, from birth until age 18, cope with the disease.

In addition to Toronto, Larger Than Life also has chapters in England as well as in the United States.

The organization schedules various trips for the children to such places as Orlando, Fla.; England and France; the U.S. West Coast and Eilat, Israel. There is also a five-day summer camp for 100 children in northern Israel.

"The trips are important because it gives them a better quality of life," Strauss said. "It gives them the energy to continue with the treatments."

Families receive support through "relaxation vacations" in Eilat and on the Purim Smile Train, which takes 1,200 children with cancer and their families by train from Haifa to Be'er Sheva with a host of various entertainers including clowns and performers. "Fun Days" for the mothers of children with cancer, allow them to "take some time off from their tough routine and re-energize for the next round of challenges" according to official material.

"A lot of the time, when a child gets sick in Israel, it affects the entire family, and they may not have the right support or [know] how to go about [accessing] their treatment," said Yona Soer, president of Larger Than Life Canada. She said families will be provided "anything they need" by means of support.

The association has seven employees, and is run almost exclusively by volunteers.

Strauss said support comes from "lots of Israeli brands," including Coca-Cola of Israel and Bisli.

In 2005, fundraising efforts allowed the Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer Hospital, outside Tel Aviv, to undergo extensive renovation of its oncology department as well as the respective waiting rooms.

On Dec. 17, Larger Than Life Canada hosts a Chanukah gala for parents and children, with a variety of entertainment. All proceeds from the event will go to the oncology department at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, Israel.

For more information about Larger Than Life, visit www.gdolim.co.il.

**JNF AWARD WINNERS: Jaclyn Naor, left, and Jamie Dishy, right, of Associated Hebrew Schools' Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill received the 2005/06 Gary and Judy Neinstein award from the Jewish National Fund of Canada on June 12. The annual award goes to students who show an outstanding commitment to the State of Israel, tzedakah, and chesed projects for Israel. Pictured with them is their teacher, Ruth Sommer.**


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# New thinking (2)

Last week in this space, we directed a plea to the lay and professional leaders of our community federations to "look for new solutions, new ideas, new approaches and innovative thinking to thwart the insidious peril of out-of-reach" Jewish school tuitions.

No issue is more important for the long-term well-being and vibrancy of the Jewish community than stemming and reversing the soaring cost of Jewish education.

The Jewish people – at home and abroad – are at a crossroads.

In its most recent annual assessment of the condition of world Jewry, the experts at the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute (JPPPI) poignantly describe the possibilities that lie ahead.

"Present realities and dynamics of the Jewish people and of the environments influencing it move in part in the direction of thriving and in part in the direction of decline… Present propensities as a whole definitively *do not* assure a thriving future for the Jewish people [our emphasis]. Therefore, 'interventions with historic processes'… are imperative, both on the level of overall Jewish People policies and on the level of each of the main Jewish communities… To do so successfully, at least some radically innovative long-term grand policies are imperative, as well as a more focused will, much larger resources and revamped institutions."

Community leaders must intervene to make Jewish education affordable to the large majority of Jewish families who are in the middle and lower rung of the economic ladder.

It is undeniably true that the lack of intense, formal Jewish education does not doom an individual to Jewish illiteracy in adult life. Nor does it follow inevitably that "Jewishly unschooled" means Jewishly unidentified or unaffiliated. But it is equally true that the best guarantor of Jewish literacy in adult life is Jewish education. And the best way of increasing the chances that an individual will meaningfully align himself or herself with the Jewish people – irrespective of subsequent life choices concerning Jewish ritual observance or communal, cultural and other Jewish expression – is Jewish education.

In the language of the JPPPI, our leaders must find "radically innovative, long-term grand-policies" concerning Jewish school tuitions. They must find ways of reducing the costs to the schools of providing their services, so that the tuitions will be commensurately reduced or capped. This must not, however, be achieved by reducing salaries and benefits paid to teachers and other school staff. For they are the front-line crafters of the education that must be reinforced each day in our homes and other institutions. Rather, federations must find ways to channel funds directly to schools to significantly defray their ongoing operational costs without impinging on their operational independence.

The new, shining buildings and expanded houses of Jewish life today will be faded and little-used tomorrow – monuments to a once fuller, more engaged Jewish past – unless we act immediately to ensure that formal, classroom Jewish education will not be beyond the reach of the large core of Jewish families that comprise our community.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Itshak (Antek) Zuckerman, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, died and was buried at his home, Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot, near Haifa. After the death of Mordechai Anielewicz, Zuckerman led survivors out of the burning ghetto through the sewers. He later fought with the Polish resistance in World War II, and after the war organized transports to Palestine.

Dry Bones
HURRAY! SORT OF...
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AS A MEMBER.
GREAT!
AND ALL IT TOOK WAS 57 YEARS OF BEGGING, AGREEING TO PUT THE STAR INSIDE A DIAMOND, ALLOWING THE PALESTINIANS IN AS THE ONLY NON-STATE TO BELONG.
AND THE AMERICAN RED CROSS'S WITH-HOLDING OF FUNDS SINCE 2000!
NOT SO GREAT!
AND STILL, THE ARAB AND MUSLEM STATES VOTED AGAINST!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
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## CJC's advocacy

Thank you Gerald Gall for reminding us of the vital work undertaken on our behalf by Canadian Jewish Congress ("CJC must return to its advocacy roots," *CJN*, June 22). I firmly believe that the professionals and, as importantly, the volunteer leadership of Congress are unsung heroes.

Volunteer leadership who engage in advocacy are the very soul of ethical Judaism. Gall's column shows us clearly that this is as true today as it was in years past.

I, for one, was proud to read that the current CJC President, Ed Morgan, was the first Jewish leader ever to address the Council of the Assembly of First Nations. And if memory serves me correctly, Morgan also led a group of aboriginal chiefs to Israel, which was, from what I can see, another first.

Morgan epitomizes a long line of intelligent, dignified and respected Jewish volunteer leadership. I certainly second Gall's appeal to our community for CJC to be provided the proper resources so that volunteers such as Morgan can continue to represent our community on today's critical issues facing our community.

**Caroline Konecny**
**Whitby, Ont.**

* * *

Gerald Gall's article focusing on CJC advocacy rekindled some old memories and sparked some thoughts for the future.

CJC has been blessed with many fine leaders. During my generation alone I have seen Irving Abella, Moshe Ronen, Keith Landy and the current president, Ed Morgan, represent our community with great dignity.

As we continue to move forward I hope others in our community will grab the torch and continue in this fine spirit of volunteerism.

**R. Burstyn**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Day schools need endowment campaign

*The CJN* rightly warns about the devastating implications for Jewish continuity if our community fails to resolve the current accessibility crisis in Jewish day schools ("New thinking needed," editorial, *CJN*, June 22).

Unfortunately, the only suggested solution was to reduce the school's operating costs. Operating costs, comprised mainly of teacher salaries, cannot be substantially reduced without significantly reducing teacher salaries or increasing class sizes, neither of which seems appropriate.

Two other solutions cry out for leadership.

First, as *The CJN* alluded to, in Ontario, the lack of public funding for Jewish schools is inexcusable, since Catholic schools are fully funded. Our community organizations need to effectively deliver the message that official religious discrimination against non-Catholic minorities, in open violation of binding international human rights law, will no longer be treated as business as usual.

Meanwhile, a massive endowment campaign is needed to help lower the tuition barrier that currently shuts out thousands of our children from Jewish day school educations. Every member of our community should be expected to will five per cent of his or her estate on death to Jewish education, and our schools and synagogues should not accept families who do not pledge to participate.

**Michael Orr**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Faith-based schools should work together

Gila Martow is saying and doing the right thing to encourage the provincial government to change its ridiculously outdated 1867 exclusionary legislation on school funding ("Associated mom grills MPP on school funding," CJN, June 15). I also appreciate Liberal MPP Mario Racco's simple gesture of support in making an appearance in front of the local press at a faith-based school. It appears that he has taken up a position against his party's wishes. Courage and vision like Racco's is well appreciated and noted.

Non-Catholic religious communities need to follow Martow's path and further organize in an even bigger and better way – as ridings rather than as ethnic or religious communities. Ultimately, the task is to embarrass or shame the current government to include the miscellaneous religious communities and their faith-based schools in the separate school boards.

**A. Bruce Gilboord**
**Toronto**

* * *

## People search

My husband, Shelly Kapen, was doing his internship in the government hospital Assaf-HaRofeh, in Sarafand, Israel, in 1960, at a time when we were expecting our first child. There, we met a young man named Alan Gardner, a medical student from Toronto, and his wife, Zita. We became very good friends during that summer and Alan took some pictures of me with our firstborn son, which I have in our family album. If Alan or Zita Gardner or anyone who knows them reads this, please contact us at skapen285466mi@comcast.net.

**Rachel Kapen**
**West Bloomfield, Mich.**

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# 'Zionist movement must renew and strengthen': Olmert

*Excerpts from the speech Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made to the 35th Zionist Congress in Jerusalem on June 20, 2006.*

The fundamental issues on the table at the Congress are, as always: first, ensuring the future of Jewish existence overseas, through Zionist activity, encouraging aliyah, providing Jewish and Zionist education to the young generation, and deepening the identity, solidarity with and affinity to Israel.

Second, assistance to Jews in distress and waging war against anti-Semitism anywhere in the world.

And finally, unification of the Jewish people with the State of Israel, and providing moral and political support to Israel's struggle for security and peace.

For these goals, the Zionist movement must renew and strengthen, co-operate and gather together under its wing more and more Jewish communities, frameworks, institutions and organizations, and find additional means of mobilizing resources to expand its activities.

It is our duty to prevent any danger of losing a Jewish majority or creating an inseparable bi-national reality in the Land of Israel. We aspire to reach a peace agreement with our Palestinian neighbours, based on division of the land and "two countries for two peoples."

Division of the land is not our heart's desire; it is simply a reality. As one who carries the supreme responsibility for the State of Israel, I see reality as it is, with my eyes wide open.

The demographic balance between Jews and Arabs in the Land of Israel is not static. Time is not neutral in this case – it is acting against us.

If we wish to ensure the existence and future of a Jewish and democratic Israel, we must act now, in the next few years, and shape the permanent borders of the State of Israel. I intend to seriously and thoroughly examine whether there is a possibility of doing so through negotiation and agreement with the Palestinians, since this possibility is preferable under all circumstances.

**Ehud Olmert speaking to the congress**

However, I do not intend to wait forever. Under no circumstances is ongoing deadlock an option. I have absolutely no doubt that the majority of citizens of Israel will give me their support.

In the meantime, we will of course continue our fight against terror. Terrorist organizations gain inspiration from fundamentalist, anti-Semitic and murderous ideologies, which call for the blood of all Jews and Israelis.

The heads of terror, who cry for our destruction after every unfortunate accidental and unintended injury to innocents due to IDF [Israel Defence Forces] fire, are the ones who will send murderers to blow up buses full of passengers, families innocently dining, teenagers at entertainment venues, and women and children at busy shopping centres.

They are the ones shooting, in these very days, at civilian population in the south of the country, in cities like Sderot and in villages and kibbutzim such as Yad-Mordechai and Nahal Oz and Kfar Aza and other communities.

From here I say to those who are trying to hurt [our citizens] – we will take harsh measures, more harsh and more painful than the ones taken before. We will reach every place, we will reach every one, there will be no immunity to anyone involved in terrorism, regardless of what they do or who they belong to. We will not relent in this war and we will defeat terrorism and bring security to all the parts of the State of Israel, in the south of the country and in other areas.

Despite the fact that the terrorists act in and fire from densely populated areas, the IDF is mostly successful in isolating the murderers, and targeting them and them only. Under these fighting conditions, unfortunately, sometimes innocent citizens are injured, despite all the efforts to avoid it. However, we must remember that the fight against terror was forced on us.

The Palestinian Authority never upheld their commitment to stop terror attacks and dismantle terrorist organizations. When it happens, there will, of course, be no need to continue fighting. Regrettably, I do not see this happening in the near future.

The terrorist organizations would not be able to continue to act if they did not receive encouragement, funding, training and guidance from regimes and organizations which support terror on the axis of evil which runs through Tehran, Damascus, Al Qaeda, global jihad and Hezbollah.

The shameful statements made by the president of Iran were heard by the entire world, and it is inconceivable that such a fanatical dictatorial regime will have the weapons to realize his insane visions.

We must not forget the lessons of history. We, the Jews, certainly cannot forget.

# Zionist Congress: youth must be served

**By DINA KRAFT**
*JTA*

On a sun-drenched window ledge, three young European delegates to the Zionist World Congress sit poring over resolutions on anti-Semitism and Zionist education, debating which ones to oppose and which to support.

Dana Landau, 21, from Zurich, and Jeremy Uhr, 25, and Ilan Tojerow, 29, both from Brussels, are among the younger generation of faces at the Congress. Committed and intelligent, they wonder, like many of their fellow delegates, how to keep the World Zionist Organization relevant and results oriented in the 21st century.

"The Zionist movement is living in the past," said David Borowich, chairman and founder of Dor Chadash, a New York-based group that seeks to build ties among young Israelis and American Jews. "What are we revitalizing? What is the Zionist movement?"

A vote at the last Congress four years ago decided that future gatherings would set aside 25 per cent of seats for delegates age 30 or under.

At a plenary session held at Jerusalem's International Convention Center, many delegates spoke in favour of giving the younger generation more clout.

"We stand here and we talk about renewal and pay lip service to you. We have 25 per cent of the delegates, but the decisions are made at the [Zionist] executive, and there is no voice there for youth," said a young delegate from Canada, Tomer Sadetsky. "We have to find a way to make us involved in the real decisions."

Sadetsky was echoing frustration shared by other delegates about how decisions and policy are set in the organization. Many grumble over what they describe as a bloated bureaucracy with little accountability.

"It will be passé if it keeps being business as usual. The only way to make it real and meaningful for those who do not come to the Congress is to have a more democratic and open process," said Michael Cohen, co-founder of the Green Zionist Alliance.

About 2,000 delegates and observers gathered in Jerusalem for the 35th Congress, from June 19 to 22. The first Congress – held in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland – launched the modern Zionist movement.

The organization's original goal was to establish a Jewish homeland. In recent years, its main functions have been providing roughly half of the decision-making power for the Jewish Agency for Israel, which controls a $350-million budget. Half of the Agency's board of governors are from the organization, as are many of its committee members.

The presence of the Zionist movement's charismatic founder, Theodor Herzl, loomed large at this year's Congress – on posters and large screens.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert addressed the group, speaking of the gap between Herzl's dream and the modern State of Israel.

In *Altneuland*, the book in which Herzl imagined an idealized homeland for the Jews, "Herzl envisioned a utopian state. The State of Israel is not one, because in our world there is no utopian reality," Olmert said. "In many ways, the State of Israel has exceeded Herzl's vision. In other ways, it is still remote."

This Congress continued the marked growth of delegates from the religious streams. Factions aligned with the traditional Zionist parties used to be dominant.

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, former executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and a member of the Jewish Agency's board of governors, said it was only natural that Diaspora Jews align themselves with what they feel connected to – their religious streams.

"People in the Diaspora have no relationship to the political parties in Israel, especially when those political parties are always breaking up and changing," he said.

Rabbi Hirsch, who once held a senior position in the World Zionist Organization (WZO), said the organization was "badly in need of repair."

Judy Yudof, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, was representing the Conservative movement, which had one of the largest delegations. Despite her movement's success in WZO elections, she said apathy about the movement was a major problem.

"It's very hard to get the Jews in the Diaspora to understand what the Congress is all about and what the WZO is all about," she said.

What got votes out was the idea that the more seats the Conservative movement's Zionist wing would win, the more money would be allocated for programs in Israel that the movement supports.

"The money in the end is what this thing is all about," she said.

In the busy lobby of the convention center, Jews from around the world mingled – long-haired, teenaged youth, movement members from Argentina, retired delegates from the United States and Australian activists.

Taking in the scene was Avrom Krengell, a lawyer from Johannesburg who heads the South African Zionist Federation.

"For us, there is symbolic value is seeing 2,000 Jews come together and renew their commitment to Zionism, Israel and the Diaspora," he said.

For those from South Africa and other countries where anti-Israel sentiment has been high in recent years, the Congress can be a place to draw strength.

"In the Diaspora, where there is a feeling of detachment and isolation," he said, "this is a place that can give strength to our participants."

But for the young European delegates, the future of Zionism in their countries is not clear. The three that sat in the window reviewing resolutions point out one that they hope will pass: it calls for Israeli envoys to work with youth movements abroad. In recent years, they said, hardly any emissaries have been sent and funded by the WZO.

# The Pope at Auschwitz

Anti-Semitism is a disease that all Jews must fight tooth and nail. Though its effect is a calamity for us all, for secular Jews, the struggle against it is also something of a surrogate religion. Even when they repudiate the traditional Jewish notion of a covenant between God and the people of Israel, which is the foundation of Judaism, they are nevertheless likely to declare their solidarity with the people and its ways. Its suffering in the past, especially in the Holocaust, and the dangers it still faces today fires their Jewish commitments. Justifiably, they see the State of Israel as evidence that what happened then will not happen again.

*Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto*

Religious Jews also fight anti-Semitism, often exposing themselves to it more than others because of dress and demeanour, but they don't see it as a primary component of their Judaism. Their commitment rests on the covenant between God and Israel at Sinai, however they may interpret it. Anti-Semitism is the price Jews have had to pay because of their faithfulness to God, and religious Jews contend that the most effective way to fight our enemies is by remaining true to God's commandments.

The difference between the secular and the religious views may help us understand the opposing reactions of Jewish leaders to the statement Pope Benedict XVI made during his recent visit to Auschwitz. Secularists criticized the Pope for not speaking out explicitly against anti-Semitism. Religionists praised him because he distanced himself from supersessionism.

Supersessionism is the traditional Christian doctrine that teaches that God has cancelled his covenant with the Jews and replaced it with the "new" covenant (testament) with the church. In this Christian theological scheme of things, Judaism was rendered obsolete and Jews were perceived as irrelevant relics. They were not to be exterminated, only humiliated.

The history of Christian-Jewish relations must be understood in this light, as must Christian anti-Semitism. By distancing himself from supersessionism and affirming that the Jewish people have remained living witnesses to God, the Pope went to the root of the problem. He embraced the notion of a dual covenant, one with the Jews and one with the church, which by implication eliminates Christian rejection of the Jewish people.

Jewish-Christian relations now become symmetrical, to be conducted without malice or prejudice, and in mutual respect. Theologically trained and religiously sensitive Jews understand this Pope, who is first and foremost a theologian, and they praise him for his stance. Implicit in the Pope's rejection of supersessionism is the contention that anti-Semitism has also been a Christian problem. Speaking at Auschwitz, the epitome of Jew-hatred, he offered a clear message to his adherents. I hope they understood him better than his Jewish critics seem to have done.

# Choices, decisions, uncertainty and risk

In life, people are often confronted by sudden surprises and unexpected ups and downs. For me, the 2005-2006 school year, and the weeks since, have been filled with important decisions to be made and unexpected news that has forced me to deal with things using the same approach taken by my bubbie, who calls life "the great big I don't know."

*Matthew Pottens in Halifax*

In other words, when you are hit with yet another of life's uncertainties, instead of shying away from it because you "don't know" much about it, make the most of the situation.

Writing for the *Canadian Jewish News* has proven to be a positive and beneficial experience. I've further developed my writing skills and gained some needed experience in the "real world," and I believe that I've connected with many readers out there, young and old, on issues that I feel have been worth discussing.

I realize that my beloved readers may not be able to make a connection with all of my articles, such as the ones about living with mice, online instant messaging, canoe tripping, immigrating to Canada, and being a new student in Halifax.

But come on! How many immigrant mice are you aware of that are computer literate, enjoy the odd canoe trip, and are planning on coming to Dalhousie University any time soon?

See, my job is harder than it looks.

I initially became involved with *The CJN* with the intention of getting some journalistic experience. But after three years of school, several part-time jobs, and the notion that journalism was my only career option, I have begun to have second thoughts about my career path.

What direction do I head in now? There are plenty of options, and I have started to realize the importance of keeping those options open. I will finish my bachelor's degree next year, and after that, I will need to make more important decisions.

For now, I will just enjoy a summer of canoe trips in Muskoka.

This summer, I will be attending Camp Winnebagoe for the first time – another "great big I don't know." Last summer, I went to a camp in upstate New York, knowing nobody, but I entered the summer with a positive attitude and expecting a great time, and that's exactly what I got.

It's 2006, another summer and another camp, and I truly can't wait. I would encourage kids, if they get the opportunity, to try something completely out of the ordinary one summer, and don't be afraid to take a chance once in a while. My decision to go on Outward Bound in 2002 came from not having anything else to do. I didn't even like canoe tripping at the time, but I came back with a new passion for the outdoors, and I am tremendously proud of my physical and mental accomplishments on that 21-day canoe trip. That adventure changed me and greatly contributed to my becoming the man who is writing this column for you today.

As for next year, more uncertainties struck me and my roommates when we found out that two of our other roommates, whom we love dearly, will not be attending school in Halifax next year.

Jason Freedman got into architecture school at Carleton University in Ottawa, and Josh Kaminsky got into the Ivey business program at the University of Western Ontario. Mazel tov boychiks!

But the rest of us needed to find two new roommates. The good news is that we did, and they are great guys. But the sudden news that two good friends of mine will no longer be in Halifax gave me pause, and it made me realize that there are more than just three houses to hang out in here in Halifax, and that our small group of Jewish friends from Toronto doesn't need to be our only group of friends.

Anyway, I hope you've enjoyed my monthly column, and maybe even learned a few things from it. This is my final submission, and I want to thank you all very much for taking the time to read these pieces. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to e-mail me at mpottens@dal.ca.

Have an amazing summer, and take care of yourselves.

# More than just a restaurant is closing

Blaise Pascal, the French mathematician and philosopher, once said: "Our achievements of today are but the sum total of our thoughts of yesterday. You are today where the thoughts of yesterday have brought you and you will be tomorrow where the thoughts of today take you."

*Gershon Richter in Winnipeg*

Recently, a forum organized by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg tried to figure out which services are required for a "vibrant Jewish community." Since, as the federation noted, one of the "major sources of our identity is religion," the importance of "available and affordable kosher food under highly inclusive, well accepted authority" was emphasized.

I just found out that at the end of July, an essential Winnipeg Jewish institution will close its doors for the last time. Bathurst Street Market, Winnipeg's only strictly kosher store and restaurant, has decided to close due to lack of business. The family-owned store and restaurant will have been open three days short of 13 years.

I want to make clear that I am not criticizing the federation, an organization whose social justice and outreach programs I fully support. The criticism for the state of our community belongs not to organizations but to individuals. Every community has its charitable organizations, such as the federation, that organize projects too large for individuals to put together on their own. Such organizations depend on the generosity and willingness of the people in the community to continue their charitable and social work. The organizations are not the problem.

The problem is that our reality does not agree with what we say are our priorities as a Jewish community.

This discrepancy brings up fundamental questions of what we as Jews represent and what we embody. Simply by being Jewish, we represent ideas present in Jewish religion and history. As a community, we want show off our unique culture, our connection to the past and to Israel (Israel being the second "major source of our identity," according to the federation). We bring in Israeli musicians, we eat falafel on Yom Ha'atzmaut, we go to synagogue on the High Holy Days, and we donate money to the Jewish National Fund.

Yet all this is superficial. These values are symbolic rather than embodied. We are none of the things that we wish to show ourselves to be.

The Irish playwright Oliver Goldsmith once said: "You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips." So, how have we been living?

By and large, we do not keep kosher. In 2001, there were more than 12,000 people in Winnipeg who identified themselves as Jewish by religion, yet many synagogues have difficulty getting 10 people together for a service, many young people are leaving, and the city's only kosher food store is closing.

There is an obvious flaw in the plan. All these community-driven events are just that: events. They are supposed to serve as an example of what everyday life can be. Instead, they remain isolated from our lives. They have no importance outside of the time they take up and the diversion they represent. Instead, we have a decline in the services required for Jewish life.

My father is fond of telling me how the Jewish religion has sustained us and kept Jews distinct for thousands of years. We have been persecuted for our Jewish identity, we have been killed and dispersed and we have suffered, yet the Jewish religion, and we along with it, survived. We have maintained our identity throughout history.

Are the things we do now enough to maintain that identity? Is the external connection we feel to Israel enough to replace the internal connection that Jews have felt to Judaism?

In his book *To Kindle a Soul*, Lawrence Kelemen said: "In the facades we put on for others we demonstrate our potential; through our children, we reveal our reality."

If our children are the true indication of the life we lead, what do they say about our community and the values we teach?

Well, intermarriage has never been higher, everyone loves falafel, and the Bathurst Street Market is closing.

The Kirshner File

# 'I don't want to eat hummus in Damascus'

For three decades, Amnon Sharon kept his harrowing ordeal to himself, never considering the possibility of setting it down on paper. Sharon, an Israeli tank commander, was captured on the first day of the Yom Kippur War – which broke out on Oct. 6, 1973 – and spent the next eight months in captivity in Syrian prisons, the victim of unremitting torture. To this day, he still bears the physical and psychological marks of his incarceration, five months of which was in solitary confinement.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

"I wanted to write about it," he said the other day in an interview, "but it was difficult. I tried and tried, but couldn't."

But three years ago, at a soldiers' reunion to mark the 30th anniversary of the war, the men he had served with convinced him to tell his story to the public. "That was the trigger that gave me the power to write," explained Sharon. "I wanted to get it off my shoulders and commemorate the memory of comrades who had fallen in the war."

Last October, the Hebrew-language edition of his memoir, *Sane in Damascus* (Gefen), was published. It has since gone through two printings, been praised by the former minister of education and used by the Israeli armed forces as a kind of manual. The English version, translated by Jessica Setbon, came out recently.

Sharon, who was here to publicize his book and plug the activities of Bet Halochem, an Israeli organization that assists disabled war vets, said that *Sane in Damascus* is a primer about positive thinking, mental resiliency and, ultimately, sheer survival.

To the best of his knowledge, it's the first and only book-length account, in any language, of the trials and tribulations of an Israeli prisoner of war in Syria, Israel's bitter enemy and adversary in four wars – 1948, 1967, 1973 and 1982.

Born in 1947 in a British detention camp in Cyprus, and the son of Hungarian Holocaust survivors, Sharon said that he rarely succumbed to despair and hopelessness as he was beaten and tortured. "A few times, I wanted to die," he admitted, "but then I told myself, be strong."

Sharon, unlike Israeli pilots who had been given special training to face the prospect of torture, was forced to develop his own survival techniques. He sharpened his mind by doing math problems and recalling dates and events, and he strengthened his body by exercising. Above all, he never lost his faith in God, though he does not consider himself religious, and never stopped believing that he would be released and be reunited with his wife, Bella, and their children in Tel Aviv.

**Amnon Sharon today**

Throughout his interminable confinement, Sharon was buoyed by dreams that, in retrospect, were remarkably prescient.

He dreamed that he would regain his freedom on June 8, 1974, and, in fact, he returned to Israel on June 6 of that year. He dreamed that he would be a senior army commander, and indeed, he was promoted to the rank of colonel and eventually placed in charge of testing the new Merkavah tank. He dreamed that he would leave his job as a publisher of commercial directories and become the owner of a bed and mattress factory, and that is what happened when he built such a plant on a kibbutz in central Israel.

Now a grandfather, Sharon was the commander of a tank platoon in the 7th Brigade during the Six Day War in Sinai. Like many Israelis who were certain that the Arabs would never dare attack Israel after their ignominious defeat in the Six Day War, he was dumbfounded by the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, which erupted when Syria attacked Israeli forces on the Golan Heights and Egypt crossed the Suez Canal and captured the bunkers and fortifications of the Bar-Lev Line.

Although Israel defended its positions on the Golan with a far smaller force than Syria fielded on the first day of hostilities, Sharon was fully confident that Israel would easily prevail. "We were the tankers who had known victory in the Six Day War, and we lived with the feeling that no one could beat us."

But as he headed into battle in his Centurion near Nafah, his tank was hit and burst into flames, killing his crew. Syrian commandos had ambushed them.

Before he knew it, Sharon found himself surrounded by Syrian troops aiming their Kalashnikov rifles at him. They hoisted him off the ground, dragged him to a tank and threw him on the turret like a sack of potatoes.

In an act of kindness, a young Syrian officer offered Sharon – a captain – water. At a medical station in the field to which he was subsequently transferred, a second Syrian officer slammed Sharon with the butt of his rifle and sprayed bullets at his feet. Syrian tankers protected Sharon from any further harm, but then he was bullied by yet another Syrian soldier. After Sharon was taken into Syria, border guards hit him on the head and shoved him in the shoulder with an iron rod.

Once in Damascus, Sharon was briefly questioned by two men in civilian suits, one of whom spoke virtually flawless Hebrew.

But after they left, he was kicked, punched and whipped by his jailers in a painful, humiliating and endless ritual, and left almost naked in his claustrophobic cell. At one point, a soldier stuck a knife in his back, and a medic was called to tend to his wound.

Two weeks later, he was transported to Al-Mazeh, a military prison in Damascus, and subjected to more violence. After one particularly severe beating, the pain was so intense that he felt his body and soul separate into two distinct entities.

"Slowly, the tortures became routine," Sharon writes, "and my daily schedule was regular. Three times a day, the guard would throw me [a] black sack to put over my head, then lead me down a corridor to the latrine. There was no toilet or toilet paper, just a hole in the cement floor and beside it a short rubber hose attached to a faucet, like an improvised bidet."

Meals were served three times a day, but were austere. Worms crawled in his tea.

The interrogations were ceaseless: what kind of missiles did Israel deploy? What is the Merkavah tank? Where are army bases, electricity plants and gas storage facilities? Since Sharon did not usually know the answers, he was relentlessly beaten.

Once, an interrogator addressed him in a calm, polite tone in Hebrew. "Look, Amnon, I only want what's good for you. It's worth it for you to co-operate with us. In the end, we'll give you a new wife, a house in a village somewhere in Syria and a donkey, and you'll have a good life."

Always, his captors tried to break his spirit by bombarding him with brazen lies.

Shortly after his arrival in Damascus, he was told that Israel had gone down to military defeat in the war. "It was like a bomb in my face," said Sharon.

Then he was informed that his beloved mother, Esther, had died.

Conditions improved when he started sharing a larger cell with 20 of his fellow captives (mainly pilots and navigators), getting access to better food and being allowed regular Red Cross visits.

**Amnon Sharon in 1973**

Three months before being set free, he and his fellow inmates received packages from Israel crammed with books, games, toothpaste, toothbrushes, battery-operated shavers and Passover supplies.

"That Passover in an enemy prison took on special significance," he writes. "We were prisoners just as our forefathers had been, except instead of Egypt, we were in Syria. Just as they had hoped and prayed to go out from slavery into freedom, so did we."

He was also permitted to step outside in the sunshine. For six months, he had seen neither sky nor sun.

Around this period, he and his fellow inmates were examined by Syrian doctors, prompting them to speculate that their days as prisoners were numbered.

When they were finally released, they boarded a Red Cross plane bound for Tel Aviv. When Sharon landed at Ben-Gurion Airport, his wife and his parents were the first to race toward him from the crowd.

At home, he was treated to a moving reception by his neighbours. But much to his disgust, a Knesset member told him that Israel had paid too heavy a price for their release.

Sharon retired from the army in 1988 after participating in the Lebanon war and commanding a battalion in Sinai.

Today, he still licks his wounds. The soles of his feet invariably hurt. His fingers have lost their feeling. He suffers from post-traumatic stress. Any sudden noise startles him. He cannot sleep soundly.

Yet his spirit is stronger, he fears nothing and, to him, there is no such thing as an insurmountable problem.

He does not hate the Syrians, but wants nothing to do with them, even if, in the unlikely event, Israel and Syria make peace.

"I don't want to deal with them," he said flatly with finality. "I don't want to eat hummus in Damascus."

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# Marking 65 years since the Iasi Massacre

By BARUCH COHEN

Guest Voice

*"It makes no difference to me that we'll go down in history as barbarians. There has not existed a more favourable moment in our history. If it is needed, shoot all of them with machine guns.* – Marshal Ion Antonescu, Romania's fuhrer, declaring Romanian government policy concerning the Jews, on June 21, 1941.

In 1930, 35,462 Jews lived in Iasi, Romania. The number of Jewish people living in the city increased to 51,000 between 1940 and 1941, when surrounding villages and towns forced their local Jewish populations to leave. However, Iasi was far from accommodating and was known as a centre of anti-Semitic activity. Its Jews had suffered from pogroms initiated by Romanian fascists and students in 1899 and 1923.

Notwithstanding sporadic intervention by Allied forces prior to World War I, Romanian governments consistently refused to recognize Jews as Romanian nationals. At the Versailles Conference in 1919, the Romanian government reluctantly accepted a treaty granting Jews citizenship, but the statute, incorporated into the Paris Peace Treaty of 1919, was never fully honoured.

With the exception of a few hundred families, most Romanian Jews remained resident aliens and suffered gross disabilities and enduring persecution. In 1937, during the Nazi regime of Octavian Goga, 225,000 Jews were stripped of their citizenship and an additional 91,000 were classified as foreigners.

In 1930, the infamous Iron Guard was created in Romania as a successor to the Christian National Defence League, founded in 1923. On September 8, 1940, Marshal Ion Antonescu proclaimed Iasi to be the capital of the Iron Guard under his Fascist-Nazi regime. It was at this time that the persecution of the city's Jews began, by measures taken against them such as arbitrary arrests, extortion, property confiscation, seizure of businesses, and trials of suspects charged with belonging to the illicit Communist Party. In November 1940, two majestic synagogues were destroyed on orders from the Iron Guard.

On the eve of war against the Soviet Union, Romanian military authorities were stationed at Iasi, which was also an assembly point for Romanian and German army units. On June 28, 1941, following the circulation of false rumours that Jews had abetted Soviet planes bombing the city, assaults on the Jewish people living in Iasi began. These pogroms were organized by the members of the Romanian Special Intelligence Service, the liaison office with the German military. In Christian homes in Romania, crosses and icons were displayed, as well as placards proclaiming, "Here live Christians, not *Jydani* [Jews]."

Air raid sirens were sounded as a false war signal that had actually been preplanned by organizers of the impending Jewish massacre. And later that night, the sky was lit up with rocket fire as a signal to begin the slaughter.

On June 29, 1941, dubbed *Duminica Aceia* ("Black Sunday") by the Romanian Jewish population, thousands of Jews were arrested and shot by Romanian soldiers outside police headquarters. An additional 4,300 Jews were placed in closed cargo vans and crowded into cattle cars on trains, where 2,650 people died of thirst or suffocation. Many of those who survived suffered extreme emotional and mental trauma. The Nazi governor of Krakow, Otto Wachter, with a tone of disgust, deemed this to be "an uncivilized method," as reported by the Italian journalist Cyrzio Malaparte in his famous book *Kaput*.

June 29, 1941, became the bloodiest day in the history of the Jews in Romania. *Duminica Aceia* signalled the beginning of the Final Solution, the German Nazi scheme to remove Jewish existence from European soil.

No other country has had a darker record in the treatment of Jews than Romania. It was the most virulently anti-Semitic country in pre-war Europe, its anti-Semitism vitriolic and venomous, unparalleled in Eastern Europe with the possible exception of Poland.

Romania was Germany's most devoted satellite state, an ardent military ally, not a conquered country. According to Nora Levin in her book *The Holocaust*, an estimated 14,000 Jews were massacred in Iasi on that Sunday known as *Duminica Aceia*.

To this day, the truth about the Iasi massacre, in which Jews were bludgeoned to death with utmost barbarity, is not acknowledged by Romanian authorities, the Romanian Orthodox Church or by Romanian historians and academics. The official version of events that is propagated, as cited by Radu Ioanid in *The Holocaust in Romania*, is remarkably inadequate. It reads: "In Iasi, 500 Jewish communists were executed. They fired at German and Romanian soldiers from their homes." To this day, after 65 years, the Romanian anti-Semitic press feeds the public this flagrant lie.

Romania is today the only country in postwar Europe that has erected monuments, named streets and constructed plaques honouring the Nazi Iron Guard leadership from the darkest and most terrible time in Romanian history.

Remember! Zachor!

June 29, 1941, *Duminica Aceia* (preceded by the "Bucharest Kristallnacht" on Jan. 21-23, 1941) became the starting signal – not only for the Romanian Nazi regime, but for all of Nazi-dominated Europe – to annihilate, to murder, six million Jews, including 350,000 Romanian Jews.

Zachor! Remember!

* * *

The Jewish community of Iasi, established in the 16th century, was known for its highly developed cultural life, its Zionist and Chassidic movements, and its renowned community member, Abraham Goldfaden, who organized the world's first professional Yiddish theatre in Iasi.

In 2006, the Iasi Jewish community numbers some 270 families!

Zachor! Remember!

*Holocaust survivor Baruch Cohen is research chairman of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research.*

# שישאר ג'ינגו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**הטרור מבית**

לפני מספר שבועות החליט ארגון עובדי הצבור של אונטאריו (CUPE) להחרים את ישראל על יחסה לאוכלוסיה הפלשתינאית. הם כמובן לא הציעו להחרים את איראן, למרות קריאתה הברורה להשמדת ישראל, ולא, חלילה, את ממשלת החאמאס, שמפעילה מענגן טרור. יתרה מכך-איך אפשר שארגון עובדים דמוקראטי מצביע "פה אחד"-מה, לא היה שם אף אחד שחשב אחרת?

זוהי אנטישמיות ברורה ובוטה. רבים וטובים התקיפו את הארגון ואת החלטתו בכל העיתונים ורשתות התקשורת. אבל התשובה הכי ניצחת לאנטישמיות הצינית הזו באה עם מעצרם של 17 מוסלמים קנדיים צעירים שלפי החשד וכתבי האישום תכננו פעולות טרור בתוך קנדה, שקלטה אותם ונתנה להם מקלט. ישר נזעקו הרוחות: אסור להאשים את כל המוסלמים, כי הם ברובם מתונים ואינם תומכים בטרור.

סליחה: האם נולד פעם ילד יהודי שתכנן או ביצע מעשה טרור בקנדה? יש מוסלמים, גם כאלה שאינם תומכים בטרור, שעדיין רוצחים את בנותיהם אם נדמה להם שמישהוא נגע בהן, ועדיין זכויות האשה ברוב מדינותיהם שוות לזכויות של עז. ויש בכל העולם מספר מאוד קטן של מוסלמים שחיים במשטרים דמוקרטיים. ואם לצטט את קובי ברוש, הקונסול הישראלי שלנו, לא כל המוסלמים הם טרוריסטים, אבל כמעט כל הטרוריסטים הם מוסלמים.

ועל כן, נראה לי מוזיף ומעוף'ה שהמוסלמים מתנערים מאחריות. זו הבעייה שלהם. חלק מהנוער שלהם קולט את המסרים של אל קעיידה. חלק מהנוער שלהם איננו מקבל בבית איזשהו ברור מספיק שהם היגרו למדינה שהם חיבים לה הרבה מאוד, ושהם חיבים להפוך לחלק ממשפחת האדם.

ושלא יבלבלו את המוח שזה רק מיעוט קטן. אם משטרת קנדה השלומיאלית תפסה 17, חזקה שיש עוד אלפים שחושבים באותה צורה גם אם לא העזו לעשות עם זה משהו.

אבל שישאר בינינו.

**סרטים שכדאי**

היזה סרט שאם לא אספר לכם עליו-אין סיכוי שתלכו:

District 13 הוא סרט ג'ימס בונד צרפתי ששם בכיס הקטן את כל סרטי בונד האמריקאים והבריטיים. זהו סיפור על שיתוף פעולה לא צפוי בין פושע ואיש משטרה במטרה להוציא מידי קבוצת גנגסטרים פצצה מתקתקת שעלולה להרוג מיליוני אנשים בפרבר עוני בפאריז.

הסרט עשוי יוצא מן הכלל והשעתיים עוברות תוך עשר דקות. ובניגוד לסרטי ג'יימס בונד האמריקאיים-יש גם מסר רציני, שאינני יכול לשתף אתכם בו מחשש שאגלה את העלילה. מצויין לחדשי הקיץ. עשר בסולם קורן.

**מילון מונחים**

היזה סוסקינד שלחה לי את המקבץ הבא:

"אחסנה" מחלה חולפת הנרפאת על ידי נישואין. מכילה 4 מילים, שלוש הברות ושני אידיוטים.

**אומאז' הפתעה**: איש שמשיג כסף מהעשירים, קולות מהעניים, ומגן עליהם אחד מהשני.

**ג'ונגו**: אחד, שבניגוד ליתר, לא הספיק לברוח.

**דשאנית לא**: ההוכחה לכך שכולנו נולדנו בצורה דפוקה.

**ליזת**: היכולת להכיר בכך שאתה מרשלם בלי להגיד זאת לאף אחד.

**מקלט**: מונחה שעובד במקום שבו כולם מבלים.

**AHOY MATIES:**

**Grade 5 students at Netivot HaTorah Day School organized a pirate-themed field day for the younger grades to celebrate the end of the school year.**

**[Rebecca Ansel photo]**

Jewish Life

# The masks we wear

**Books**
*Bernard Baskin*

Which is your favourite mask? We've got trunks full of them. One kind of mask is fashioned by external circumstances. Not infrequently a man who has made it big suddenly dons a mask. His friends of humbler days no longer recognize him. "I don't know what's gotten into George. He doesn't seem the same any more." A woman who enters into high society often displays the mask of indifference to family members.

The more honest we become about ourselves, the more impressed we are with the devious façades behind which our emotions are prone to conceal themselves. Abnormal fears wear the masks of pain, hate masquerades as love, guilt assumes the appearance of innocence, cowardice promenades as illness and shame seeks the cloak of respectability.

T. S. Eliot wrote, "There will be time to prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet." Putting on the mask is the first requisite of going out into the polite and, even more important, impolite society. "False face must hide what the false heart doth know," wrote Shakespeare.

But, wait, we have not explored this truth completely. The fact is that certain masks are quite indispensable. If we could not mask our true feelings, how could we perform our assigned tasks? The salesman soliciting an order may be quite worried about his sick child at home, but unless he can put on the mask of enthusiasm for his product, he will not be able to provide for him. The restaurant hostess may be heartsick over a shattered marriage, but unless she can wear the mask of good cheer, she may soon find herself without a job. The professional counsellor may have a host of problems gnawing away at his equanimity, but unless he can put on the mask of certainty and composure, he will soon lose his usefulness to those who enlist his aid. The grieving widow may carry an awesome burden of sorrow, but if she cannot manage to mask her true feelings, she may find friends hard to come by.

Any one of us may find ourselves at the bedside of a dear friend or a loved one who is suffering from a fatal disease, but unless we can put on the mask of hopefulness and confidence, we will betray our mission of mercy. As a façade behind which to conceal painful emotions, masks are not only permissible, they are priceless.

Let us go one stop further and suggest that masks can even enhance our lives. We can grow in mind and spirit if we learn to wear the mask of human beings we admire – not in order to pretend to be what we are not, but rather as a means of aspiring to be what we can become. Do you want to become kinder and more sympathetic, then assume the pose of the kindly and sympathetic person. Do you want to become more understanding and merciful, then don the masks of understanding and mercy.

Someone has said with fine insight, "Act human and you will become human." In the very process of simulating the roles of a exemplary person, we can take an impressive forward stride in self-improvement. That, it seems, was the point of Hamlet's advice to his mother, "Assume a virtue if you have it not."

# The Rescue at Entebbe, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"This operation will certainly be inscribed in the annals of military history, in legend and in national tradition." Those are the words of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister who gave the go-ahead for the raid on Entebbe, Uganda, 30 years ago next week. Today, a look at the legacy of Entebbe.

Of course, the rescue had a profound personal effect on anyone who cared about the fate of Israel. Jonathan Rosenblum was studying in an ulpan in the summer of 1976 and remembers the tension and then the joy that filled the air. "Complete strangers were embracing on the bus. For once Jewish unity seemed like a reality, not a fundraiser's slogan. As I looked around the bus, one thought kept recurring: we are all Jews. The obvious differences between us – language, skin colour, personal and familial history suddenly seemed unimportant." **[http://tinyurl.com/qmz2t]**

Decades later, Rosenblum put those events into perspective. "While the first realization of the miracle of the Entebbe rescue will always rank as one of the happiest moments of my life, the memory today is a bittersweet one. For it always calls in its wake the question: will we Jews in the Land of Israel ever again experience the same feelings of unity we did that morning?"

And what about the generation born after the raid? Has Entebbe lived for them "in legend and in national tradition" as Rabin predicted? Unfortunately, a survey conducted earlier this year found that 30 per cent of Israelis aged 18 to 22 had no knowledge of the rescue operation. A similar percentage of young people had never heard of Yonatan Netanyahu, the leader of the mission and the lone Israeli military casualty. **[http://tinyurl.com/q3bzs]**

I was interested to read what impact the raid on Entebbe had on the people of Uganda. Ugandan political commentator Charles Onyango-Obbo says that before the raid then-President Idi Amin had established a powerful army that terrorized his people into submission. But the raid "shattered his aura of invincibility. Nothing Amin did after that could rebuild his grip on the country." **[http://tinyurl.com/ohjvr]**

And what of the fallen dictator? Amin was dethroned in 1979 by Tanzanian troops joined by Ugandan dissidents. He fled to Saudi Arabia, reportedly arriving with his two wives and 24 children. He died there in 2003. **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idi_Amin]**

A story as powerful as Entebbe's has proven irresistible to filmmakers. *Victory at Entebbe* cast Burt Lancaster as Minister of Defence Shimon Peres and Richard Dreyfuss as Netanyahu. **[http://tinyurl.com/qogxv]** A second, superior production, *Raid on Entebbe*, had Peter Finch as Rabin and Yaphet Kotto as Amin. **[http://tinyurl.com/rcbb4]** And the Israeli-produced *Mivtsa Yonatan* (*Operation Thunderbolt*) featured Gila Almagor with Yehoram Gaon as Netanyahu. **[http://tinyurl.com/mpwd5]** *Operation Thunderbolt* was nominated for best foreign language film in 1977.

Right after the rescue, the Organization of African Unity initiated a complaint in the United Nations condemning Israel's "act of aggression" against a member state of the United Nations. Soviet delegate Mikhail Kharlamov said "however much the representative of Israel might have tried to refute the irrefutable, the armed action against Uganda was an act of direct, flagrant aggression." On the other hand, Kaj Sundberg of Sweden said that although Sweden was "unable to reconcile the Israeli action with the strict rules of the Charter, [it] did not find it possible to join in a condemnation in such a case." In the end, the Security Council did not adopt the resolution condemning Israel. **[http://home.att.net/~slomansonb/Entebbe.html]**

I'll leave the last word to then-Israeli ambassador Chaim Herzog (later the country's sixth president) who delivered these eloquent remarks as the UN debated the legality of Israel's actions in Entebbe **[http://tinyurl.com/qkckj]**: "We are proud of what we have done because we have demonstrated to the world that in a small country – in Israel's circumstances – the dignity of man, human life and human freedom constitute the highest values. We are proud not only because we have saved the lives of over 100 innocent people – men, women and children – but because of the significance of our act for the cause of human freedom." **[http: //tinyurl.com/mo3jz]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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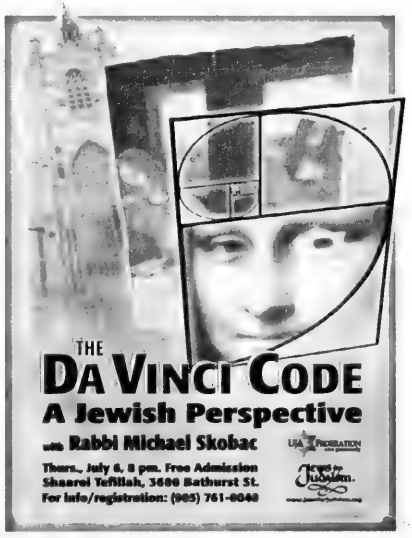


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# Chavi Rosenzweig speaks at fundraiser

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

"There comes a time in life when you realize that when you stand still, you will remain at this point forever. You realize that if you keep looking to the ground, life will pass you by," said David Rosenzweig's widow, Chavi.

Rosenzweig was fatally stabbed the night of July 13, 2002, his birthday, while helping his son change a tire on Bathurst Street near Dell Park Avenue.

"Life is a journey, a journey of discovery. Circumstances might not always be as you want them to be. Life may not always go as planned," she said.

Rosenzweig was speaking to an auditorium of more than 100 women at an Em Habonim Smecha fundraising event at Bais Yaakov Elementary School recently.

"It is through my ongoing search for truth and meaning that I am more prepared to honour HaKodesh Baruch Hu," she said.

"This for me has become a lifelong endeavour. Every achievement in life's search and struggle is an accomplishment. And every accomplishment along life's journey possesses an element of uncertainty."

Em Habonim Smecha provides counselling and support for more than 450 single-parent families in Israel.

Former Broadway entertainer, Rachel Factor, who has performed in various stage productions including *Miss Saigon* and *Shogun*, performed *J.A.P* – her one-woman autobiographical show – at the event.

Factor, who is Japanese-American, converted to Orthodox Judaism, and now lives in Israel with her husband and two children.

The late Rebecca Teles, who dedicated her life to serving various organizations in support of Israel, and was the recipient of the Ontario Home Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992, was also honoured at the event.

Teles' daughter, Elana Ginz, continues in her mother's footsteps, diligently raising awareness about Em Habonim Smecha.

## *Murder of husband recalled*

# Israel a leader in disaster management, doctor says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Hospitals in North American cities have a lot to learn from Israeli disaster management techniques, a physician told an international conference in Toronto last week.

Dr. Mauricio Lynn, an associate professor of surgery at the University of Miami who served in the Israeli Air Force for 18 years, said hospitals in Israel are generally better equipped to handle mass casualties than are those in North America.

On the eve of delivering a speech to the World Conference on Disaster Management, Lynn said in an interview that Israeli methods are transferrable.

"Israel has produced protocols and templates that can be adapted by any hospital. Israel should serve as an example to other countries."

Israeli doctors and nurses in about two dozen hospitals have been well trained and drilled to deal with disasters, particularly those caused by terrorism, he added.

Since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, major American medical facilities have come a long way in learning to cope with such disasters, but they are still in need of more knowledge and further training, he said.

"We're better prepared than before Sept. 11, but we have to keep practising and continuing to learn."

Asked whether Canadian hospitals in urban areas are ready to handle a large number of casualties, Lynn said he has not studied the situation here.

Apart from terror attacks, he said, hospitals must be able to cope with natural disasters such as earthquakes and airplane crashes in which there are survivors.

Lynn, who is also medical director at the Center for Bloodless Medicine at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center, completed his undergraduate studies in Rio de Janeiro and his residency at the Tel Aviv University Sackler School of Medicine.

While serving in the Israel Defence Forces, he worked in an air evacuation and rescue unit and was head of the trauma department.

Lynn's clinical and research interests range from general surgery and bleeding control to hemorrhagic shock and hemostasis.

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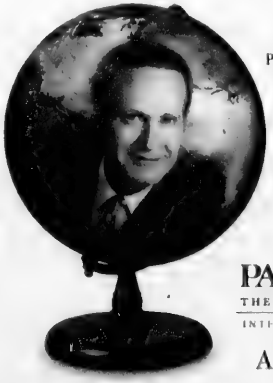

Leonard Exton has joined Paisley-Manor Insurance Brokers Ltd., as Senior Vice President and Partner, effective immediately.

An insurance and financial industry executive with over 33 years experience, he looks forward to handling his clients from his new location.

Leonard received his C.A. designation in 1977 and is a York University graduate and can be reached at 416-380-2220; email: lexton@paisleymanor.com

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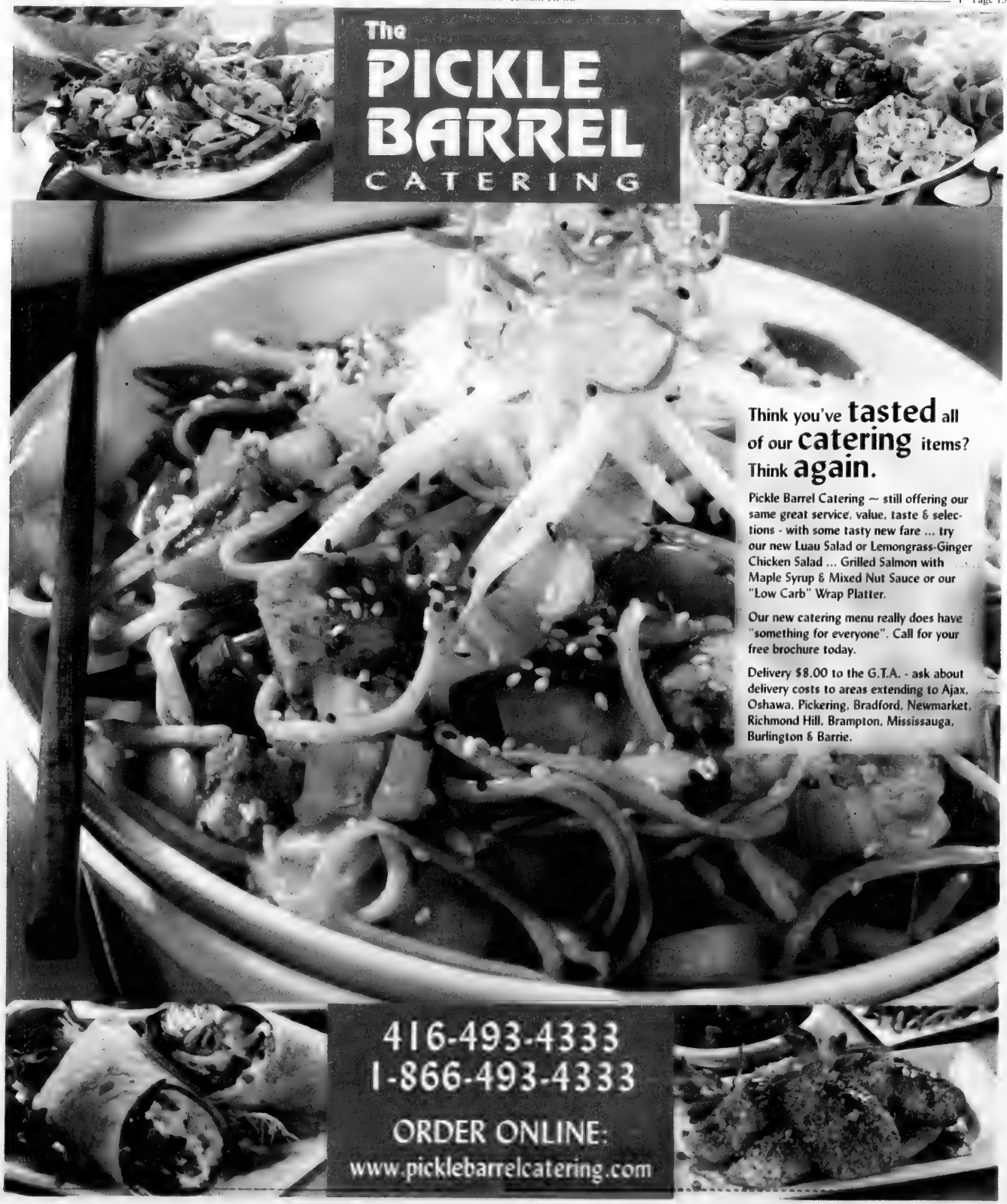
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# Morah Janice teaches 'how to be a good person'

**A lesson from the teacher:** *"I try to teach children that everybody makes mistakes. It's a lifelong lesson. If you don't try, you never know if you can succeed. I think that it applies to everybody."*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Do Janice Feldman's 22 students really learn everything they need to know in her kindergarten class at the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School?

"Kids will always learn how to read and write, but learning how to be a good person is number 1 in this classroom," says the school's senior kindergarten teacher. That's why, for instance, she gently reminds children who are talking during "Show and Share" to please show respect to their classmate.

"They are our teachers..."

Feldman, a mother of three, tries to bring humour and an easygoing style into her classroom.

"We do everything we can to make sure everyone's comfortable, then that's when learning can happen," she said in a recent interview.

The learning she refers to is evident in the students' work that adorns the classroom, including crayoned pictures illustrating trips they would like to take if they could go anywhere in the world, accompanied by painstakingly printed names of destinations and modes of transport.

It's also apparent when Feldman conducts part of her morning circle completely in Hebrew. Her class is the entry point for DJDS students, and they have not necessarily been exposed to Hebrew previously.

Seeing how far they've come makes the end of the school year special for Feldman, who recently received a Teacher of Excellence award, a privately sponsored award for Toronto Jewish day school teachers. "This is the time of year when you really love it, when you look at how much [the students] have grown and how much they've learned," she told *The CJN*.

**Janice Feldman teaches her senior kindergarten students the aleph-bet with the help of Tzvi the turtle.**

**[Frances Kraft photo]**

A native of Toronto, where she attended Associated Hebrew Schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Feldman says she always wanted to be a teacher. She has a bachelor of arts degree from York University and a bachelor of education from the University of Toronto.

Feldman (née Kaiman) began her teaching career more than 20 years ago, first at Associated, then at a Jewish day school in Southfield, Mich., a suburb of Detroit, when her husband was studying across the border in Windsor. She taught for eight years at Netivot HaTorah Day School, then took a three-year hiatus before joining the DJDS eight years ago at its inception. At the time, her class had only six children.

Her classroom approach has evolved to focus on students' critical thinking skills and ability to ask questions, as well as on including varied Jewish backgrounds, and on an integrated Jewish and general studies curriculum, all in line with the DJDS' philosophy.

She sees her role now as more of a "mediator" rather than someone who is "handing information down.

"The kids often don't realize they're doing reading, writing and math, because it's done in a fun, integrated way," she said. "We don't say, 'Now it's time for math,' or 'Now it's time for reading.'"

She encourages parents to ask their children "why" and "how" questions – for instance, at the grocery store: "Why do you think we should pick that?" – as she does at school.

"Understanding why things happen is bigger than just knowing that they happen," she said.

Feldman is about to take a year's leave of absence, but she's looking forward to returning in 2007. "I wouldn't be here if I didn't love it."

**"*They are our teachers...*" will resume at the end of September.**

# Heschel School celebrates 10th anniversary

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

This year's Grade 8 class at the Toronto Heschel School is its fifth graduating class, but it's the first to include students who have been with the school since junior kindergarten.

That milestone is one of the changes that marks Heschel's 10th anniversary, which the school celebrated at a gala evening earlier this month.

Principal Gail Baker, one of five founders of the school, was honoured at the event, along with co-founders Ellen Kessler, Judith Leitner, Baruch Rand (the school's first principal) and Rachael Turkienicz.

Managing the school's growth while maintaining its "mission and vision" has been the school's biggest challenge, said Baker recently.

With 325 students – up from 52 spread over junior kindergarten to Grade 2 at its inception – the school's size is still "manageable," says Baker, a mother of three who, in addition to her administrative duties, still teaches Judaic arts, a program that looks at art and literature through a Jewish lens.

The school came about after Rand suggested to Baker that they open a school together. Both were members of the same synagogue, and each ran a Sunday school.

An initial information night about the would-be day school drew 50 people, despite a February blizzard, affirming their vision of an arts-based school that would cater to "multiple intelligences" – the idea that different students learn in different ways, and in ways other than the traditional linguistic and logical-mathematical modes, including through music and movement.

"We were very idealistic," said Baker of the founders and the original staff of 11, who were attracted to the school's arts-based, environmentally sensitive, egalitarian, and multi-denominational approach. "This is the little school that grew."

Enrolment doubled in Heschel's second year from 52 to 105, and increased the following year to 185. Today there are about as many staff members as there were students the first year.

In September, the school will amalgamate its two existing campuses at a former public school building at Faywood Boulevard and Sheppard Avenue W., which has been its junior high location since 2004. Younger students are currently at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, where the school has been located since its inception, and some classes were housed at Adath Israel Congregation from 2000 to 2004.

Now that Heschel will have exclusive use of the Sheppard building, students have begun to plant an expanded organic garden there.

"We'll have vegetables again, and some will be donated to food banks, as always," Baker said. "A very strong environmental ethos really permeates a lot of the curriculum."

With students from different denominational backgrounds, the school makes an effort to promote integration. Its kashrut policy is one example.

"What's kosher for one family may not be kosher for another, especially around cheese," said Baker. "We encourage parents to ask, and not to feel offended."

Egalitarianism at Heschel, also a potentially delicate issue, means "equal opportunity for everybody… within Halachah," said Baker. Boys and girls both cover their heads, but the coverings are not necessarily the same for the two groups, she explained.

Also, children below bar and bat mitzvah age can learn Torah and read from the Torah, but parental preferences kick in at their coming of age.

Prayer services include a "Heschel minyan" where males and females sit together and girls can read from the Torah, but students are also exposed to a variety of services so that they can learn to "navigate" them and feel comfortable outside their own Jewish milieu.

"We don't teach that something is 'not right' or 'more Jewish,'" said Baker. "We're trying to build an inclusive school."

The late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, for whom the school is named, believed that Judaism should be a unifying force, not a divisive one, she noted.

Certain concepts, she said, are central to Judaism, and to the school: Shabbat, and one God, for example. "But we talk about different expressions of this. Some people don't drive on Shabbat. Other families maybe have a challah [but do drive]. The core concepts remain."

# 'Prisoners' document' requires greater scrutiny

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

Just as last week's column on the Palestinian "prisoners' document" ("Vote on jailhouse plan won't solve anything," *CJN*, June 22) was going to press, a front-page *National Post* headline proclaimed "Hamas, Fatah in unity talks."

In the June 19 *Post* report, Jonathan Ferziger wrote: "Leaders of the Hamas and Fatah movements said… they are close to reaching an agreement on a coalition government that will seek the end of international sanctions against the Palestinian Authority."

Ferziger also reported that Hamas was about to accept the prisoners' document, disagreeing with Fatah only on three of 18 articles. "If such a deal is reached," he noted, "[PA President Mahmoud] Abbas has indicated he will call off a July 26 referendum on the initiative, which Hamas has said amounts to an attempt to overthrow its government."

Ferziger wrote that "the deepening financial crisis [in the territories] has pressured [Hamas] to adopt a more pragmatic stance." However, he failed to provide any solid evidence of what this "more pragmatic" position amounts to, since he did not critically examine what's in the prisoners' document.

In "Hamas ponders sacrificing ideology for political gain," (*Financial Times*, June 19), Harvey Morris wrote that Hamas was considering "whether to sacrifice some of its ideology in exchange for safeguarding political gains made in last January's elections.

"Depending on the outcome of its deliberations, the PA could within weeks have a new national unity government with a platform of negotiating with Israel, or face a potentially divisive national referendum and worsening relations between Hamas and Fatah."

Nothing in the prisoners' document accepts a genuine two-state solution, or endorses UN resolutions, such as 242 and 338, that call for broad Middle East peace. Morris noted that Hamas is "still balking" at accepting "Arab and UN resolutions on the conflict" and endorsing "the concept of a two-state solution."

He added: "Even if Hamas accepted the prisoners' document, there is no guarantee this would meet Quartet demands for it to recognize Israel, abandon violence and accept previous agreements with Israel before direct aid to the government could resume."

So it appears that any optimism about possible pragmatism by Hamas is not supported by hard evidence.

Yet sorting out the issues can indeed be tricky for the average news consumer.

Contrary to numerous media reports, the prisoners' document does not, even implicitly, require the recognition of Israel. And whether it eventually accepts this document or a version of it, Hamas can hold to its rejectionist stand vis-à-vis Israel without fear of compromising its religiously based rejection of Jewish sovereignty on what it considers "sacred Islamic land."

What several Israeli analysts have pointed out is that, at best, Hamas might use Western naivete about the "prisoners' document" to accept only a temporary ceasefire with Israel without renouncing its stated goal of eliminating the Jewish state. The repeated references in the document to the "right of return" of Palestinians underscore that determination.

In its June 10 editorial "Palestinian Peace Politics," the *New York Times* described how the document's refusal to explicitly recognize Israel, its endorsement of terrorism in the territories, and its call for the return of refugees to "pre-1967 Israel" amount to a major retreat from the promise of Oslo 13 years ago: "For these and other reasons, the prisoners' proposal is unacceptable even to dovish Israelis, and in its present form, can represent no more than an initial bargaining position."

But whether, in any version, the document even represents that much is very doubtful.

Western audiences crave good news from the Middle East and will cling to any hope for peace. But when writing about the prisoners' document – and Hamas – journalists need to ask tough questions not only about the document but also about Hamas' so-called "pragmatic turn."

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

**LEO BAECK GRADS: Michael Bryant, the attorney general of Ontario, addressed the first graduating class of Leo Baeck Day School's Holy Blossom campus last week. "Show up," he advised them, reminding them that opportunities can never be seized if you aren't there to embrace them or are unaware that they exist. The 22 students have watched the Holy Blossom campus grow to more than 300 students in 12 years, now encompassing the full Leo Baeck program from senior kindergarten to Grade 8. On their final day at the school, the graduating students delivered more than 200 letters about the humanitarian disaster in the Darfur region of Sudan to the office of local MP Joe Volpe for him to deliver to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.**


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*A Sense of Spadina is a project of the Ontario Jewish Archives, part of the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto*

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# Landry weighs in on sovereignty and Jews

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The Jewish community should stay neutral in a future Quebec referendum on sovereignty, former premier Bernard Landry said.

Speaking in French on June 19 to a group of 150 people at the Gelber Conference Centre as part of the Festival Sefarad, Landry said during a question-and-answer session that it should be left up to "Québécois et Québécoises" to campaign publicly in the build-up to a referendum vote.

In speaking about Jews, however, he appeared to be referring to the organized Jewish community, not individual Jews.

Yet, Landry had earlier made the case forcefully that members of the Jewish community were every bit as "Québécois" as the descendants of the province's founding settlers.

"You are us," he told the audience.

To the left and rear of Landry were the flags of Quebec, Canada and France, which was a financial sponsor of the festival.

The audience greeted Landry warmly, but questions following his extemporaneous talk, while very polite, had an unmistakably federalist bent.

Landry's talk was billed as being "cultural" and focused on whether Montreal could be the "Cordoba" of the future, a reference to Cordoba's legacy as a cultural centre, as well as an allusion to the "Golden Age" of Spanish Jewry.

But he spent a significant portion of his address articulating the reasons for Quebec's status as a "nation" (and for all its population being counted as members of that nation), as well as defending the need for Quebec sovereignty, explaining the Quiet Revolution, and discussing why all ethnic Quebecers are equally "Québécois" in every sense and should not see themselves as a part of a multicultural society.

"Quebec is multi-ethnic but not multicultural," he said. He described multiculturalism as an "error" and an idea that reinforces differences instead of binding people together as a "nation" with common purpose and values.

"Quebec is a modern nation of diverse origins," he said, describing Quebecers of all stripes as equal members of that "nation."

As an example, Landry cited Jews and Palestinians at Concordia University, who he said should see themselves as Quebecers of Jewish or Palestinian origin, not as Jews or Palestinians "first."

During the question-and-answer period, Landry was asked whether, given Quebec's success without sovereignty, the drive for independence is an example of "a solution looking for a problem."

Landry replied that, just as in the case of the creation of Israel, sovereignty provides the best guarantee for maximizing a nation's full potential.

Another questioner then noted that Quebec's success was accomplished as part of Canada.

Maybe so, Landry replied, but he said that if Quebec was independent, it would be "even more successful.

"It's not an economic question, it's a question of dignity," he added.

Landry cited a list of Quebec's achievements, ranging from Quebec being the longest "continuous" democracy in North America (because of the U.S. Civil War) and a welcoming presence for millions of immigrants of diverse origins, to its emergence from the "economic domination" of anglophones, to its cultural achievements, to its success in high tech and other fields, "and its remarkable use of human values and creativity."

He also cited Quebec's linguistic progress but emphasized the need to guard against the decline of French.

He specifically used the word "convivialité," chosen by the Festival Sefarad as its theme, to describe the harmonious relations between Quebecers of all origins.

Landry said Quebec rejects intolerance of all kinds.

# ORT volunteer wants others to get involved

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Nathalie Rethazy, an ORT Canada volunteer, is on a mission.

The 29-year-old pharmaceutical salesperson, originally from Dundas, Ont., wants to get more young people involved in ORT, a not-for-profit technological and professional training organization, and in the Jewish community.

She became involved with ORT about five years ago, she says, when she was living in Israel and volunteered teaching English at an ORT school in Na'alot.

"When I came back, I could no longer help the children directly, but I wanted the opportunity to help indirectly."

She became part of ORT Toronto's professional leaders' group, and about two years ago, she and co-chair Shawna Gall organized the

Nathalie Rethazy

pair's first fundraising event, a cocktail party/silent auction that raised $5,000.

"The money was earmarked for an ORT school, and I had visited it while I was in Israel. I knew how much they needed our help," Rethazy says.

"We had several hundred people attend the party, and most of them knew very little about ORT. We opened their eyes."

Many, however, feel their lives are too busy to get involved in volunteer work, she says.

"I keep stressing that no matter how much time they have, they can make a difference. Even if they have one hour in a week, they can get a small job done – e-mailing, printing, picking up donations. Every little bit helps.

"Once they start, I guarantee they'll get hooked. They'll see the results of their efforts, they'll make friends, and they'll work together with them towards a common goal. The small amount of time they give will take them into a different world."

A graduate of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Rethazy says that volunteering is in her blood. "I was a volunteer teaching assistant at Hebrew school, and I was involved in the synagogue."

Even though she and her husband have no children yet, he volunteered to be a hockey coach because he wanted to teach children to play a team sport, she says.

"When we do have children, we want to instill in them the value of volunteerism."

Her volunteer work has given her the opportunity to meet people she wouldn't ordinarily meet, she says.

"I've also gained skills, such as public speaking, budgeting and bookkeeping, fundraising, approaching prospective sponsors, and organizing events. I'm certainly ready to make a bar mitzvah [when the day comes.]"

Gall says she volunteers for ORT "because it is a strong worldwide organization that unites children of all races and cultures, and provides practical education.

"Our 30something generation needs to become more involved with ORT. [We can] help ORT teach skills that will allow young people to become self-sufficient, confident and productive members of society."

For information on volunteer opportunities at ORT, contact Rethazy at nrethazy@rogers.com.

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# Death Valley bike ride supports juvenile diabetes research

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

One day in February, Queen's University occupational-therapy student Samantha Spencer woke up to a radio announcement about a fundraising project for research into juvenile diabetes.

That's how she came to ride a bicycle 120 kilometres in 104-degree heat through Death Valley, Calif.

Death Valley is the lowest point in the United States – 282 feet (86 metres) below sea level. It also has registered the highest temperatures there.

Spencer, 25, was not just looking for an adventure. Her brother Matthew, 22, has had juvenile diabetes since he was 14. "He manages it well," she said, "but I see how hard it is to deal with the needles and blood-sugar monitoring."

Juvenile diabetes, also called diabetes type 1, is mostly found in children and young adults. It means that the body does not make insulin, and the person must take insulin shots every day, carefully monitor their blood sugar, diet and exercise levels.

A lifelong condition ("so far," Spencer noted), if uncontrolled it can cause blindness, nerve damage, even heart disease or stroke.

Spencer said that she and her family have always done the annual walk to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund of Canada, but "it's hard to ask for money for the same thing."

The way that these bike rides, organized by Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund International, work, she explained, is that if you raise a certain amount of money, $5,000 Canadian at least, you can take part.

Starting in February, Spencer, her parents and even her brother, started working. She sent out e-mails to "everyone I could think of – even my professors." She and Matthew held a wine and cheese fundraiser in Kingston, and organized an auction of Lululemon sports bags that had been donated to the cause.

By May, she had raised $8,200.

Fundraising wasn't the only preparation Spencer had to do. For one thing, although she rode her bike around the neighbourhood with the other kids as a child, at that point "I didn't even have a bike. The last one I had was pink and had streamers on it," Spencer said.

She trained in Kingston, where a local bicycle store, Cyclepath, "adopted me," she said. They trained her, took her biking, and offered any help and advice she needed.

Finally, in May, she and her mother, Fern, who volunteered to help at the event, set off for Death Valley. They joined 77 other riders, who had also raised the required sum of money.

Everyone started the ride together, she said. At any point, participants could either turn around and ride back to the starting point, or just go as far as they could, and wait for a van to come along and transport them back.

The last mile was entirely downhill, Spencer said, and everyone rode down that hill to the base.

The event was not a race, Spencer stressed. "Everyone was so friendly and supportive. They helped each other, talked and joked. Everyone was there for the same cause."

The ride itself was a challenge, she said. The participants took electrolyte pills, salt, water and diluted Gatorade. Food and water were provided at the rest stops, which were located every 20 or so miles. Spencer's mother was stationed at a rest stop at Badwater, at the lowest point of the valley.

The ride raised $266,000 for research into juvenile diabetes.

Spencer said that she is eager to do the ride again. "I just have to find new, creative ways to fundraise."

For more information about the ride, visit www.jdrf.org, and click on "rides" or e-mail Samantha Spencer at spencer.samantha@gmail.com.

**MITZVAH KIDS: Candace Steinhart, left, who has type 1 diabetes (sometimes called juvenile diabetes), and David Kornhauser, whose sister has the same condition, donated $1,000 each from their bat and bar mitzvah gifts to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Accepting the cheques on behalf of JDRF is fundraising manager Marla Ingles.**

**Samantha Spencer, who rode a bicycle through Death Valley to raise funds for juvenile diabetes research, is with her mother, Fern, at one of the rest stops – the Badwater – on the bike route. The Badwater is 282 feet below sea level, the lowest point in the United States.**

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On Campus

# Hillel advised to create more diverse atmosphere

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Jewish students in this country have a higher level of Jewish identification than their U.S. counterparts, but Hillel needs to create a more welcoming, as well as politically and religiously diverse, atmosphere if it wants to attract more of them on Canadian campuses.

Those are the key conclusions of a research study done for Hillel of Greater Toronto about Canadian Jewish students. It was based on a similar study done in the United States last year on the so-called "millennial generation," young people born between 1982 and 2002.

The main objective of the study, completed by Northstar Research Partners, was to gain a better understanding of attitudes, opinions and interests of Canadian Jewish students on the topic of Jewish living.

Other objectives were to determine what students think of Hillel and the people involved in it, and what characteristics students want in a Jewish student organization.

Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto, said at a recent presentation that the study was commissioned after the U.S. study was completed because Hillels in this country wanted "to look at Canadian students and delve into issues unique to them."

David Sevitt, research associate with Northstar, said questionnaires were sent by e-mail to about 6,000 students across the country, of which 641 were completed.

As in the U.S. study, Northstar used a "Jewish Identification Index" to segment students' levels of Jewish affiliation into high, moderate or low, Sevitt said.

***Release of study on Canadian 'Millennials'***

"Moderates," who identify as Jewish but are not yet active in Jewish groups, comprised 44 per cent of the students, while 36 per cent were classified as "high" and 20 per cent as "low."

The U.S. study found that the "lows," at 40 per cent, are the largest sub-group of U.S. Jewish students, so Canadian students have a comparatively higher level of Jewish identity, Sevitt said. (Twenty eight per cent of U.S. respondents were classified as "high" and 32 per cent as "moderate").

In asking students about Hillel, Sevitt said, Northstar found that across the country, they are universally aware of the organization.

"There is clearly no awareness issue," he said. "A healthy proportion of students sign up for Hillel, and their two top reasons are to find out about [campus] activities, and to meet other students."

The study focused on "moderates" because they're the ones that Hillel has the best chance of reaching, Sevitt said.

Although most "moderates" have an interest in Hillel, he said, only two per cent participate often in its programs. "The challenge is not getting people to come in the first place. It is getting them to return."

The top reason students cited for not returning to Hillel, was that they were too busy. "[Other reasons] were that they found a Jewish connection elsewhere, they don't relate to the people that go there, they don't hear about the programs, or they don't feel welcome."

When asked about their Hillel experience, Sevitt said, about 50 per cent of respondents said they perceived those who participate in Hillel programs as "cliquey. A welcoming atmosphere was a key desire among all students."

While 50 per cent of "moderates" say that supporting Israel is important, all students agree that it's important to combat anti-Semitism, and about two-thirds want Hillel staff to be knowledgeable about Judaism."

They also want Jewish organizations to be "open to new ideas and provide a welcoming atmosphere for all political and religious viewpoints, and for everyone, Jewish and non-Jewish."

The latter request is not surprising, Sevitt said, because most "moderates" have a mix of Jewish and non-Jewish friends.

Whereas about 60 per cent of Jewish students have been to Israel – one-quarter of them through birthright israel – only about half appear to be more involved in Israel-related programs or events when they return, he said. "Only 20 per cent are likely to participate in pro-Israel advocacy."

Sevitt said that as an organization, Hillel is highly regarded, but it still faces a number of challenges. "It needs to work on creating a diverse, welcoming atmosphere, and it needs to make a [greater] effort to advise students of events."

It also has to translate the students' love of Israel into more involvement in pro-Israel activities, he said. "We have to reframe Israel advocacy in a way that is attractive to them."


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**TOY DRIVE: Junior kindergarten students at Bialik Hebrew Day School held a toy drive as their class tikkun olam project. They collected two cases full of toys and books, which they proudly donated to Zareinu.**


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Feature

# Celebrating the Jewish mosaic

About 15 ethnic Jewish communities were represented at the first ever Jewish Mosaic Festival, held June 11 at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. The event, sponsored by the BJCC, the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, featured entertainment, lectures, exhibits and food from the various groups.

[Carolyn Blackman photos]

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Mazel tov to Sam & Doris Freeman on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Best wishes from Lorne, Ron and all your family and friends.**

**We are celebrating his 95th, her 85th, and their 65th anniversary. Mazel tov Harry & Dolly Aiken. Lynda & Jeff; Elka, Les & Katie; Patti, Gary, Corrie, Amy and Erin.**

**Happy 70th anniversary to David & Rachel Rubinoff from your children and grandchildren.**

**Congratulations on your graduation, Jordana. Love from Mom and Dad.**

**Happy 80th birthday to Bubbie & Zaide Alice & Jack Gladstone. Love your family, Jessia, Mark, Ashley, Evelyn, Terry & Neil.**

**Wendi Jill Adelson and Dan Markel were married in Boca Raton on Feb. 26. Wishing you good health and happiness. Love, Ruth & Phil Markel.**

## SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Monday, July 10, is the deadline for the July 20 issue. There is no issue July 27. The July 20 What's New will cover events from July 20 to Aug. 2. Monday, July 17, is the deadline for the Aug. 3 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Saturday, July 1

**TORAH STUDY**

This summer Holy Blossom Temple offers Shabbat morning in-depth Torah study focusing on the Torah portion or the Haftorah of the week, with **Rabbi John Moscowitz** and **Rabbi Edward Goldfarb**. 9 a.m. 416-789-3291

**ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL**

The Orillia Country Shul resumes Shabbat morning services today and continues through July and August at 10:30 a.m. This year's leaders are **Lionel Sharp, Stuart Hytman, Cantor Tom Schwartz, Rabbi Danny Gottlieb, Elliott Melamed, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Rabbi Emanual Goldsmith, Rabbi Lionel Feldman** and **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. 151 Creighton St. S. Follow signs to Casino Rama, pass the bridge on Hwy. 12, go south one mile. 705-327-7069

## Monday, July 3

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT**

Circle of Care offers a 10-week spouses bereavement support group that will examine issues related to death, dying, myths of bereavement, living without a loved one and re-creating the self after death. Beginning today. To register, call **Naomi Cornfield**, 416-635-2860, ext. 471.

## Tuesday, July 4

**THE THREE TENORS**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Tuesday Night Live, a series of concert through Aug. 29 at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Tonight, The Three Tenors. 7:30 p.m. 416-395-7873

## Other news

**TCHAI ART SHOW**

The TCHAI Art Show, featuring 17 female artists, is raising funds for Jewish Women International's programs to end violence against women. Continues through July 2 at the Papermill Gallery, 67 Pottery Rd. For information, call 416-630-9313 or visit jwicanada.com.

**SIMPLY TSFAT CONCERT**

The House and Anshei Minsk Synagogue present the band Simply Tsfat, from Tsfat, Israel, on Thursday, July 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrews St. Students $10, adults $18. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Shabbos Awareness Center and the Simchas Torah Life Advancement Program in Jerusalem. For tickets, call 416-595-5723 or e-mail reachus@theminsk.com.

**OR HADASH TOURNAMENT**

Or Hadash Congregation, Newmarket, will hold its 5th annual charity golf tournament on Thursday, July 13, at Glenway Country Club. The day includes a barbecue lunch, 18 holes of golf, a cart, reception, sit-down dinner, raffle and silent auction. $175, dinner only $50. Sponsorships available. Registration/lunch 11:30 a.m. Start 1 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. For information, e-mail mark@orhadash.org, phone 905-898-2220 or visit www.golf.orhadash.org.

**KENSINGTON MARKET**

Ontario Jewish Archives offers a walking tour through Kensington Market, the site of Toronto's early Jewish neighbourhood. View the synagogues, bakeries, eateries, theatres and other sites, and imagine the sights and sounds of early Jewish life, from the noisy and congested market area to the imposing elegance and beauty of the synagogues. Sunday, July 9, 11 a.m. 416-635-2883, ext. 170

**Continued on page 23**

What's New

**Continued from page 22**

**LEND THEM YOUR BRAIN**

The Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest Centre needs people aged 18-85 to volunteer a couple of hours to help with research studies on aging, memory and cognition. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2080.

**FALL LECTURE SERIES**

Temple Emanu-El offers its fall general-interest lecture series on Mondays 2-4 p.m. Nov. 6, "Great Palaces and Museums" with **Catherine Danter**, of the U of T School of Continuing Studies; Nov. 13, "Health care in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities" with **Dr. Michael Guerriere**; Nov. 20, "From Page to Stage" with **Linda Hutcheon**, professor of English and comparative literature at U of T; Nov. 27, "The Folk Singers" with **Mike Daley**, department of music York U. Series $30. For registration and information, call 416-449-3880.

**RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS**

If you are a caregiver looking after your spouse at home and would like some time off, call **Sharon**, respite co-ordinator at the Bernard Betel Centre. 416-225-2112, ext. 118.

**NEED A PLACE TO LIVE?**

The Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation, can help find a basement apartment, room or shared space. Call 416-635-5600.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jias toronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext. 28.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. For information/registration, 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

Parenting Teens With Challenging Behaviour: This is a five-session group for parents whose teens do not follow the rules, have poor emotional control, are prone to angry outbursts, are argumentative, exhibit oppositional behaviour, are poor communicators, are not motivated, have school difficulties, and use alcohol and drugs. Tuesdays beginning July 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call **Diane,** ext. 246 to register.

How To Talk To Your Ex: This is a two-session workshop to help individuals learn effective communication and listening skills in order to better deal with their ex-spouse – and issues around parenting and the children. Tuesdays, July 4 and 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313. To register, call **Shawna** at ext. 215.

Parenting Children With Challenging Behaviour: A five-session group for parents of children who have temper tantrums, are aggressive, talk back, do not following your rules and have trouble dealing with their emotions. Wednesdays beginning July 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call **Diane,** ext. 246, to register.

When You're About To Separate

What To Tell the Kids: This is a workshop for couples about to separate or in the early stages of separation. It focuses on how and when to tell the children, as well as offering ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs. Tuesday, July 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313. To register, call **Shawna** at ext. 215.

## FOR SENIORS

**Beth Emeth Synagogue's Chai Shalom** host a "Lively Musical Evening," Thursday, June 29, 7:30 p.m. with **Mickey Lewin** and a guest vocalist. Refreshments served. Chai Shalom members $6, non-members $8. Yearly membership $15. For information and tickets, call 416-633-3838.

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Casino Rama, July 12; Sunday dance, July 23; mah-jong, Mondays, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 29, picnic. Call **Menachem Wallach,** 905-731-7748.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Boost Your Memory" with trivia games and riddles every Thursday 11:15 a.m.

"Fitness on Sundays" begins July 9.

Trip to African Lion Safari, Tuesday, July 11, 9 a.m. $55, non-members $65.

Israeli Etrog Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call **Dvora,** 905-763-2728.

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16***

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Toronto Is Real Dance Festival, June 30, July 1-2.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Centre Camp, Toronto's largest Jewish day camp, has limited summer spaces remaining. For program and registration information, contact **Jen Peters** at ext 378.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Inquire about openings in the courses "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail." Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

Space available for September 2006 morning school Tic Tac Two Program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers, and senior kindergarten. Programs include music, Fun Centre Gym, Hebrew, Discovery Museum and weekly gym program. For information, call ext. 248 or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music's upcoming concerts this fall include The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets and information, call ext. 228.

## Volunteers needed

**YIDDISH SPEAKER NEEDED**

Circle of Care is looking for a Yiddish-speaking volunteer to accompany a social worker to a client's home once a week for approximately eight weeks. Call 416-635-2860, ext. 413.

**LIMMUD FESTIVAL**

Limmud Festival of Jewish Learning, a learning experience for Jews from every denomination, is looking for volunteers to organize the festival, which takes place in November. To volunteer, call 416-787-8819 or e-mail margles@ican.net For information, visit www.limmud.ca.

## About people

**UPPER CANADA LODGE**

B'nai Brith Upper Canada Lodge recently installed officers for 2006-2008. They are **Franklin Switzer**, president, **Sid Isenberg**, first vice-president; **Albert Waisglass**, second vice-president; **Irv Hochman**, third vice-president; **Ben Sand**, treasurer; **Anne Wagman**, secretary; **Jack Kuretzky**, guardian; **Len Lopatin**, warden; and **Marc Mittleman**, chaplain.

**DEALING WITH CANCER: Cancer survivor and L'Chaim Cancer Support Group member Rosie Sherman recently spoke at a Baycrest forum titled "When Someone You Know Has Cancer." For information about L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women, call 416-630-0203.**

**RABBI SCHORSCH HONOURED: Joel Reitman, left, and Jill Reitman recently hosted a parlour meeting in support of the Canadian Bursary Fund of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, right, the outgoing chancellor of JTS, was honoured for his 20 years of leadership.**

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Stein, Morris Abraham | Jun 8/06 | 20 Shallmar Bl |
| Stevens, Alfred | Jun 8/06 | 142 Pears Ave |
| Fink, Isidore | Jun 9/06 | Private |
| Liberman, Sam | Jun 11/06 | 73 Banbury Rd |
| Ross, Lillian | Jun 12/06 | 429 Walmer Rd |
| Federbusch, Julian | Jun 13/06 | 4415 Bathurst St |
| Pioro, Warren | Jun 13/06 | 92 Rockford Rd |
| Zeldina, Tzipa | Jun 14/06 | 33 Wilmington Ave |
| Brawer, Chana | Jun 14/06 | 500 Glencairn Ave |
| Mazin, Joseph | Jun 14/06 | Private |
| Oiffer, Gilda | Jun 15/06 | 5 Kenneth Ave |
| Junger, Livia (Lili) | Jun 15/06 | 5444 Yonge St |
| Goft, Sura Liba | Jun 15/06 | 6250 Bathurst St |
| Granovsky, Ethel | Jun 15/06 | Private |
| Gurevitch, Lillian Doris | Jun 16/06 | 5935 Bathurst St |
| Daniels, Helen | Jun 16/06 | 287 Searle Ave |
| Vaiman, Tania | Jun 16/06 | 3884 Bathurst St |
| Kaufman, Nathan | Jun 17/06 | 205 Cummer Ave |
| Berman, Jack Louis | Jun 17/06 | 1131 Steeles Ave. W. |
| Jablon, David | Jun 18/06 | Private |
| Usherzon, Pesya | Jun 19/06 | Private |

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Edith Hertzman | Jun 9/06 | 22 Norfinch Dr |
| Dr. Sam Spivak D.D.S. | Jun 11/06 | 3000 Bathurst St |
| Mark Stein | Jun 12/06 | 2500 Bathurst St |
| Sala Walerstein | Jun 13/06 | 28 Frontenac Av |
| Aron Fainer | Jun 14/06 | 26 Peveril Hill, S |
| Mark Kvint | Jun 16/06 | 34 Medoc Place |
| Ruby Moranis | Jun 16/06 | 160 Wellesley St E |
| Terry Wetzler | Jun 16/06 | 129 Madoc Dr |
| Marty Tepperman | Jun 17/06 | 4003 Bayview Av |
| Denise Freedman | Jun 17/06 | 3636 Bathurst St |
| Stan Cohen | Jun 17/06 | 4189 Orkney Beach Rd |

HEDREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Lohn | Jun 9/06 | 34 Bengal Ct |
| Murray Steinberg | Jun 15/06 | 33 Wilmington Av |


The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KLARA WISE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 9th, 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ROSE BEVERSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Tuesday, July 4th at 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Adath Israel Synagogue Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.

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Food, Scrumptious Food

# *Cooking Kindness* benefits cancer research

By NORENE GILLETZ
*Special to The CJN*

Last December, I received a phone call from Gloria Guttman asking me to edit a fundraising cookbook she had been working on for the last five years. The book was called *Cooking Kindness: Heroes in the Kitchen* ($36 Cdn). The proceeds would benefit Israel Cancer Research Fund, helping support Israeli scientists who continue to "cook up" and discover new remedies in the battle against cancer.

Although we had never met, I was quickly impressed by Gloria's passion, vision and commitment to this immense project. Energetic beyond her years, this vibrant, dynamic woman convinced me to take on the project. I'm so glad I did.

Gloria felt that this book shouldn't be just about food and recipes – it had to have soul! And she accomplished her goal.

*Cooking Kindness* is a compilation of more than 200 recipes from Gloria's family, friends and colleagues. Forty-four people contributed their favourite recipes to the book. The remainder came from Gloria's huge personal recipe collection, illustrating her passion for delicious food and her love of entertaining.

Gloria is a superb marketer, reaching out as far away as Coral Springs, Fla., where she will be featured as an author in January 2007. Gloria even arranged to have the book sold in the gift shop at Oakdale Golf Club in Toronto. When the book was displayed amidst the men's shirts, she tactfully arranged to have them moved next to the cash to increase their visibility. A true saleswoman, Gloria can even be found selling cookbooks in the ladies' locker room at her golf club!

*Cooking Kindness* is available at Chapters, by e-mailing gguttman04@earthlink.net or calling 416-440-7999.

### SALMON WITH MAPLE GLAZE

1 cup pure maple syrup
4 tbsp. fresh lemon juice, divided use
3 tbsp. soy sauce
2 tbsp. fresh ginger, peeled and finely grated
1½ tsp. minced garlic
salt and pepper to taste
1 salmon fillet (1.2 kg) centre cut, skin on
1 bunch scallions, green part

In a small heavy saucepan, combine maple syrup with 3 tablespoons of lemon juice, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, until reduced to about 1 cup, about 30 minutes; stir occasionally. Let cool.

Preheat oven to 350. Lightly oil a shallow baking pan large enough to hold salmon.

Arrange scallions in baking pan to form a bed for salmon. Drizzle ½ cup of maple glaze over salmon. Bake at 350 for 20 to 25 minutes. Baking time depends on thickness of fish.

In a small saucepan, heat the remaining maple glaze over low heat until heated through. This will be used as a sauce. Stir in the remaining tablespoon lemon juice. Remove pan from heat, cover sauce and keep warm.

Cut salmon crosswise into 6 pieces. Drizzle warm sauce over salmon. Yield: 6 servings.

**Tip:** Maple glaze may be made 2 days ahead, covered and refrigerated. Bring glaze to room temperature before proceeding with recipe.

***More recipes available at www.cjnews.com/food.***

*Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information about her cookbooks, cooking classes, bridal showers and kids' birthday parties, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.*

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# Despite attack, area residents feel secure

**Continued from page 1**

Sunday's predawn raid was carried out jointly by the Popular Resistance Committees terrorist coalition, Islamic Jihad and Hamas. The groups called it revenge for the death of Palestinian civilians in recent Israeli air strikes against Gaza rocket crews.

Despite Sunday's attack, residents of Kerem Shalom, located at the juncture between Egypt, Gaza and Israel, said they still feel more or less secure.

"This incident is not typical," said Amit Caspi, a father of two who moved to the kibbutz a little more than two years ago. Before Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip last summer, "there was much more noise. There was shooting in both directions."

On Sunday, TV crews descended upon the sleepy kibbutz and prepared their evening news broadcasts while Israel Defence Forces troops and Palestinians in Gaza exchanged fire a few hundred yards away.

Inside the kibbutz community centre, a group of soldiers dispatched to the town after Sunday morning's attack played billiards and watched apathetically as England beat Ecuador in a World Cup match.

Unlike larger Jewish towns near northern Gaza, such as Sderot, the area around Kerem Shalom was relatively calm during the last few years of the intifadah. Even when Palestinian militants began firing Qassam rockets out of Gaza, few were aimed at the sparsely populated towns near southern Gaza, which abut a large, empty desert shared by Israel and Egypt. Indeed, there are far more soldiers than civilians in the area.

The involvement in the attack of Hamas, which runs the PA government, prompted senior Israeli officials to redouble their threats against the terrorist group.

Cpl. Gilad Shalit

According to senior political sources, at least two members of Olmert's cabinet demanded that Israeli forces reoccupy parts of Gaza. Olmert is not expected to approve such a sweeping move so early in his term, especially as he is busy trying to lobby support for Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank.

But in comments to fellow ministers, Olmert made clear that the chances were slim for a rapprochement with Abbas, who is seen internationally as a relatively moderate alternative to the Hamas government.

"The State of Israel sees the Palestinian Authority, headed by Chairman Abu Mazen and the Palestinian government, responsible for the incident, with everything that implies," Olmert said, using Abbas' nom de guerre.

After their informal meeting in Jordan last week, Olmert and Abbas were expected to reconvene by month's end or early July for a first peace summit. The attack put that on hold. Israeli sources said Olmert aides indefinitely deferred a meeting with their Palestinian counterparts that had been intended to lay the groundwork for talks.

Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a former defence minister, hinted that Israel could step up its military actions in Gaza to include even air strikes against senior Hamas politicians.

"When it comes to terrorism, there is no difference between a prime minister and a suicide bomber," he told Israel Radio. Senior Hamas officials went underground after the attack, fearing Israeli retaliation.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni spoke with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, asking them to press Abbas to secure Shalit's release. She also relayed the message that Israel considers the abduction a test of Abbas' leadership.

Abbas, however, said Hamas is solely responsible for the affair.

In related news, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades announced Sunday that it has succeeded in manufacturing chemical and biological weapons. In a leaflet distributed in Gaza, the group, which belongs to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party, said the weapons took three years to make.

The statement, the first of its kind, said the group has managed to make at least 20 different types of biological and chemical weapons. It said it would not hesitate to add the new weapons to Qassam rockets that are being fired at Israeli communities almost daily. It also threatened to use them if Israel carries out its threats to invade Gaza.

"We want to tell Olmert and [Israeli Defence Minister Amir] Peretz that your threats don't frighten us," the leaflet said. "We will surprise you with our new weapons the moment the first soldier sets foot in the Gaza Strip."

*With files from JTA correspondent Uriel Heilman and Khaled Abu Toameh of the Jerusalem Post.*

# Israel's hostage complex

**By ANSHEL PFEFFER**
*Jerusalem Post*

Analysis

It's talked about in hushed voices during the dead hours before dawn of a particularly lonely guard shift: "*Nohal Hannibal*" the Hannibal Directive – the rumoured standard procedure in the eventuality of an Israeli soldier being captured.

In such a case, soldiers are told (although never officially) that their comrades will be given the order to rain fire on the abduction team without consideration for the poor soldier's life. The underlying rationale is that the nation can bear the deaths of soldiers, but not the uncertain fate of a captured serviceman.

Exactly 30 years after the heroic rescue of Air France hostages from Entebbe by an airborne Israel Defence Forces unit, Israel still suffers from a hostage complex. Ongoing warfare at varying levels, which has been Israel's norm for its entire modern history including hostage-taking, soldiers missing-in-action and others held as prisoners-of-war – is a tragic part of the normal scheme of things. Israel regularly captures hundreds of terrorists and other prisoners, and so, the IDF's superiority notwithstanding, it can't be illogical for things to also happen the other way around.

But when it does happen, the system is totally unprepared for the shock. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced Sunday that he had given orders not to negotiate over Cpl. Gilad Shalit's life, while it's clear that, if offered a quick diplomatic way out of the tangle, Israel will take it. Or isn't that the reason that Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni is ringing up UN Secretary General Kofi Annan?

Defence Minister Amir Peretz warned anyone who has any influence over Shalit's fate that "his blood will be on his and his leaders' heads," although Peretz is the last person who will sanction a series of summary revenge killings.

And it's not only the miscalculated bluster of politicians. The media is also treating the capture as the central event at Kerem Shalom, much worse than the deaths of Lt. Hanan Barak and St.-Sgt. Pavel Slotsker or the humiliation of the IDF by terrorists.

Once again, it's the Entebbe syndrome. Israel still hasn't learned how to come to terms with a situation where a soldier, or even a citizen, is in enemy hands. The first instinct is to launch a hurriedly prepared operation, such as the one that failed to rescue Golani Brigade soldier Nachshon Wachsman in October 1994 and resulted in the death of one of his would-be rescuers, Nir Poraz. When that proves to be impossible, due to a lack of intelligence or the fact the prisoners have been spirited away to Beirut or some other inaccessible hole, the leadership suddenly loses its backbone and is prepared to pay almost any price.

That's how Hezbollah got dozens of live members back in exchange for the bodies of three soldiers and the return of Elchanan Tannenbaum, who in 2004 was allegedly tricked into going to Beirut in the hope of carrying out a drug deal.

Dozens of Qassam rockets have fallen daily on Sderot and the neighbouring kibbutzim for months and, miraculously, casualties haven't been serious, but the missiles haven't warranted a major operation in Gaza. If Sunday's raid on the IDF outpost had failed, the IDF would probably not be poised to strike now. But because the Palestinians have captured a soldier, the situation has changed completely.

But should that warrant an operation that might drastically alter the balance between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as among the Palestinians themselves, and almost surely exact a heavy price in Israeli and Palestinian lives?

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**Issue:** This product, distributed in Canada, inadvertently bears an unauthorized ⓤ symbol and is not certified as kosher by the Orthodox Union. This product is being withdrawn from the marketplace.

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Deadline for submissions is July 4, 2006



# IDF not behind Gaza blast: army

By YAAKOV KATZ
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — A comprehensive laboratory examination of two pieces of shrapnel retrieved from the bodies of Palestinians wounded in an explosion earlier this month on a Gaza beach proves unequivocally that artillery fire from the Israel Defence Forces was not the cause of the blast, an internal military commission said last week.

The head of the commission, Maj.-Gen. Meir Klifi, said the two pieces of shrapnel retrieved from two Palestinians wounded in the explosion, who are currently undergoing treatment at Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva, did not come from a 155 mm shell, the type of ordnance used by the IDF earlier that day in attacks on Qassam rocket launch sites.

Klifi said the shrapnel lab results and other findings, including the timing of the incident – according to the IDF, the explosion occurred 10 to 15 minutes after artillery cannons stopped firing shells at a target next to the beach – conclusively exonerated the IDF from responsibility for the blast, which killed seven people.

He said his investigative team had yet to determine the cause of the blast, but it has not ruled out the possibility that it was caused by unexploded Israeli ordnance left lying on the beach weeks or even months ago. While the shrapnel did not match artillery shells fired by the IDF that day, it did, he said, match other types of ordnance in IDF use.

"The examination of a second piece of shrapnel retrieved from the body of a boy who was wounded in the blast unequivocally shows that the explosion was not caused by a 155 mm artillery shell," Klifi told reporters at a press conference at Kirya Military Headquarters in Tel Aviv. "There is a possibility that the explosion was caused by unexploded Israeli ordnance, and it is also possible that the blast was caused by an explosive device planted on the beach by Palestinian terrorists."

# Red Cross/Red Crescent movement admits Israel

By RACHEL SILVERMAN
*JTA*

**NEW YORK** — Israel's admission to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement was the result of 58 years of aggressive, sustained lobbying.

But it also was due to some last-minute, behind-the-scenes maneuvering at the Red Cross conference in Geneva this week.

The conference, which drew 192 Red Cross states and 183 national emergency relief societies, was convened to determine if Israel's emergency services agency, Magen David Adom (MDA), should be allowed to join the international humanitarian organization.

Last Thursday's final vote was decisive: 237 in favour of MDA and 54 against, with 44 abstentions.

Canadian Jewish Congress national president Ed Morgan, in a statement, commended the delegates "who supported the resolution for sending the message that the greater cause of humanitarianism trumped narrow political concerns."

Chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, Marc Gold, said, in a statement, that "despite its lack of official membership, Magen David Adom has been prominent in providing front-line international disaster relief… This is a role we anticipate will be facilitated even further by MDA's full status in the movement."

In a statement, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said that "with the entry of both entities into the movement, and their mutual co-operation, the needs of both Palestinian and Israeli civilians can be more effectively met. Civilians on both sides will benefit from greater access to emergency services and humanitarian protection."

Israel's previous attempts to gain entry into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement had been blocked by Arab and Islamic countries, which latched onto the agency's Star of David logo as a pretext to reject the Israeli agency.

But that point of contention was cleared up in December, when a neutral symbol – a red crystal – was allowed. That satisfied the last condition Israel needed to submit its membership application to the Red Cross, though Arab and Islamic countries still did all they could to block the move ahead of the vote.

Reaching that point took decades of work by major Jewish organizations, and the battle also played out in Washington, where a number of legislators made it a priority issue.

The American Red Cross also played a leading role in the campaign. Since 2000, the ARC has withheld $42 million in dues, 25 per cent of the international federation's annual income.

Israel's admission was linked to the admission of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which had been relegated to observer status because of a statute admitting agencies only from sovereign states. Changing the statute to allow a simultaneous vote on the Israeli and Palestinian agencies may, in the end, have created more votes for Israel.

# Fatah blames Hamas in Syria for attack

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — The attack on the Israel Defence Forces post near the Gaza border was carried out on instructions from the Hamas leadership in Syria, Fatah officials claimed Sunday.

They said the attack, in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and one captured and brought into the Gaza Strip, was designed to torpedo any agreement between Fatah and Hamas on a controversial document drafted by some Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

As news of the capture spread in the early hours of the morning, many Gaza residents took to the streets to express their joy. Drivers honked horns and some merchants and gunmen gave out sweets. Many expressed hope the abduction would lead to a prisoner swap with Israel.

The attack came only hours after sources in Gaza City reported that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh were close to reaching an agreement on the so-called "prisoners' document," which had been dismissed by Hamas because it calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state only in the territories captured by Israel in 1967.

The two sides were also close to striking a deal on the formation of a new government that would be dominated by independent figures and technocrats, the sources said.

The Fatah officials accused Damascus-based Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal of seeking to sabotage any deal between Fatah and Hamas.

"It's obvious that those behind the attack wanted to destroy any chance of reaching an agreement between Fatah and Hamas," said a senior Fatah official. "We are convinced that the Hamas leadership in Syria and Lebanon was behind it. They want to prevent any agreement."

Another Fatah official and close aide to Abbas told the *Jerusalem Post* that the attack was aimed at embarrassing both Abbas and Haniyeh.

"This attack is bad for both of them," he said. "Abbas has been working very hard to reach understandings with Hamas, while Haniyeh does not want an escalation because he wants his government to remain in power."

Abbas was reported by his aides to be furious with Hamas for launching the attack on the IDF post. His office issued a statement condemning the attack as a "violation of the national consensus." The statement noted the attack came just as Fatah and Hamas were about to reach understandings on calming the situation and ending rocket attacks on Israel.

"We have been holding talks in a positive atmosphere to agree on the continuation of the truce and halting all military attacks on Israel because we didn't want to give Israel an excuse to launch a massive military operation into the Gaza Strip," it said.

# Economist lauds benefits of Israel stock market

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

It's probably too early to tell whether the recent worldwide stock market plunge – which took the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) with it – helped or hindered Vered Dar's pitch in favour of investing in Israel.

In one particularly gruesome day, the TA-100, an index of 100 companies listed on the exchange, dropped 1.43 per cent. On the same day, however, the Mexican exchange fell 1.96 per cent, South Africa's main index dropped 3.97 per cent, Brazil's fell 2.11 per cent, Chile's dropped 4.23 per cent and Turkey's 5.67 per cent. Even the exchanges of advanced industrialized nations felt the pain, with Germany's DAX falling1.92 per cent, Britain's FTSE going in the red by 1.80 per cent and Japan's Nikkei index dropping by 4.14 per cent. For comparison sake, Canada's S&P/TSX fell 2.6 per cent and the S&P 500 in New York dropped a mere 1.0 per cent.

Vered Dar

Though negative gains are hardly a selling point, for investors seeking international diversification and discounting the recent sell off – historically good returns, the Israeli stock market could be the place to be, Dar contends. Dar, chief economist and strategist for Psagot Ofek, one of Israel's largest investment houses, visited potential investors in Toronto last week to highlight the advantages of the Israeli stock market.

Historically, the Israeli market has done pretty well, gaining 11 per cent after inflation from 1990 to 2006. "You can't find that return in the United States or Canada," she said.

Even fixed income investments, like government bonds, did better in Israel than their North American counterparts. Shekel-denominated 10-year bonds last week yielded 6.5 per cent compared to 4.3 per cent in Canada, she said, adding that Israel's currency, the shekel, has remained stable over substantial periods, trading at 4.5/4.6 per dollar for the last few years.

Fleshing out her pitch, Dar said Israel's stock market provides the kind of higher returns associated with emerging markets – though not as high as the more successful ones – while avoiding the big drops associated with developing markets during periods of downturn.

Israel, she asserted, straddles the world between truly emerging economies and those that are more developed. Israel's GDP, at roughly $22,000 (US), is about the same as those in Greece and Spain, both EU members. At the same time, Israel displays many of the economic characteristics of advanced industrial states. Inflation is under control (1.6 per cent on average over the last seven years), its deficit is small, its current account (a measure of trade balances) is in surplus and its bank rate is 5.25 per cent, only a quarter of a percentage point over the U.S Fed. Israel, she said, provides investors with "the best of both worlds."

The result of all this good news is that the Israeli economy has been booming and returns to investors in the TASE have been somewhere between what they'd get in the United States or EU and the emerging markets like Russia, Turkey and Brazil. "Israel's economy is now booming. It's at one of its best phases ever.

"If you're looking for somewhere to invest and you see India and Brazil as too dangerous, you'll find Israel right in the middle," she said.

Addressing the question of income distribution and reports that a large number of Israelis have not participated in the boom, Dar acknowledged "the income distribution is not as egalitarian as it was 30 year ago. Income disparity is growing around the world," but Israel's is at around the same level as found in the UK.

The increasing demands of the economy have meant that workers who in the past could make a decent living with only eight to 12 years of education are losing their jobs to lower paid workers in China. "People in Israel are doing well if they have a university degree."

Psagot Ofek, which has been sold to York Capital Management by Bank Leumi, offers investment management accounts for clients with $100,000 (US). Dar expects most potential Canadian clients are people who already have assets in Israel but she points out that others can invest through five tax-exempt Psagot Ofek mutual funds.

* * *

Companies considering doing business in Israel will soon have a reconstituted Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce to assist them.

The Chamber, which had been dormant for six years, is being revitalized "to help Israelis and Canadian companies establish business with each other, meaning to help Israeli companies penetrate the Canadian market and vice versa," said Ephraim Shoham, Israel's trade commissioner in Canada.

The new chamber, under the leadership of interim president David Rubin, was launched a few weeks ago in Ottawa and its first objective is to raise enough funds to see it through the next two years until it develops sufficient critical mass among members to make it self-sustaining, he said.

***Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce to be reconstituted***

Two-way business in trade and services between Canada and Israel today hovers around $1 billion and it has surged close to 50 per cent in the last two years alone, Shoham said.

Trade runs the gamut from consumer products to industrial equipment, including software, environmental technologies, aerospace and security products.

Amdocs, Teva Pharmaceutical, Ormat Technologies, ISCAR and Keter Plastic are among the Israeli companies doing business in Canada while Bombardier, H & R Real Estate, Creo, Nortel and Aecon are among the Canadian companies active in Israel, Shoham said.

Shoham believes business between the two countries has room to grow – by 20 per cent a year if not more.

* * *

Shaj Spetgang is quite familiar with the Israeli business environment, particularly as it relates to environmental issues. As manager of the Ontario Environment Industry Association, which seeks market-driven solutions for environmental problems, and the Canadian Environmental Markets Association, he pointed out member companies of both associations have "looked into doing business in Israel." Zenon, for one, which has been purchased by GE, has offices in Israel to facilitate its work in water treatment.

Foreign firms "recognize Israel as a high-tech place and when an idea is researched in Israel, it's high quality. The technology that comes out of there is first rate."

In addition, Israel is seen as providing access to markets in southeast Asia, Africa and Europe.

On the environmental front, Israel has been at the forefront worldwide in making irrigation more efficient. "The concept of drip irrigation started in Israel and it is being applied all over the world," Spetgang said.

Ormat Technologies,which develops innovative power systems, specializes in heat recovery and generating electricity. It has developed technologies that allow electricity generation from heat as low as 50 degrees centigrade and some of the company's technology has been installed in the TransCanada pipeline, Spetgang said.

The company's technology has also been applied in cement kilns, which must be cooled before restarting. Electricity is generated by the heat given off in the process, Spetgang said.

Israel has signed research agreements with the Canadian government, as well as with the governments of Ontario and Manitoba.

"There is a tremendous amount of innovation coming out of Israel and a tremendous amount of environmental technology that will assist in making the world more sustainable," Spetgang said.

## Israel Briefs

***Reform shul breaks ground***

A Reform congregation near Tel Aviv broke ground on a shul building. Congregation Darchei Noam, with 400 members, began construction June 13 near Herzliya-Ramat Hasharon. The move comes after an 18-year battle to secure land from the local council. Only Orthodox shuls get government funding in Israel. There are 27 Reform congregations in the country.

***Israel criticized***

Britain, the United Nations and Russia criticized Israel for recent airstrikes in Gaza that have killed civilians. "The killing of innocent civilians, and particularly children, is completely unacceptable," Britain's foreign secretary, Margaret Beckett, said. UN official Ibrahim Gambari gave a similar quote, while Russia's foreign ministry released a statement acknowledging Israel's security concerns, but saying the "use of force against the civilian population is unacceptable." Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz has ordered an inquiry into missile misfires.

***800 new millionaires***

Some 800 Israelis became millionaires in 2005. *Ha'aretz* reported that Merrill Lynch in Israel issued a report that the number of millionaires in Israel increased by 12 per cent, to 7,484, compared to a global increase of 6.5 per cent.

***Conceived in comedy***

An Israeli hospital has pioneered the use of humour to improve the rate of in-vitro fertilization. Dr. Shevach Friedler of Assaf Harofeh Medical Center presented findings at a conference in Prague suggesting that efforts to artificially impregnate a woman are considerably more successful if she is amused. Friedler cited an experiment at Assaf Harofeh's fertility clinic, in which 93 patients were entertained by a clown during their procedure, and the same number were not. Thirty-three women in the first group conceived, compared to only 18 in the second group.

*with files from JTA*

# Jewish Canadian War Veteran gallery to open in Calgary

By IRENA KARSHENBAUM
*Special to The CJN*

**Artist Lewis Lavoie, in background, and his business partner Phil Alain (not mentioned in the story) show how the mural will come together.**

After thousands of years of persecution culminating in the Shoah, the world has come to view the Jewish people as the eternal victim and only on occasion a survivor.

Simon Wiesenthal, after surviving 12 concentration camps, spent the next 60 years hunting Nazis and writing books, such as *The Sunflower*, which became widely used in courses about the Holocaust.

Elie Wiesel, after surviving four concentration camps, imposed upon himself a 10-year silence from which he emerged by writing his first work, *Night*. As it was one of the first books on the Holocaust, it took Wiesel five years to find a publisher because they felt it was simply too horrible to read. He went on to write 40 more books about the Holocaust, eventually winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

The survivor Primo Levi wrote *Survival in Auschwitz*. Anne Frank dreamed of becoming a writer while hiding in the attic. Not surviving to see her 16th birthday, she has emerged as one of the most powerful voices of the Holocaust through *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

Weisethal, Wiesel and Levi are not just survivors. Along with Frank, their stories have put the Holocaust in the history books.

So to find symbols and stories that speak of the Jewish people as fighters and victors is liberating.

David Bercuson has embarked on such a journey as the head of a project to bring awareness to the idea of Jews as fighters and victors – the Art Gallery in Honour of Jewish Canadian War Veterans in Calgary. Bercuson has helped raise $375,000 for the gallery so far, with a target of $2 million.

The legacy project is part of the larger $16-million expansion of the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary.

Currently, the Museum of the Regiments honours the army branch of military service, while the Naval Museum of Alberta is housed separately, off 24th Street West, and the Air Force Museum is close to the airport. The expansion project will bring all three branches of the military under a single roof and will also house the Art Gallery in Honour of Jewish Canadian War Veterans, which will display Canada's war art collection and honour Jewish war veterans.

Canada's war art collection was the brainchild of Lord Beaverbrook, who, during World War I, decided to send some of Canada's best artists, some of whom later became members of the Group of Seven, to Europe to document the Canadian war effort. The project continued in World War II, resulting in the creation of 13,000 pieces of war art. The works, however, were never displayed in a gallery. For 60 years, they collected dust in the basement of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

The Art Gallery in Honour of Jewish Canadian War Veterans will be the permanent home, on a rotating basis, with the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, of the vast Lord Beaverbrook military art collection. It will also feature a permanent display honouring Jewish Canadian war veterans' contributions to the two world wars.

Bercuson, the director of the Centre of Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary, says he got involved with the Jewish Canadian War Veterans gallery because "Canadian Jews made a substantial contribution to the war effort during the Second World War. Whenever World War II is thought of, we are depicted as and we think of ourselves as victims, when there were millions of us all over the world fighting in various Allied countries to defeat the Nazis."

He acknowledges that, yes, European Jewry were catastrophic victims, "But there were others who were fighting back."

Bercuson believes it is not good to be remembered only for victimhood. "It's very, very important for the non-Jewish community to know what Jews did to contribute to the greater good. It shows them that, among the many things that we have done as citizens of this country over the last 200 to 300 years, that was one of our finest moments. We are full citizens here because we earned it."

Bercuson has raised funds from a relatively small number of generous Jewish families. The largest contribution thus far, of $100,000, was made by the Martin family of Calgary.

Other opportunities to contribute to the Museum of the Regiments exist, as well. The museum will be the home of a 12-by-20- foot "Year of the Veteran" *Mural Mosaic*, which through optical illusion, from afar, will depict a member of the army, the air force and the navy. Approaching the *Mural Mosaic* closer, the viewer will be able to see it is made up of separate 12-by-12-inch panels depicting individual stories.

The *Mural Mosaic* is non-denominational and is open to everyone in the community at different levels of sponsorship.

Currently being painted by artist Lewis Lavoie in Edmonton, the *Mural Mosaic* will be toured across the country once it's finished and displayed temporarily at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

Once the museum expansion project is completed, at a yet unnamed date, the Jewish community will have a voice in telling their story to the greater community.

Additional information about Calgary's Museum of the Regiments is available at www.somhcampaign.ca


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Arts & Travel

# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## COMIC DUO TO STAGE PLAY IN HONEST ED'S LOADING DOCK

**Sandy Gribbin** and **Adam Lazarus** attempt a new definition of street theatre with *Suit Suite*, their motivational seminar-musical to be staged at Honest Ed Mirvish's loading dock, 581 Bloor St. W., in the alley between Bathurst and Markham streets.

*Suit Suite* focuses on "two fun-lovin', suit-wearin', song-singin' gents who have found the rules to success, fulfilment and happiness" and whose high-octane physical comedy, vaudeville and music will supposedly revive the audience's "power to laugh, marvel and enjoy." Admission to this Fringe Festival offering is $10, nightly from July 6 to 16, 7:30 p.m. No latecomers please.

* * *

**Fringe Too:** Toronto native **Tracey Erin Smith** brings her show *The Burning Bush!* for a return engagement in Toronto after performances in New York, Vancouver and Edmonton. Directed by **Rebecca Northan**, the Fringe offering is a one-woman comedy about a dejected rabbinical school dropout who stumbles into a strip club and discovers her true calling.
Royal St. George's College, Music Recital Hall, 120 Howland Ave. $10. July 5 to 16. 416-966-1062, www.fringetoronto.com

* * *

**Fringe Three: Libby Skala** presents her new solo show, *A Time to Dance*, using creative dance and spoken word to tell the story of her great-aunt, **Lisl**, who was born in Vienna in 1902 and lived to survive two world wars as well as 9/11. $10. Royal St. George Theatre, July 5 to 16. 416-966-1062. www.aTimetoDance. homestead.com

* * *

**Jewish-Themed Theatre: Ari Weisberg**, artistic director of Teatron Theatre, has announced that Teatron will stage two award-winning comedies for its upcoming fourth season.

*The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, by **Alfred Uhry**, is a bittersweet comedy set in Atlanta during the Christmas of 1939, as Hitler is invading Poland. Atlanta's elitist German Jews, however, are more concerned with finding the best dates and dresses for Ballyhoo, the social event of the season. (Uhry is the much-lauded author of the popular play and movie *Driving Miss Daisy*.)

Teatron's second choice is *The God of Isaac*, by **James Sherman**, a "funny and heartwarming" story about a young man in search of spiritual identity.

As the only theatre company in Ontario dedicated to producing Jewish-themed plays, Teatron deserves our support. "There are many good plays to choose from, but we look for plays that have a true Jewish content, bringing a specific Jewish topic to the stage," Weisberg said. "This year, we chose two excellent comedies. They are funny and fast moving, but still have strong content to them and are not just a bunch of one-liners."

Both are directed by Weisberg and staged at the Leah Posluns Theatre. *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* opens in January 2007, *The God of Isaac* in March 2007.

Teatron is seeking volunteers as well as sponsors and donors. www.teatrontheatre.com, e-mail teatron@sympatico.ca, phone 416-781-5527

* * *

**Names in the News:** Emmy Award-winning producer **Marta Kauffman**, best known as the co-creator and executive producer of the TV series *Friends*, joins director **Roberta Grossman** and the non-profit Katahdin Foundation in producing *Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh*, a feature documentary on the World War II-era poet and diarist who became a soldier, martyr and national heroine in Israel.

The proposed doc explores the life and death of Senesh, the young writer in 1943 Palestine who volunteered for a mission to rescue Jews in her native Hungary. In 1944, Senesh parachuted behind enemy lines, was captured, imprisoned and ultimately executed by the Nazis.

In a cruel twist of fate, her mother witnessed the entire ordeal – first as a prisoner with Hannah and later as her advocate as she desperately attempted to save her. At its core, Senesh's story "is an intense and moving mother-daughter story," Kauffman said.

The producers have been granted unprecedented access to the Senesh family archive, including hundreds of unpublished letters and about 1,300 never-before-seen photos of remarkable quality. Filming is expected to be completed in Israel and Hungary this fall, with theatrical release and public television broadcast planned for early 2008.

* * *

Sandy Gribbin and Adam Lazarus

### Arts in Brief

• **The Yiddish Swingtet (Jonno Lightstone** on clarinet, **Jordan Klapman** on keyboard, **Tony Quarrington** on guitar and mandolin) presents an evening of hot klez and cool jazz. $8 cover. Free Times Café, 320 College St. Thursday, June 29, 9:30 p.m. Reservations, 416-967-1078.

•The 45th annual Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition is at Nathan Phillips Square, City Hall, July 7 to 10. Admission is free.


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# Documentary about Leonard Cohen lacks a clear focus

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen is known far and wide. At 72, the soulful Montreal-born troubadour has a reputation that transcends borders and nationalities.

So it hardly comes as a surprise that Lian Lunson's film about him, *Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man*, which opens in Toronto on June 30, is set in the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

It is indeed true that Cohen, who has lived in Los Angeles for many years now, has an international following.

Lunson's documentary, which premièred at last year's Toronto International Film Festival, is a disjointed amalgam of concert footage, flashbacks from his youth and interviews with performers he has influenced.

Among them are the McGarrigle sisters, The Edge and Nick Cave.

The movie has no clear focus when one is really needed. One wishes that Lunson had concentrated on the trajectory of his career rather than running off in all directions and diluting the narrative.

Still, *Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man* is not uninteresting.

Cohen emerges as a modest, personable, witty, self-deprecating, grounded person. Fame has not gone to his head, or if it has, he masks it effortlessly.

In only one instance does he blow his own horn, and that occurs when he correctly observes that his writing talents are definitely an advantage to a songwriter like himself.

Even so, he concedes, nothing comes easy. He constantly rewrites and is not satisfied until he has produced at least 10 versions of a song.

Cohen speaks openly of his spiritual quest. As a child, he was drawn to the synagogue his family frequented. And much later, he spent years in a mountain-top Buddhist monastery in California.

Looking back at a formative phase of his life, Cohen recalls his association with such stellar Montreal poets as Louis Dudek, Frank Scott and Irving Layton (whose funeral he recently attended).

Leonard Cohen, left, with director Lian Lunson and Bono

"We really wanted to be great poets," he says.

Commenting on his proclivity for the company of women, Cohen facetiously says that he started writing poetry to attract the opposite sex.

But he strikes a more serious note when he remarks that his image as a ladies' man is "a joke." As he puts it, "I laughed about it for the 10,000 nights I spent alone in the monastery."

Turning to his body of songs, from *Everybody Knows* to *Sisters of Mercy*, Cohen explains that a lot of them evolved as a response to his ceaseless search for truth and beauty.

His admirers recognize this quality.

Bono, one of the participants in the Sydney concert that bookends the film, has high praise for Cohen.

Describing him as a craftsman, he says in an Irish lilt, "I've been humbled as a fan of Leonard Cohen. He's our Byron, he's our Shelley."

Rufus Wainwright offers an amusing vignette. When he first met him, Cohen, clad in his underwear, was boiling soba noodles in his kitchen.

Normally a snappy dresser, Cohen did not want to be remembered that way. So he repaired to his bedroom and magically reappeared in an alluring Armani suit.

Although Wainwright's reminiscence is useful and fun, the film would surely have been infinitely more effective had it concentrated on Cohen's development as a poet/songwriter.

Chalk it up as an opportunity lost.

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Arts & Travel

# Producers seek Canadian input for film on 1967 war

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — On June 5, 1967, when news of Israel's second existential war made a sense of dread rise up in your belly, what did you do?

Did you catch the next flight to Israel to volunteer? Did you help spur the Jewish community to action? Did you raise money? Did the news revive a dormant Jewishness or Zionism in you that you didn't even know was there?

Did you keep a diary, write letters, take pictures, or shoot home movies of family discussions about the war or about the euphoria that many of us felt six days later?

Montreal filmmaker Ina Fichman is looking for answers to these questions.

Fichman's company, Instinct Films, is one of three – the others are Israel's Alma Films and France's Point du Jour – working on an ambitious, and what she hopes will be a definitive and groundbreaking, documentary about the Six Day War.

Inspired by Michael Oren's book *Six Days of War*, the film is titled *Six Days in June: The 1967 War and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. It's set for broadcast and theatrical release in North America, Europe and Israel next June, to coincide with the war's 40th anniversary.

The director is Ilan Ziv, a respected and award-winning documentary filmmaker whose credits include *The Junction* and *Human Weapon*, an acclaimed study on suicide bombing.

The June 2007 release date, Fichman said in an interview, is why the search is now on – mostly in Montreal and Toronto – for Canadians who were "profoundly touched" by the war.

She said the film is unprecedented in scope, and she hopes Canadians will furnish vital input on how the Six Day War affected them personally, and galvanized them into action.

Similar searches are on in France, Israel and the Arab countries involved in the war – Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Interviews will be conducted with both average people and military veterans of the war in order to capture the historical, political and military drama unfolding in the hearts and minds of people as they lived through the conflict.

The producers are also especially interested in obtaining visuals from the six-day period – home movies, photographs and the like – that are relevant to the drama. Fichman said an example might be an old home movie shot of the Israeli Pavilion at Expo '67.

"What we're really looking for are the best stories that will explain and explore the impact this war had on so many people," she said.

"This is a story with a very strong narrative, but it will not be a film quoting historians, journalists, or specialists," Fichman added. "This will be about what these six days meant to the world."

She said shooting in Montreal is expected to begin by the end of the summer. The film has a $1.7-million budget, with funding coming from international broadcasters, Canadian tax credits and distributor advances.

On television, the film will be shown in two 50-minute segments (one hour with commercials), while the theatrical release will run 90 minutes. Already confirmed to air the film are Radio Canada; WGBH, a PBS affiliate in Boston: France's ARTE network; Israel's channel 10; ABC in Australia, and Italy's RAI.

Fichman's own credits as a producer include 2003's *Undying Love*, which earned her a Gemini Award, and the youth documentary series *My Brand New Life*.

Ideally, the finished product will be "analytical, personal, and anecdotal," and perhaps even "poetic" in its sensibility, she said.

"We plan this to be landmark film."

People who feel they have something to contribute to *Six Days in June* can contact Terri Foxman, at 514-288-0369. Her e-mail address is tfoxman@sympatico.ca.

# Three new DVDs offer stories of Jewish interest

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
*Special to The CJN*

There are several Jewish-themed movies now out on DVD that will likely interest a lot of people.

*Everything Is Illuminated* is a multi-layered film that is both entertaining and intellectually stimulating. Liev Schreiber's brilliant script pares down the elements of Jonathan Safran Foer's popular novel into a filmable format.

The film deals with an odyssey of sorts. The main character is Jonathan Safran Foer, played by Elijah Wood, and the story chronicles his trip to Ukraine to track down his family's roots.

**Elijah Wood, left, in *Everything Is Illuminated*.**

He is a collector who gathers and preserves his family's history, and one of his most cherished possessions is a photograph of his grandfather as a young man with a girl at his side. The grandfather had always credited this girl with saving him from sharing the same fate as most Jews in Ukraine during the Holocaust.

Jonathan goes to Ukraine to see what, if anything, remains of his grandfather's past. Once there, he hires a guide and interpreter, who becomes the comedic heart of the film.

The result is a wonderful film adventure for all viewers, and a comedy that ultimately turns very serious.

A second film that was recently released on DVD is *The Squid and the Whale*, in which director Noah Baumback tells the autobiographical story of his parents' divorce.

Both of his parents are intellectuals and academics, but this doesn't make their parting of ways any easier. At the same time, the couple's two children have to try to deal with adolescent angst while their lives are falling apart around them.

A critically acclaimed work, *The Squid and the Whale* features Jeff Daniels and Laura Linney in a beautifully written and acted film.

The other DVD I'd like to bring to your attention is *Austeria*, a Polish film from 1988 that's set during the opening days of World War I.

A group of Jews is fleeing from Cossack soldiers in Polish Galicia and are trapped overnight in an inn near the border. They find themselves living with soldiers, the innkeeper and his family, and friends. This interesting film, in Polish, is about a period in history that few of us know anything about. And it's a story worth telling.

As is so often the case with smaller studio releases and independent or foreign films, some of these DVD releases may be hard to find. *Everything Is Illuminated* and *The Squid and the Whale* should be available at most good video stores, but *Austeria* may require a special order, or you may have to buy it online from Amazon at www.amazon.ca.


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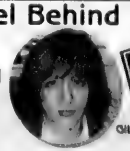
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# When 'the pride of the ghetto' meant fancy footwork

***Barney Ross* by Douglas Century, Nextbook.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
*Special to The CJN*

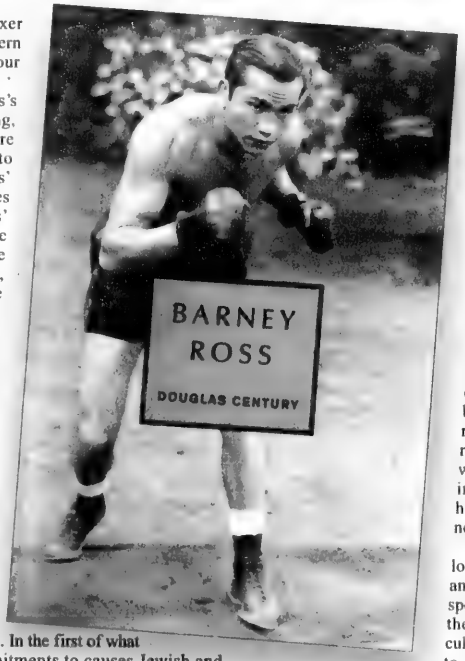
Douglas Century's biography of Chicago-raised boxer Barney Ross is a lively study of the place of "ethnics" – in particular Jews – in American sport. Ross, a star lightweight and welterweight through the 1930s, was part of a generation of Jewish boxers who went up against their Irish and Italian counterparts, while promoters and fans flew the flag of ethnic pride. Century characterizes this rivalry as an early form of public relations hype that embarrassed many boxers, though it gave the "sweet science" something the immigrant class in pre-World War II America could rally around. When Ross battled Jimmy (The Babyfaced Assassin) McLarnin, the latter came through the ropes to an Irish jig, while Ross was serenaded into the ring by *My Yiddishe Momme*.

Norman Ravvin

*Barney Ross* begins in a surprising place and time – on the soccer field of a "small Yiddish elementary school in the foothills of the Canadian Rocky Mountains." There, in the mid-'70s, the school's principal, himself a youthful partisan during the war, "loved to talk about the rich history of Jewish athletics. I recall our *lehrer* telling me about the champion boxer and World War II hero Barney Ross," Century writes. "He had once met Ross, then late in life, when the white-haired boxer was travelling through western Canada on a fundraising tour for State of Israel Bonds."

Century describes Ross's meteoric success in the ring, making excellent use of wire reports and film footage to recover a sense of the fights' kinetic qualities. He devotes careful attention to Ross' career-ending loss of the World Welterweight prize fight in the spring of 1938, which precipitated a decline into celebrity aimlessness. Throughout his rise and fall, Ross was an almost farcically bad bettor at the horse track. After winning a fight purse as large as $18,000, he would travel to the track and lose the entire sum "in a few hours, betting wrong on eight races out of eight."

In an effort to make sense of his post-boxing life, Ross joined the marines and shipped overseas to a much-decorated term of soldiering in the Pacific at Guadalcanal. In the first of what would be a series of commitments to causes Jewish and not, Ross applied himself, upon returning to the United States, to travelling the country for public appearances in support of the troops.




Many biographies of celebrities are written in order to please the subject's fans, simply to trade on the easy publicity that attaches itself to a champion or matinee idol. Century's book is something else. It aims to tell Ross's story, not for titillation, but rather to mine it for a tangle of key themes in American culture. He is deft at portraying Chicago's Maxwell Street ghetto, a breeding ground for sharpies, nightclubbers and mobsters. He is subtle, never sentimental, in his depiction of how Ross's Orthodox upbringing continued to play a role in his career. And he finesses the difficult theme – which is an underlying current in much modern Jewish history – of "Jewish toughness."

Century acknowledges a longstanding Jewish tendency among observant Jews to view sport as "inextricably linked to the threat of a foreign, pagan culture." But as a counterweight to this, Barney Ross offers a portrait of a moment in America, in the 1920s and '30s, when "Jews were the dominant nationality in professional prizefighting, followed by the Italians and Irish." It was an era of outlandishly named Jewish toughs – Battling Levinsky, Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, and the heavyweight Kingfish Levinsky, of whom an intimate recalls that the "King was always missing a day of the week." To convey the impact this had on Jewish identity, Century quotes from Philip Roth's autobiographical book *The Facts*. "In my scheme of things," Roth writes, "Slapsie Maxie was a more remarkable Jewish phenomenon by far than Dr. Albert Einstein."

And then, almost overnight, it was over. "To drive through Chicago today," Century tells us, "one might think that the world of Barney Ross's youth had been some kind of mirage, a riotous dream of Jewish gunmen and bookmakers, fighting garment workers and smashed-nose boxers… There are practically no tales of second-generation Jewish fighters, just as few Jews followed their gangster fathers into the criminal milieu."

Century's family has roots in the Chicago neighbourhoods where Ross and his compatriots grew up, so there is a personal side to his tenacious search after what he calls "long-vanished images of Jewish toughness." In a fine literary turn, he links this search with his own upbringing near the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. And he delves further into his family's past in the final pages of Barney Ross, where he describes his interviews with Ross's surviving brother in an apartment packed with memorabilia and news clippings, preserved out of brotherly respect but largely forgotten. Century recognizes that Ross is no longer a Chicago celebrity, having been replaced by Walter Payton, Dick Butkus, Michael Jordan and the Ontario-born Bobby Hull.

For readers willing to think about sports in ways that go beyond statistics and astronomical payouts, *Barney Ross* is a welcome surprise.

*Norman Ravvin's books include* Hidden Canada: An Intimate Travelogue *and the novel* Lola by Night. *He is chair of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.*

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## Toronto couple still going strong after 80 years

Aurelia and Lewis Friedlich met by chance 80 years ago on a boat from Vienna to Budapest. It was love at first sight, and they married soon after. The couple, who live at Baycrest's Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, were honoured by their family at a special party on June 20. Aurelia is 99 and Lewis is 105. A CBC documentary crew was on hand to film the occasion as part of an upcoming series on marriage. At bottom, right, is the couple's wedding photo.

## About Nutrition

By Lisa Weinberg

**Q.** I have been hearing a lot lately about probiotics. What are they, and should I be eating them?

**A.** I am glad you asked this question because there is a lot of buzz around probiotics at the moment, as well as some interesting products containing it. Probiotics are *good* bacteria. They are naturally found in our intestines, and we need them to maintain good intestinal health. These good bacteria often get depleted over time as a result of stress, aging, antibiotic use, stomach bugs and some gastrointestinal diseases. We live in a time when we have become phobic about bacteria, but these are some you should welcome into your body.

I have seen incredible improvement in symptoms and reduced pain in many people in my practice, and even with my own husband, once they have added probiotics to their diet. We can all benefit from including these in our diets, but I have seen especially impressive improvements in people with IBS, irritable bowel syndrome.

So, where can you get probiotics? Well, you can take them in supplement form, you can get them from some yogurts and kefir that have had probiotics added to them, and they have been added to a new Canadian fruit beverage. You can find all of these in the refrigerator section of your grocery store. All you need is one cup of the drink or ¼ cup of yogurt to get the approximately one billion active bacteria that you want per serving.

**Q.** Now that melon season is here, I am wondering about something. I have heard that melons should be washed before we cut them. Is this true, and if so, why, and what is the best way to wash them?

**A.** This is actually both true and a very good idea. Many melons, such as watermelon and cantaloupe, grow right on the ground and are therefore often exposed to manures and other growing aids that get directly on the skin and can carry bacteria. So, to be safe, it is a good idea to wash the outside before drawing a knife from the potentially dirty exterior through the clean interior. The best way to do this is with warm soapy water. While I wouldn't recommend using soap with other fruits where we eat the skin, it is useful here. Squirt on a little dish soap, lather it up with some warm water, rinse, dry, slice and enjoy!

*Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to* The CJN.

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**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING**
Detached 3 + 2 bdrm. bungalow on 48 x 117 ft. lot in prime central location close to TTC, shops, schools. Separate entry to in-law suite. Only $649,900. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

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3 bedroom, 2 storey home on lot with 50 ft. frontage. Hardwood floors, renovated kitchen & bath. **ONLY $500,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000**
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**$311,000**
Amazing loft, funky upgraded 2bdr 2bath, parking. Approx 1100 sq ft, roof top terrace high ceilings.
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**$215,900**
Location!!! First time buyer's delight 1bdr in luxury building. Many upgrades.

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- $1,799,000 5+3 bdrms, 8 baths, w/out bsmt, 100' x 308'
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- $1,299,000 gorgeous 100'x 308' mature treed lot
- $899,000 5+1 bdrms, 4 baths, w/out to garden, pool size lot
- $729,000 mature treed lot 100'x180', rentable bungalow

**ALVEAR PALACE, 1 CORDOBA DR., THORNHILL**
- State of the Art custom designed magnificent condos for sale from $312,000 – $950,000. By appointment only.

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- $229,000, 2 bdrms, 2 w/outs to balcony, n.e. view, 1 pkg.

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| | |
|---|---|
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| 53 ALEXANDRA WOOD – 6 bedrooms | $2,499,000 |
| 130 STRATHEARN ROAD – 4 bedrooms | SOLD!!! |

**CONDOS**

| | |
|---|---|
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# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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**"OLDE THORNHILL" AT IT'S FINEST!**
Fabulous 100 x 251 ft (irregular oversized) south facing lot with inground pool. Over 8,000 sq. ft. of luxurious living space plus fully finished lower level. 5+2 Bedrooms, 9 baths, 3 car garage. $3,180,000. Michelle Schipper** ext. 289

**UPPER VILLAGE**
New custom home approx. 3700 sq. ft. + finished lower level. Gourmet kitchen with high end stainless steel appliances. Main floor den & family room, 5+1 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, sumptuous master en-suite. Sunfilled with soaring ceilings & hardwood floors thruout. Great attention to detail, top quality finishes and workmanship. Stunning! Chaim Talpalar* ext. 266

**3181 BAYVIEW AVENUE, SUITE #906**
Wrap yourself in spacious luxury in this sought after 3 bedrm, 3 bath sub-penthouse suite in Palace Gate. The suite is 2515 sq. ft. according to builder's plans. The expansive 1640 sq. ft. terrace has stunning south & north east views of the city skyline & local lush ravines. This home for all seasons boasts marble flrs, oversized kit & brkfst/fam rm. as well as features not commonly found in condominiums such as gas frplc, b/i cedar closet, a full sized utility laundry rm & a sauna as part of the mbr ensuite. $1,199,000. Ferne Sherkin Langer* ext. 307

**BELLE EWART WATERFRONT HOME**
Outstanding design, 7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, approx. 5,000 sq. ft., soaring floor to ceiling stone fireplace, permanent dock, boat slip. Great for large family. Steps to shul-camp. $1,100,000. Marsha Goldenberg* ext. 273

**EXCLUSIVE LISTING! 10 PRUE AVENUE**
2 Bedrooms, 2 full baths, approx. 1600 sq. ft., balcony, large laundry/storage area. Lots of storage! 2 Parking spaces. Walk to synagogues. Howard Biderman** ext. 320

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**BATHURST/LAWRENCE**
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**MIKE COHEN,** Sales Rep.
**Homelife Bayview Realty Inc.** Brokerage **905-889-2200**

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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**Bathurst/Clark,** 3 bed., 3 bath., Avail. July 15th, on a private cul de sac. Newly renovated. Beautiful! 905-886-8841.

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**Bathurst-Wilson.** 1 bdrm. condo w/balc., ensuite laundry, A/C, 5 appls., pkg., 24 hr. sec. Access to sauna, gym & party rm. 647-282-7730, leave message.

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large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer, solarium prkng, Shabbos elevator, near Shul, just reduced, must sell at under market price
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## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Baycrest,** large 2 bdrm., 1.5 baths, 2 balc., avail. July 1st. Call 416-518-0323.

**Bath./Clark (Promenade),** 2 bdrm. + den. 2 baths, appl. & prkg. Call eves. 905-881-8869

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## 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Muskoka,** 3 bdrm. cottage, 3 season, Lake Mckay, child friendly sandy beach, in friendly Jewish community co-op. $125,000. Contact Sherry at 416-789-0206 or sherry.zweig@pearsoned.com

## 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Jackson Point,** 4 bdrm., well maintained cottage, near Shul & beach, $129K. 416-733-5454.

## 110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Belle Ewart,** 4 bdrms., private lot, short walk to shul, steps to lake. Available July-August. Call 416-995-9630.

**Lake Simcoe, Bell Ewart,** waterfront cottages, 3-4 bdrms., available for the summer. Call Dan at 705-456-2999.

**COLLINGWOOD,** NEW 3 bdrm, 2 bath, waterfront chalet, $1500 per week. 905-731-4528 (lve msg) or evening.

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**[Isranet photo]**

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# NBA scouts considering three Jewish prospects

By HARVEY ROSEN
*Special to The CJN*

**WINNIPEG** — Call it a dearth, scarcity, or paucity, but of all North American pro sports, basketball is the one game that has a deficiency of Jewish players. In fact, there is not a single member of the chosen people who is today toiling in the NBA.

Now that is not to say that the Jewish people didn't have the hoops habit. In fact, they did, dating back to 1891 when the game was invented in the United States.

Today, as in the past, they are well represented at the U.S. collegiate level, but only a relative few have taken that rare giant step into the pros.

Dan Grunfeld

In days of yore, of course, there were the likes of Hall of Famer Adolph Schayes and his son Dan, Max Zaslofsky, Neil Walk, Nat Holman, Barry and Joel Kramer, Ernie Grunfeld, Art Heyman and the greatest of the early pros, Barney Sedran (Sedransky).

Now what box office minded general manager today, in cities with sizable Jewish populations, such as Minneapolis, Toronto, New York, Los Angeles or Chicago wouldn't mind acquiring the services of a talent of the Jewish persuasion?

Well, it just so happens that the NBA amateur draft will be taking place in the Big Apple on June 28th and a few of the talent scouts are touting a trio of Jewish kids who might be deemed worthy of being swept up in the draft.

Yotam Halperin

First, in the category of "like father, like son," very available is none other than Dan Grunfeld, the offspring of the aforementioned Ernie Grunfeld. A senior at Stanford University with the Cardinals, he is a 6-6 guard who has yearned to follow in dad's footsteps since he was still in his early elementary school years.

From all reports, the kid's game is practically identical to that of his dad who starred at the University of Tennessee and had a productive nine-year NBA career with the Milwaukee Bucks, Kansas City Kings, and the New York Knicks.

According to reports, Grunfeld can drive to the basket and is an excellent passer. His knowledge of the game is superior to most, due to his having grown up in a basketball environment. Education was stressed in his home; consequently he sports a 3.67 grade point average at school.

His final season at Stanford was a good news-bad news story. The all-academic guard, who weighs 220 lbs., started 29 of 30 games, averaging 12 points, and five rebounds. In the latter part of the schedule however, Grunfeld tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee on a fast break in a game against UCLA. His rehab has gone very well and the kid's health is not considered to be a detriment.

Grunfeld, who honed his skills as a youth playing one-on-one on the driveway with his dad, may one day play for pop. The latter is now president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards and has several times responded positively to the query as to whether he might want to choose his 22-year-old son in the draft.

Another legitimate prospect to watch for is Yotam Halperin, a 6-5, 200-lb. point guard whose hometown is Ranana, Israel and who plays internationally with Union Olimpija Ljubljana, International.

Halperin joined Maccabi Tel Aviv's youth system when he was just eight years old and was considered a future star, even being touted as Israel's first-ever NBA player. He played for four seasons with Maccabi Tel Aviv and won four Israeli championships, four Israeli national cups and two Euroleague titles.

As with all aspiring young players he has both an upside and a downside.

He has a prototype NBA body and a good wingspan. Halperin is a slasher with a very good jump shot and is reputed to be able to score from anywhere on the floor. His foul shooting is an impressive 90 per cent.

Halperin, 22, comes up short as a defensive player due to a lack of lateral quickness. He is just an average playmaker who cannot control the tempo of a game. Still it is believed that he might make the grade as a backup at the NBA level.

The outlook is that he is a very strong second round prospect – there are only two rounds in the NBA draft – and could perhaps be taken late in the first round.

Perhaps, if our third prospect is drafted, the NBA door may open for Lior Eliyahu, a 20-year-old who was raised in Ramat Gan, Israel and plays for Galil Elyon, International.

The six-foot-eight, 210-lb. power forward is listed as having "an excellent wingspan and big hands." He is very athletic with good quickness and is described by one scout, Jonathan Givony, as "smart and slithery around the basket."

Because most of his offence comes from the 15-foot range, he has an impressive shooting percentage of 58 per cent. Lior averaged 16 points in 29 games. He possesses a high basketball IQ, good footwork, and a soft touch. In addition to long arms, another asset is his quick first step and long strides that serve him well in getting to the basket.

On the downside, his foul shooting average is only 67 per cent and he needs to improve his ball-handling skills, especially with his left hand, or the directions he heads will be too predictable to the competition. Another drawback is his play on defence due to poor lateral footwork. A lack of strength dictates that he will have to bulk up if he hopes to play with the larger lads under the big top in North America.

Lior Eliyahu

A member of the under-21 Israeli National Team, Eliyahu was voted Youth Player of the Year in 2002/03 and is currently serving a mandatory three-year stint in the Israeli army that may temporarily postpone his aspirations of a NBA career another year.

Time for a rebound, don't you think? Will it be Grunfeld, Halperin, or Eliyahu who is to be the first Jewish stalwart in the NBA since Dan Schayes retired in 1999 following 18 years under the big top?

# Ghana apologizes for Israeli flag-waving

*JTA*

**ACCRA, Ghana** — Ghana apologized after one of its soccer players waved an Israeli flag at the World Cup earlier this month.

John Pantsil's gesture during a weekend game against the Czech Republic was aimed at solidarity with the Hapoel Tel Aviv soccer team, which he usually plays for, but it raised eyebrows among Arabs.

A Ghana Football Association spokesperson apologized June 19 and said Pantsil had been cautioned.

"He is obviously unaware of the implications of what he did. He's unaware of the international politics. We apologize to anybody who was offended and we promise that it will never happen again," the spokesman said. "He did not act out of malice for the Arab people or in support of Israel. He was naive."

FIFA, the organization overseeing the World Cup in Germany, said it had no problem with Pantsil's gesture.

Inside Back

# A change in musical tone

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

Jewish music, once a staid and uninventive genre, is undergoing a major facelift. Traditionally steeped in, well, tradition, Jewish music has never been particularly inspiring to music enthusiasts because, for the most part, it has always lacked creativity and a desire to grow in new musical directions.

New Views

Now, all that's changing– and people are starting to notice.

Most of the hype surrounding Jewish music has to do with Matisyahu. The New York-based chassidic reggae artist has exploded onto the popular music scene over the past year, releasing two albums (*Live at Stubb's* and *Youth*) and receiving extensive airplay on radio and MTV. He is currently touring North America with the internationally renowned Dave Matthews Band, and he was recently among the top five most downloaded artists on Apple's iTunes music store. Mainstream success notwithstanding, Matisyahu is clearly a Jewish artist more than anything else. If the recitation of the *Shema* and his cantorial tendencies don't make that clear, his swaying tzitzit and mangled black hat surely give him away.

Matisyahu aside, though, other bands are also making Jewish waves in pop music. The Shondes, a group that is three-quarters Jewish, recently made the pages of the *Village Voice*, the granddaddy of alternative weeklies. The Brooklyn-based quartet is composed of three transgendered Jews and a fourth member whom the other three call – apparently lovingly – their "shiksa." The group's name, which stems from the Yiddish word for "disgrace," is a conscious decision to stand on the fringe of accepted Jewish identity. The Shondes lay out an ideology that speaks loudly against what they refer to as Jewish nationalism and Jewish heterosexuality – they want to create a Jewishness that works on their terms.

Actor George Segal is even taking a run at the music business as the founding member of Chutzpah, the self-proclaimed "First Ever Jewish Hip Hop Supergroup," though he'll never admit to it. The Chutzpah trio – Master Tav, MC Meshugenah and Jewdah – have had a busy year, releasing an album titled *Eponymous* and touring across the U.S. Songs such as *Chanukah's Da Bomb* and *Da Lost Tribe* emphasize that Chutzpah is out to get laughs, but that hasn't stopped mainstream crowds from taking note. The group has appeared on FOX television and *EXTRA!*, and *Chutzpah, This Is*, a mockumentary chronicling the career of the trio and Dr. Dreck (aka Segal), Chutzpah's magisterial founder, premiered at the HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, Colo.

There are others as well, including Blue Fringe, a group of Yeshiva University grads that projects a pop music sensibility better than any other Jewish group and has spawned half a dozen imitators over the past few years. Other new performers and groups are springing up at an astonishing pace.

The real question going forward will not be whether Jewish music can find its way into the mainstream – the past year has proven that a Jewish music revolution has already begun – but what audiences will be willing to count as part of the Jewish music genre. Will Hebrew lyrics and quotes from the siddur continue as necessary standards, or will less obvious references to Jewish tradition be acceptable? Does Jewish music always have to be celebratory of our heritage or are we willing to accept performers that question our shared history? Jewish audiences will have to decide.

Whatever those decisions be, we are on the cusp of an entirely new Jewish music. The days of a genre full of Carelebach copies and singers concerned with performance rather than craft are done. The new generation is determined to create honest music that gathers influence from both Jewish tradition and an eclectic musical set – musicianship, composition and religion are equally important to these performers. And we, the listeners, have the exciting prospect of a new musical wave to look forward to.


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1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cs semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 1/2 tsp instant espresso coffee powder

Preheat oven to 300F. Place butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar in bowl of electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Beat on medium speed about 30 sec. until fluffy. Slowly beat in egg and vanilla for 30 sec. longer, until well combined. In a mixing bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add to mixture while beating on slow speed. Beat 15 sec.; stir in chocolate chips and espresso powder; mix for 15 sec. longer. Spray a cookie sheet non-stick spray. Using a 1-oz scoop, drop cookie dough onto cookie sheet in dollops about 3" apart. Gently press down on dough with back of a spoon to spread out into 2" circles; Bake for about 20 min. or until the cookies nicely browned around the edges. Bake a little longer for crisper cookies.
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**THURMAN VISITS KOTEL**

**Actress Uma Thurman and her two children were at the Western Wall last week while on a private visit to Israel. [Israel Sun photo]**

# Once newborns

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Today was a difficult day. I came face to face with the suffering of a Jewish mother whose son has run away, and with a traditional Jew, about my age, who has been chronically depressed since he was little and is now living in a shelter.

URBAN WRITER

I forced myself to concentrate on every word they uttered, hoping to give them the respect and attentiveness they likely crave, yet rarely get. After awhile, it's hard to listen to someone who is depressed, perhaps because caring in excess is a burden that takes away from our struggle for joy, and because their depression frightens us, since their sadness reminds us of our own.

Yet, when I spoke to the man, my mind wandered, and I began to think about how I should be thinking. I was monitoring myself, watching myself, determining what the "right" way of responding would be, rather than doing what comes naturally.

Then an image of my son, Noah, only nine weeks old, appeared to me. When it did, I looked at this desperate, traditional Jew sitting opposite me and realized that he was once a little boy with a mamma and papa, and somewhere along the road, he ended up without them.

And tonight, this man who was once a child will sleep among other "orphaned" men, cut off from that parental love, having to find ways of protecting themselves from others who are like them.

My little Noah weighs 12 pounds and is swaddled in layers of emotional defence against goblins and men. This traditional Jew was leaning on a wall in a laneway, consortung with ghosts.

"My boy ran away from home with nothing," the woman agonized. She expressed the pain that Jacob felt upon losing his son Joseph. The sages say there is no greater parental pain than not knowing if one's child is alive or dead. If the child is alive, we celebrate. If the child is dead, we mourn. Not knowing, however, gives us no time for peace.

"I haven't heard from him since he ran away," the woman said. My God, this is the child for whom she would have lifted a car with her bare hands in order to save him. Her desperation and despair cause her layers of grief that are only understandable to those who have done more than just imagined this horror.

And my heavenly secret, Noah, smiles for the very first time.

Can we mend this suffering? Are we able to repair everything if we only try, or are there things that are meant to be in a state of disrepair? Is imperfection a part of life?

If we are aggressively introspective, we become more aware of the anger that we project on others, and of familial dysfunctionality that we pass on to our children.

But is it not possible to create a healthier world? Do Miriam and I know for sure that Noah will never run away from us?

My Noah is crying. He will not sleep. Miriam has slipped into his vivid yellow room to caress his tummy and lightly massage his cheeks. I listen to his shrill cries as they evolve into the cooing and bubbling sounds of sleep.

My little boy is safe in his crib, separated from us by a thin door. His two nervous and adoring parents are ready to fight off the unpredictable army of fright that might try to enter his room while he slumbers. I want to keep him there forever and ever.

I know, however, that this Jewish mother wanted the same for her boy.

"Where is my son?" she asks.

God bring him home soon, for the mother and father who once held him in their arms and are tortured with despair.

Noah, sleep in my arms while you still can, for childhood is but a day.

*Avrum@veahavta.org. Sudan?*

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## This Week

### National

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**Teacher honours** former student by climbing mountain. *Page 15*

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**Eleven-year-old** Cassandra Macdonald cuts hair for charity. *Page 20*

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**Matisyahu:** chassidic reggae star sells more than one million copies of debut CD. *Page 33*

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# *Gaza may portend Lebanese rules of war*

By HERB KEINON
*Jerusalem Post*

The events of the last few weeks in and around Gaza – the rocket fire on Sderot, the roadside explosions, the Israeli air raids, the "collateral damage," the capture of an Israeli soldier, the captors' psychological warfare – all lead to one sinking, unmistakable feeling: Lebanon is here.

The similarities between what is happening now in Gaza, less than one year after disengagement, and what happened for some 18 years in Lebanon are frightening. Yet it should come as no surprise - Hamas learned well from Hezbollah.

If the Palestinians from Gaza shoot rockets on Israel as though they were in Lebanon, if they plant roadside bombs as though they were in Lebanon, if they attack Israel Defence Forces outposts and kidnap soldiers as though they were in Lebanon, then they should not be too surprised when Israel treats the Palestinian Authority like Lebanon and acts accordingly.

Which is what the IDF did June 28 by driving into Gaza, knocking out electricity and knocking down three bridges.

## Analysis

Hezbollah has thousands of rockets along the border with Israel, and its outposts are directly on the border facing IDF outposts, yet since Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon six years ago, a tense quiet has reigned in the north.

It's not as if Hezbollah is uninterested in making our lives miserable, but rather that Israel has simply – through military action and clear diplomatic messages over the last six years – made it clear that, if Israel gets hit by Hezbollah, Lebanon and the Lebanese will pay the price.

Now that Hezbollah is part of the Lebanese political process, this is not a price the organization/political party wants to pay, because it is concerned that if the Lebanese suffer Hezbollah will be blamed. The result, if not exactly mutual assured destruction (MAD) – the doctrine that governed Russian-U.S relations during the Cold War – is what could be called a balance of mutual threats.

Hezbollah doesn't attack Israel, or at least not much, because it knows Israel can wreak devastation on southern Lebanon and that the Lebanese will then hold Hezbollah accountable. Israel's activities in Gaza seem designed to create a similar situation in Gaza. But there may be one big difference. Whereas Hezbollah is concerned that a devastating IDF blow in Lebanon could hurt its political standing, this may not be the case in Gaza.

**Continued on page 26**

**An Israeli soldier equips himself for the day ahead as he stands among the tanks stationed on the edge of the Gaza Strip.** *[Isranet photo]*

# United Church supports Israel boycott

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

A motion passed last week by the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada supporting an Ontario labour union's recent decision to boycott Israel has been strongly denounced by mainstream Jewish organizations.

Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, described it as "unjust and misguided," while B'nai Brith called it anti-Israel.

Rick McKinley, the newly elected president of the Toronto Conference, said he personally disagrees with the motion and feels the church should be supportive of Israel. "But the motion is not anti-Israel and was not intended to be," he insisted.

***Jewish groups denounce motion by Toronto branch***

Frances Combs, co-chair of a United Church task group that touched off the current controversy by endorsing a resolution passed by the Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) backing economic sanctions against Israel until it recognizes "the Palestinian right to self-determination," also denied the motion is anti-Israel.

Claiming that it was not aimed at Israel but at Israel's "illegal" occupation of the West Bank and east Jerusalem, she declared, "We're not boycotting Israel. We're boycotting the occupation."

**Continued on page 7**

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# The News in Brief

## Canada

### Author Up For Prize

**MONTREAL** — Montreal writer B. Glen Rotchin, author of *The Rent Collector*, is a finalist for the 29th annual First Novel Award, a prestigious Canadian literary award that recognizes first-time novelists. Set in Montreal's garment industry, the book focuses on a gentle Orthodox family man who reluctantly manages his father's large building on Chabanel Street, with its variety of hard-driven tenants. Rotchin is one of six nominees for the award, sponsored by Books in Canada and Amazon.ca. The winner will be announced later this year in Toronto. The $7,500 prize is the richest in Canada for a debut novel.

## World

### Death Report Revoked

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Embassy in Israel reportedly revoked a death report for a U.S. citizen that listed his place of death as "Jerusalem, Israel." The *Jerusalem Post* reported that Wendy Serlin of Beit Shemesh received a letter last month from the embassy, revoking its death report for her father, Myron Friedman, who died in 2002. Serlin says the report, issued shortly after Friedman's death, was revoked for political reasons: the U. S. Congress passed an act in 1995 stating the United States should recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have invoked a security waiver to delay moving its embassy to Jerusalem. The revocation followed a separate case in which Serlin's neighbours, Naomi and Ari Zivotofsky, sued the U.S. State Department in 2003 to have their son's place of birth be listed as "Jerusalem, Israel." The Zivotofskys submitted Friedman's death report as evidence. U.S. officials wouldn't comment on Friedman's case.

### Regulator Clears Show

**LONDON** — Britain's broadcast regulator ruled that a TV portrayal of a major Jewish political figure as a Dickensian crook was not meant to cause offence. Ofcom ruled last month on a Channel 4 program that portrayed Lord Levy, the Labour Party's chief fundraiser, as Charles Dickens' character Fagin. Levy was shown in a grey suit with a prosthetic hook nose and singing *You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two*, a song from the musical *Oliver*. In response to 11 complaints, which led to the Ofcom probe, Channel 4 said Fagin was "easily identifiable as a cunning ringleader of an enterprise with the sole aim of getting money out of people." The skit targeted "loans-for-peerages," a scandal surrounding Labour party fundraising. Ofcom said Channel 4 had "no intention to cause offence or focus the sketch on Lord Levy's Jewish background."

### Cemetery Vandalized

**VILNIUS** — Nineteen tombstones in a Jewish cemetery near the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius were toppled June 24, the leader of Lithuania's Jewish community says. Simonas Alperavicius said the attack may be linked to the 65th anniversary of the June 23, 1941, uprising of Lithuanian nationalists against the Soviet Union.

### TV Producer Dies

**LOS ANGELES** — Hollywood producer Aaron Spelling died June 23 in Los Angeles at 83. He had suffered a stroke June 18. Spelling, born in 1923 to struggling Jewish immigrants in Texas, was a prolific producer of hit TV shows, including *Charlie's Angels*, *Love Boat* and *Beverly Hills, 90210*.

### Corrie Play To Open

**NEW YORK** — An off-Broadway play about a pro-Palestinian activist will open in New York. *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* will begin a month-long run Oct. 15 at the Minetta Lane Theater. The play was set to open at another New York theater in March but was delayed after concerns from the Jewish community. Corrie was run over and killed by an Israeli bulldozer as she tried to prevent it from searching for Palestinian arms-smuggling tunnels in Gaza in 2003.

### Anti-Semitism High in Muslim Lands: Poll

**WASHINGTON** — Anti-Jewish sentiment is nearly universal in Jordan and Egypt, a new survey has found.

Some 98 per cent of respondents in Jordan and 97 per cent in Egypt – two Arab countries with peace treaties with Israel – harbour anti-Jewish feelings, while negative feelings about Jews were "overwhelming" in other Muslim countries surveyed as part of the Pew Global Attitudes Project for 2006, the *New York Times* reported. Other Muslim nations polled included Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

In followup interviews, Muslims said the primary cause for poor relations with the Western world is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The survey also found that in Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Turkey, the majority of respondents don't believe Arabs carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on New York and Washington.

### Suppliers Subpoenaed

**NEW YORK** — Federal subpoenas were served against several kosher meat suppliers in the United States in connection with an antitrust investigation. The *New York Jewish Week* reported that AgriProcessors, in Postville, Iowa, is among those hit with the subpoenas. The subpoenas could be focusing on collusion within the kosher industry. The Conservative movement is currently investigating complaints about working conditions at AgriProcessors, the country's largest kosher slaughterhouse. After an animal-rights group produced an undercover video of conditions at the plant in 2004, investigators with the U.S. Agriculture Department determined that some plant employees had violated humane slaughter regulations.

### Jews Go in NBA Draft

**NEW YORK** — Three Jewish basketball players were selected in last week's NBA draft. The Los Angeles Lakers took UCLA's Jordan Farmar in round one, while Israelis Lior Eliyahu went to Orlando and Yotam Halperin went to Seattle in round two. Eliyahu's rights were later traded to Houston.

### Think-tank Closing

**NEW YORK** — A modern Orthodox think-tank is closing, partly due to financial issues, the *New York Jewish Week* reported. Edah was founded nine years ago to strengthen centrist Orthodoxy as the movement drifts to the right.


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# Rabbi, high schoolers press MPs on Darfur

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — Spring in Ottawa sees many tourists visiting Parliament Hill, but a recent trip by 20 Montreal high school students had a very serious purpose: to urge MPs to help the people of the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Grade 11 students, led by Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Montreal's Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem synagogue, recently took part in the March of the Living, an educational program that takes teens to Poland to visit the concentration camps.

Seeing the physical evidence of inhumanity and unimaginable cruelty, Rabbi Steinmetz said he was reminded that this is not just history – the same thing is happening today in Darfur.

"After visiting the concentration camps, many of the teenage students I was with began to search for a way to respond," he said. "They wondered if the slogan 'Never again' really had any meaning if after the Holocaust the world stood by during subsequent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda. They wondered if they could make a difference for the people in Darfur."

His idea to take the students to Ottawa to "talk to anyone who will listen" resulted in an action-packed day as they met

Continued on page 18

Montreal students with Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, standing fourth from left and Liberal MP Keith Martin, standing fifth from right.

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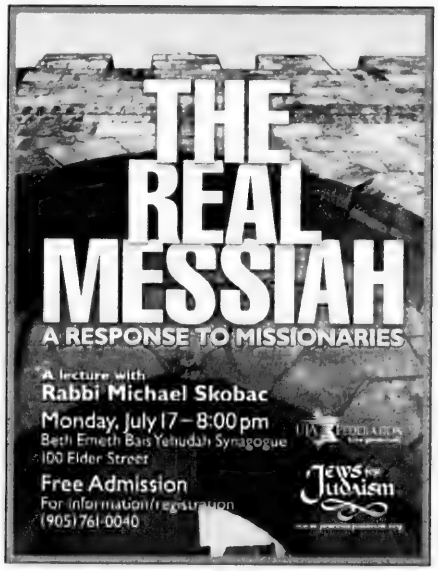


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Greater Toronto Area

# Travel aides for Israel

From the editor's desk

Among the many blessings of working at *The CJN* is the opportunity it affords to visit Israel each year. Though there is always work to be done during those visits – people to interview and stories to write – the place always yields something spectacular. The combination of history, geography, flora, fauna, climate, culture, cuisine, accommodations, religion, and the amazing people is uniquely felicitous.

Each facet of the country – and of course there are so many more – is like a crystal of sharp colour in a large, constantly kinetic kaleidoscope that in ever-spinning contact with the other facets, creates indescribable patterns of human experiences.

Anyone who has been to Israel will know immediately what I mean. Anyone who hasn't yet been there, ought to mark the place on their travel destinations. And for those people who are making Israel a travel destination, first-timers or veterans, the following two travel aides are extremely helpful.

* * *

Like a hat to a hiker in the Negev Desert, *Fodor's Israel* (6th edition) is more than a good thing to have. It is highly recommended.

Conveniently sized to fit into any knapsack or purse, it is a mini-encyclopedia of easy-to-find, indispensable information and travel tips.

Its logical, uncomplicated format is a pleasant compliment to the substance of the entries in the book, which essentially fall into three categories: useful tips that skip across the surface; general background that provide a myriad of contextual settings; or surprisingly in-depth elaborations that encourage and facilitate further inquiry.

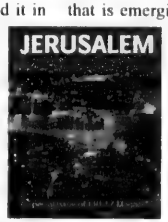
Much of the substantive information virtually leaps off the page as a result of the breezy layout and visually engaging, colour-coordinated artwork.

But it is not the substantive information alone that accounts for *Fodor's Israel* high standing as a travel guide. It has some 25 maps and a comprehensive index, the sine qua non of quick, easy, reliable retrieval of the very useful information.

I did not know before I read it in Fodor's that eight chess grand masters live in Be'er Sheva, a higher per capita ratio than any other city in the wide.

The world's largest manufacturer of generic drugs is based in Israel. Teva Pharmaceuticals supplies one out of every 16 prescriptions in the United States.

Nor did I know, before I read it in *Fodor's Israel*, that the Jewish state is the only country in the world to end the 20th century with more trees than it had at the beginning of the century. Israel planted more than 240 million trees in the 20th century.




*Fodor's Israel* shines with many such nuggets of esoteric and practical information. It is entertaining, instructive, helpful and pragmatic. In short, it is a perfect travel companion.

***

For anyone focusing their visit to Israel on its ethereal and earthly capital, Jerusalem, the special issue of *Eretz* magazine dedicated to Jerusalem is a handy reference guide. And like all good travel books, it is a worthwhile read on its own merits, not merely as a means to an exciting Jerusalem vacation but also as a multidisciplinary immersion into this remarkable ancient modern city.

*Eretz* magazine, published six times a year, is a journal of exploration for anyone interested in the Jewish state. Its stories are off-the-beaten-track features of geography, topography, archeology, architecture, history, sociology, culture, cuisine and much more.

With seemingly no compromise on production values, the pages are glossy synergies of photographic art and snappy, reliable writing.

Yadin Roman and Dita Kohl, the editors of *Eretz* and its sister publication, *Metropolis* respectively, explained their reason for publishing this special Jerusalem edition of *Eretz*. "We have tried to do something different – to capture the new spirit that is emerging… to put a finger on the essence of Jerusalem… It [this issue] was put together with a great love for what is, to us, the most amazing city in the world."

To achieve their purpose, the editors have conscripted a blue-chip roster of writers, photographers and Jerusalem aficionados. Some two-dozen feature articles and myriad accompanying photographs inform and inspire the reader.

Along with the magazine itself, the editors have provided a separate map of and handy city guide to Jerusalem.

After the Jerusalem visit is over, this special *Eretz* magazine deserves a place on the coffee table.

— *MBD*

SeeJN

## GERMAN FOOTBALL FANS SHOW SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

**Football fans in Frankfurt, Germany, rallied recently near one of the World Cup football venues to demonstrate their condemnation of the policies of the government of Iran and their support for the State of Israel.**

(Carol Seiz photo)

# Refugee conference shines positive light on Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Leah Biteolin, an Israeli originally from Ethiopia, says that many people outside of Israel are surprised when they meet her.

"If they've never met an Israeli, they don't believe that we can look different," she said.

Biteolin, 24, who works with Ethiopian Jews for the Jewish Agency, was in Toronto recently to take part in the first-ever international refugee rights conference sponsored by the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR).

Also at the conference from Israel was Anat Ben-Dor, 38, the country's only refugee lawyer. "People are also surprised to learn that Israel has a refugee policy," she said in an interview after the conference.

**Israeli refugee lawyer Anat Ben-Dor, left; Mila Voihanski, director of immigrant services for Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, centre; and Leah Biteolin, an Israeli from Ethiopia who works with Ethiopian Jews for the Jewish Agency.**

Representatives from about 44 countries, including Iran, South Korea, Egypt, Bulgaria, Spain, Ecuador and Mexico, attended the June 17-19 conference, held at the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University.

Workshops and panels were held in English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous translations.

Mila Voihanski, director of immigrant services for Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, (JIAS), a founding CCR agency, said that in past Canadian conferences, she found that many stereotypes existed about Israel.

"People, even those from Canada, do not know that Israel resettles more immigrants than any other country," Voihanski said.

About nine months ago, she said, she approached the CCR executive about inviting people from Israel to the conference. "We wanted to show people that there is much more to Israel than the conflict."

It would be a great opportunity for people around the world to meet Israelis, she said, "and bring back positive messages about Israel to their own country. They can tell them that they met vibrant women who worked with non-Jewish refugees in Israel."

Biteolin, who arrived in Israel with her family in 1984, said the conference gave participants a rare opportunity to meet Israelis, "and see that we live a normal life.

"Refugees choose to come to Israel because they recognize it as a place where they will be safe," Biteolin said.

"The only criticism they have of Israel is that once they are a refugee, they are always a refugee. There is no mechanism in place for a non-Jew to become a citizen."

Ben-Dor, who Voihanski calls "the lone ranger," said that despite its record, Israel can still learn a lot from Canada with respect to a fair refugee system.

"I suggested that Canadian lawyers come to Israel and train our lawyers in refugee law. Our legislation is more informal. There is nothing entrenched [in law] and we could use some tutoring."

She got into refugee law almost by accident, she said.

"[Through my work at Tel Aviv University] I met an asylum seeker, so I researched the issue and taught myself about asylum law. I decided that if we know nothing, then the policymakers know nothing."

Israel provides temporary protection for nationals from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Congo, she said. "They are allowed to stay while war is raging in their country, but [some] people from Sierra Lione have been in Israel for 12 years. They feel like Israelis, but they have no legal rights to remain."

A "burning" issue involves 220 Sudanese refugees now detained by Israel. "They had applied for refugee status in Egypt, but they crossed to Israel because living conditions were not good in Egypt," Ben-Dor said.

"Israel is worried about them, because Sudan is an enemy state, but human rights activists feel it is wrong to detain them. Some of [the refugees], however, feel they are better off in an Israeli jail than in their own country," she added.

Voihanski said the conference was successful "because participants did not have this image of Israel. [I think] we came out looking positive.

"I'd like to see another conference in about three years, maybe in a different country."

## *Israel folk-dance enthusiasts to gather*

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

The first Toronto IsReal Dance Festival kicked off Canada Day weekend at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre in downtown Toronto.

"We took Canada Day especially and [the festival was] open to anyone at all, and we hope that in the next few years we'll find a way to incorporate the [outside] community more," said Yossi Strauch, a folk-dance instructor at israeli folk dancing Toronto and chair of the Toronto IsReal Dance Festival committee.

"We might think of adding beginners lessons [to the event in the future]. It is right now pretty high-level dancing."

Strauch, a Torontonian who lived on an Israeli kibbutz from 1961 to '89, said Israeli folk-dance enthusiasts from across the United States including Minnesota, Ohio, New York, and California attended the event, which attracted approximately 150 participants, averaging 35 years old.

He said people were drawn to the festival because renowned Israeli choreographers Rafi Ziv and Yaron Malichi were featured and participated in question and answer sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

"These choreographers are top-notch. They teach in Israel and their classes are 300 to 400 people," he said, adding that expenses exceeded $6,000 to bring each choreographer to Toronto.

"Israeli folk dancing is alive. There are choreographers in North America, who make up Israeli dances, and they either have a very strong history of dancing, or they are people who lived in Israel and learned how to dance," said Strauch.

The event kicked off last Friday, June 30, at 7 p.m. with a Shabbat dinner and entertainment. Folk dancing commenced at 9:30 p.m. until 2 a.m. The festival wrapped up on Sunday, July 2, at 2 a.m. after 4½ hours of folk dancing.

"It's our first year, and if we are successful, we will continue," said Strauch, adding that Israeli folk-dancing festivals take place annually throughout the United States.

Strauch said the Toronto event was not for profit and that organizers were working "out of a labour of love."

"We are not only volunteering but paying some of the bills in some cases as well," he added.

Strauch said the dance festival needs financial help from the community as it doesn't attract as many participants as other festivals.

The event was sponsored in part by State of Israel Bonds, the Miles Nadal JCC Toronto, IFG Canada and Deloitte.

For more information about the Toronto IsReal Dance Festival, visit www.IsraeliFolkDancingToronto.com.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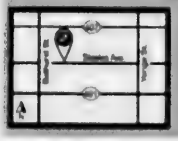

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Greater Toronto Area

# British imam denied entry into Canada

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Immigration Minister Monte Solberg has apparently heeded the call of Canadian faith groups to ban a controversial British imam from entering Canada to speak at a Muslim youth conference in Toronto.

Sheik Riyadh ul-Haq, formerly the imam at a Birmingham, England, mosque, who has been accused of vilifying Jews, Hindus, and moderate Muslims, was set to speak at the Youth Tarbiyah conference on June 30, organized by the Islamic Foundation of Toronto.

Canadian Jewish Congress national president Ed Morgan said he heard last week through media reports that Solberg had informed immigration officials that ul-Haq should be barred from entering the country because his views could incite terror and hatred.

"If it is confirmed, I'll be pleased with the decision, because it means that the government did the right thing," Morgan said.

Earlier in the week, the *Toronto Star* reported that Air Canada's gate security and ticket agents received a memo from the Canadian High Commission in London that said ul-Haq would be unable to board an Air Canada flight until he contacted the Commission.

A spokesperson for the Canadian immigration office did not return calls for confirmation by *The CJN*'s deadline.

After news broke that the controversial imam was set to lecture in Hamilton, Montreal and Toronto, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and gay-rights groups wrote an open letter in hopes of convincing Solberg to refuse ul-Haq entry to Canada under anti-hate laws.

"We wrote an open letter to the immigration minister with all the groups who were offended by ul-Haq. I think the force of the four groups – Muslims, Jews, Hindus and gay and lesbian groups – coming together… was quite powerful," Morgan said.

Following the news, the CJC released a statement commending Solberg's reported decision to bar the imam from coming to Canada and emphasized the importance of speaking out against those who incite hatred.

# *Church urged to reject boycott call*

**Continued from page 1**

The church motion, which was passed as the Israeli army launched its first major raid into the Gaza Strip since Israel's Gaza withdrawal last summer, was supported by the Canadian Arab Federation, the Alliance of Concerned Jewish Canadians and the Jewish Women's Committee to End the Occupation.

The motion revived a 2003 United Church resolution that endorsed a boycott of companies and goods connected with Israel's occupation of the territories.

That resolution recognized Israel's right to exist in peace and security within internationally accepted borders and the right of the Palestinians to statehood.

It also stated that "the path to peace is dependent on the ending of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, including the withdrawal of Israeli settlements there."

The motion was justified on the grounds that boycotts and sanctions "are time-honoured non-violent ways of bringing an end to intolerable situations."

David Katz, Congress' secretary-treasurer, said the motion was "a blatant attempt" by the church to short-circuit a discussion next month by its national body on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"We will continue to reach out vigorously to United Church members, both inside and outside the Toronto Conference, to reject divestment now and at the upcoming [national] General Council as an unjust and misguided attempt to punish Israel and as counterproductive to achieving peace," Katz said.

"We call on leaders and members of the United Church of Canada to reject this position outright. Our community cannot help but view this motion as insensitive to Canadian Jewry's inherent and unbreakable attachment to the State of Israel."

Katz added that the Toronto Conference's support for the "extreme and misinformed" resolution adopted by CUPE Ontario last month "speaks to the intentions of this group. This is a call for action without reflection."

Steven Shulman, Congress' Ontario regional director and national counsel, said the Toronto Conference motion would only embolden extremists.

"It's really quite surprising that the Toronto Conference chose to link its motion with the CUPE resolution, which has received an overwhelmingly negative response."

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith, said the Toronto Conference has "a long history of looking at the [Arab-Israeli] conflict solely from the point of view of the Palestinians. The United Church cannot claim… to promote peace and understanding among Arabs and Jews and then work to the detriment of one party to the conflict, namely Israel."

In addition, Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College, expressed opposition to the Toronto Conference motion, saying it revealed "blind sightedness and hatred for Israel."

Combs said the Toronto Conference will urge members, congregations and related church bodies "to refuse to buy any products produced in the illegal settlements and to divest from five multinational companies – Caterpillar, Boeing, Canadian Aviation Electronics, General Electric and Lockheed Martin – involved in the military occupation of the Palestinian territories."

She acknowledged that the church's Toronto chapter remains the only one in Canada to have adopted such a motion.

The motion passed last week appears to be the culmination of a visit by a United Church delegation to Israel and the Palestinian areas three years ago.

Upon completion of the trip, the church, the largest Protestant denomination in Canada, issued this statement: "The overall impression of the visit confirmed for us the need for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza for the sake of both Israelis and Palestinians."


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# The spirit of Entebbe

Anyone who was not a youngster in 1976 will still recall with perfect clarity their nearly disabling shiver of disbelief upon hearing the news of the Entebbe rescue. As details of the operation emerged, of course, we tempered our sense of amazement with melancholy over the losses suffered in the rescue. But the raw daring of the mission was like a jolt of adrenaline into our worried hearts. It stirred us out of a debilitating haze of anger and bitterness with the living proof that all things were possible if we but only cared enough and mustered all our strength. It was the most magnificent illustration of the timeless affirmation of Jewish fellowship: *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh.* All of us (Israel) are responsible for each other.

The communal ties that interconnect across space and time are not merely platitudes of peoplehood or musings of some amorphous metaphysical link, but tangible cords of feeling and responsibility.

The Air France flight was hijacked to Entebbe Airport in Uganda by Palestinian and German terrorists. Uganda's dictator-ruler-for-life, Idi Amin Dada, was the hijackers' bombastic accomplice. The passengers were separated. The sickening scene was familiar to us all, for it had played all over Europe only 3½ decades earlier. Jews on one side, non-Jews on the other. We knew and we dreaded the hijackers' intended outcome.

We feared for the lives of our fellow Jews, captives of a handful of hair-triggered, hate-filled terrorists and their buffoonish yet wildly dangerous Ugandan host, in an isolated airplane hangar in central-east Africa, far away from any possible source of rescue.

Except for one.

Undaunted by the distance or the logistical and operational difficulties involved in flying some 2,000 kilometres into hostile territory, soldiers of the Jewish state swooped from the sky in the dark of a Saturday night to save their fellow Jews.

This unprecedented, singularly bold and courageous military action proclaimed to a stunned, and in some quarters a grudgingly admiring, world that Jewish life would no longer be free for the taking. But equally as important, the Entebbe rescue proclaimed to a joyfully weeping Jewish people around the world: "You shall not die, but live. We have come very far to rescue you and bring you to safety." Jewish history had changed.

Daring, in defiance of all odds, and always for the sake of saving human life are the characteristics that, since July 4, 1976, capture the essence of the spirit of Entebbe.

It is that spirit which the Jewish state has had to demonstrate countless times in its young 58-year history, and which, alas, it is summoning even today in its efforts to locate and rescue Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was abducted by Hamas terrorists last week.

It is also the spirit that all of us must summon to confront our own personal challenges, as well as the broader challenges of Jewish life, and that we must inculcate in the next generation so that they, in their turn, will do the same.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Leaders of both parties in the U.S. Congress opposed President Ronald Reagan's plan to sell AWACS (airborne warning and control system) aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Their reasons included the danger of the technology falling into Soviet hands, the instability of the Saudi government and concern for the security of Israel.

## Day school funding

Thank you for devoting your editorial to the important issue of day school funding ("New thinking needed," *CJN*, June 22). I have read many articles in *The CJN* about concerns with Jewish continuity. Day schools are not only the best way to ensure Jewish continuity, they are also where we often find our future rabbis, teachers and community leaders. Day school students also act as outreach emissaries to their peers who are not in day school in ways that can be more effective than any organized outreach program. As a community we need to invest more in them, insuring that they do not become an unattainable luxury, whether by directly giving more money to the schools or by fully funding tuition subsidies.

**Aurora Mendelsohn**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Recognizing outstanding teachers

I read with great confusion the article explaining that administrators in the Jewish day school system do not support or endorse the Teacher of Excellence Awards because they were uncomfortable "putting one teacher in the limelight as opposed to the other" ("Administrators' resistance ends teacher awards," *CJN*, June 22).

The teachers are nominated by parents and students who want to acknowledge the dedication and outstanding performance of educators who have inspired and enhanced a child's learning. As a community we regularly acknowledge excellence. I challenge anyone to read an issue of *The CJN* and not find at least one gala or event honouring an outstanding volunteer or recognizing the contributions of a dedicated philanthropist, but heaven forbid we recognize the outstanding teachers within the Jewish day school system.

I found director of education at Bialik Hebrew Day School Uri Korin's comment that he can't embrace an award based on "factors that do not pertain to school performance, such as parent satisfaction" indicates a profound misunderstanding as to whose satisfaction is ultimately important. It's time that Jewish day school administrators woke up to the fact that parent satisfaction is perhaps the most important factor in Jewish education. After all, it is we, the parents, who entrust your schools with our most valuable treasures, our children, and, may we remind you, pay their tuition.

**Ronda Shorfer**
**Thornhill, Ont.**

* * *

## Future of Yiddish

I was pleased to see that *The CJN* gave such full coverage to the session on "The Futures of Yiddish Education and Culture in Canada," the closing session of the 2006 meeting of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies ("Yiddish language needs a boost, say educators," June 15). However, I was disappointed with the article's focus on the decline of interest in Yiddish and the lack of programs to support its growth.

This coverage did not include any recognition or acknowledgement of the forces that are fostering a renewal of interest in Yiddish, many of which were noted at the conference. The large number of individuals who were drawn to this session attests to the vitality of a commitment to Yiddish within the Jewish community. This group reflects the forces that have established Yiddish programs at major Canadian universities, as well as the Ashkenaz and KlezCanada festivals, the flowering of klezmer bands, and numerous Yiddish programs, classes and study groups.

All of these programs express the awareness that the Yiddish language and culture are irreplaceable tools for the fuller understanding of 1,000 years of life and culture in eastern Europe, as well as the history of the Canadian Jewish community.

Although this movement may be relatively small, it is significant. With involvement and energy, it will grow.

**Sylvia Lustgarten**
**Toronto**

* * *

I would like to point out that in addition to the Yiddish language and music being lost, we have also in most cases lost our Yiddish dance culture ("Yiddish language needs a boost, say educators," June 15). At one time, these dances were known to all and were part and parcel of every eastern European Jewish wedding. They were simple dances that could be done by everyone, and they were largely improvised. Unfortunately, these dances now are done only at the occasional klezmer festival or at a few folkdance classes. It seems incongruous to sit and listen to klezmer dance tunes – they cry out for dancing! It would be great to have Yiddish dance included whenever klezmer music is played in Toronto. I maintain a Yiddish-dance website at www.yiddishdance.com.

**Helen Winkler**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Grunfeld proved he can still play but...

Dan Grunfeld tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee in his junior, not his senior year ("NBA scouts considering three Jewish prospects," *CJN*, June 29). Last year, his senior season, he proved that he can still play, but he has yet to recover the deadly jump shot he featured in his first two seasons or his impressive first step, both of which made him a deadly scorer as a sophomore.

**Shel Wallman**
***Jewish Sports Review***

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Perspectives

# Message of Entebbe still resonates 30 years later

By URI DROMI
*JTA*

Last month, we airmen and veterans of Squadron 103, one of the oldest units of the Israeli Air Force, bade farewell to a comrade, Lt.-Col. Moshe Naveh. His untimely death shocked us all, and as I drove to his funeral, memories of our joint service came to mind.

It was on the third day of the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Since families were evacuated from the airbases, Moshe invited me to stay with him at his home. I returned from a long night flight, and when he opened the door, his eyes were filled with tears: Just hours earlier, his elder brother Issachar, an F-4 Phantom pilot, was killed while trying to land his badly damaged aircraft.

Less than three years later, Moshe was part of one of the C-130 Hercules aircrews who flew to Entebbe, Uganda, to rescue the hijacked passengers of Air France flight No. 139. He never talked about it, but I felt that in his own silent way, he was proudly carrying on in the footsteps of his fallen brother.

Now Moshe is gone too. As I entered the graveyard, I saw his mother. I started to mumble my condolences when this old woman, a survivor of Auschwitz, gave me a stern look.

"Spare your words," she said dryly. "It's between me and God."

What could I possibly say to this woman, who had lost all her family in the Holocaust, who married another Holocaust survivor, started a new chapter in Israel and gave birth to two sons – only to lose them as well as her husband, who died heartbroken after Issachar was killed?

Nevertheless, when my turn came to give a eulogy, I addressed Moshe's mother directly.

"When you were in the death camp," I said, "there were Allied bombers flying over your head, yet their navigators didn't mark on their maps a target called Auschwitz. Jews were murdered, while no one cared enough to drop even one single bomb on the gas chambers to stop their massacre. However, less than 30 years later, Jews were in danger again but this time there was a Jewish state, and there were Jewish airmen flying to save their brothers and sisters. And your son, Moshe, was one of them, with Entebbe boldly marked on his map."

Lt.-Col. Jonathan (Yoni) Netanyahu

> 'The raid touched the raw nerves of every Jew'

She took my hand and her eyes softened.

Indeed, the Entebbe raid, carried out 30 years ago on July 4, 1976, touched the raw nerves of every Jew.

When the Air France plane landed in Entebbe and the hijackers started to separate the Jewish passengers from the others, it brought back dark memories of the selection in Auschwitz, where Joseph Mengele singled out Moshe's mother for life while sending hundreds of thousands to their death.

But times have changed, and Jews are not helpless anymore. With the creation of the State of Israel, they regained not only their sovereignty, but also the capability to defend themselves.

In December 1942, Dolek Liebeskind, one of the leaders of the Jewish resistance in the Krakow Ghetto, led an attack on a German cafe.

"We are fighting a lost battle," he told his comrades. "All we are fighting for is three lines in the annals of history."

The Entebbe raid won its much-deserved lines in the history books, but it wasn't a lost battle at all: It was the daring act of a self-confident Jewish state, determined to rescue Jews whenever and wherever they're in trouble.

> 'All of us are in this together'

As these lines are being written, Israel has unleashed its army again to bring home a soldier, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, who was taken captive when Palestinian gunmen stormed an Israeli army base just outside the Gaza Strip.

The Entebbe raid, however, did more than just fill the heart of every Jew with pride, or, to use the saying after the 1967 Six-Day War, "make every Jew an inch taller." It also highlighted the sensitivity embedded in the relationship between Israel and world Jewry.

When enemies of Israel are incapable of hurting her, they pick more vulnerable targets – Jewish targets abroad. Indeed, in 1994, after an Israeli attack in Lebanon, the Hezbollah terrorist group – likely with the assistance of Iranian intelligence services – took its revenge on the AMIA Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people in a bombing.

In other words, all of us Jews are in this together.

The Entebbe raid also set a high moral standard and reminded us that military means should be used first and foremost for saving lives. Now that Jews are armed again, they should be very cautious in using their power.

The means should never become ends in themselves.

Finally, the planes returning the freed hostages from Entebbe to safety carried a sad message as well:

Liberty can't be won without paying a price. In one of the aircraft lay the body of Lt.-Col. Jonathan (Yoni) Netanyahu, commander of the elite unit, who was killed in the raid.

The best of us go while serving the Jewish cause: Yoni Netanyahu during the Entebbe raid, my friend Moshe Naveh 30 years later.

*Uri Dromi flew in the Israeli Air Force from 1966 to 2003. Today he is director of international outreach at the Israel Democracy Institute.*

A scene of celebration at the rescue of hostages.

The crew and surviving passengers stepping onto the tarmac at Ben-Gurion Airport. [GPO photo archives]

Opinions

# Is it good for the Jews?

For 21st century Jews, the question seems old fashioned, a vestige of the era of Yiddish and chicken shmaltz. But sometimes it passes through our minds: "Is it good for the Jews?"

*Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal*

I understand why we think these narrow-minded thoughts. As Jews, we have spent the last 2,000 years focusing on survival. Years of persecution have taught us to be sensitive to changes in the political environment. Survival often depended on figuring out if a news story was "good for the Jews".

Yet this question, so critical to one generation of Jews, appears absurd to a generation raised in a secure milieu. It seems funny, good material for borscht belt comedians. For Canadian Jews, the news is not a life-and-death affair.

Unfortunately, an enduring byproduct of this question is narcissism. Compulsively worrying whether or not everything is "good for the Jews" means you stop worrying about what is good for the world. While we no longer fear for our survival, we have not outgrown a self-centered focus on exclusively Jewish concerns.

That's why there's no shortage of "old fashioned" Jews who may not worry if anything is good for the Jews, but are too cynical to worry whether it's good for the world. They mock Jews who worry about human rights. Helping outsiders is futile, naïve kindness that will simply be ignored. Their view is that Jews should worry about Jews, period.

It's critical to care both about oneself and the rest of the world. The famous rabbi, Hillel, put it so well: "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And when I am for myself, what am I?" Of course we must worry about survival. But what are we surviving for? To remain a ghettoized curiosity, cut off from the world? God told Abraham that "in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." If we ignore the world, we are ignoring Abraham's legacy.

That is why I took a trip to Ottawa, with a group of March of the Living students, to talk to MP's about the situation in Darfur, Sudan. For the past three years, the Sudanese government has been massacring tribes in the Darfur region. Between 200,000 and 400,000 people have died, and up to 2.5 million people have been driven from their homes. Our group felt we had to raise our voices in protest.

We went to Ottawa not just as Canadians, but as Jews. We went because we had just visited Auschwitz and felt compelled by history to make our voices heard. We went because the Torah obligates us to love the stranger. We went because you cannot be a good Jew without caring about humanity.

We went because, when you think about it, human rights is "good for the Jews."

# Good citizens must face the Islamist threat

Apparently, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's wife and children took the recently uncovered plot to behead him personally. Speaking after the arrests of 17 Toronto jihadists, Harper bravely joked that he could cope with death threats, as long as they did not emanate from caucus. He later admitted the threats were "tougher on the wife and kids" than "on the person in question."

*Gil Troy in Montreal*

The Harpers reacted sensibly. They should take this gruesome threat seriously and personally. Far more outrageous is the way too many people tried to obscure the latest Islamist threat. In a triumph of politically correct doublespeak, the RCMP described the 17 suspects, six of whom attended the same Sunni mosque and at least 16 of whom are Muslims, by saying "They represent the broad strata of our society. Some are students, some are employed, some are unemployed."

Less than a month later, American reportage was equally laughable when federal agents foiled the Miami "terror plot." It took CNN seven minutes – an eternity in TV-land – before anyone uttered the word "Muslim." The Associated Press dithered for seven paragraphs before acknowledging the obvious.

Such willful ignorance adds another dimension to today's "asymmetrical warfare." For years now, a hateful Islamist ideology has targeted the West, while Westerners have downplayed the threat. Many cells are operationally disconnected, but most share the same ideologies, heroes, tactics, targets – and the same religion. Journalists and security officials are paid to find patterns, to see what unites and motivates criminals working together, rather than ignoring clear ethnic, religious and ideological connections. If Christian evangelicals or Jewish settlers, let alone neo-Nazis were arrested, wouldn't blaring headlines emphasize the accused affiliations and ideologies?

Following the cues of polite society's opinion leaders, the Muslim apologia brigade further soft-pedaled the shocking news that so many Muslim Canadians had been charged with plotting to pulverize Canadian monuments and invade Parliament Hill. While correctly emphasizing that the allegations remained unproved, many Muslim leaders also minimized the Muslim connection and pooh-poohed the jihadist motivation. In a classic example of blaming the victim, CTV News reported that "many in Canada's Muslim community believe Canada's participation in the U.S. 'war on terror may be a factor.'" Justifying that claim, Tarek Fatah of the Muslim Canadian Congress said, "After five years of this war on terrorism, instead of going down, [terrorism] has accentuated, it has increased."

Canadians need to learn from the Americans, especially President George W. Bush, and Muslims should learn from American Jews – much as each might find these tutorials distasteful.

After Sept. 11, in what might be his most unappreciated act of statesmanship, Bush focused anger on Islamist terrorists without targeting American Muslims. It's hard to celebrate a negative, but without that nuanced, yet aggressive, leadership, there could have been a bloodbath.

Meanwhile, Muslims can learn about communal responsibility and self-policing from American Jewry at the beginning of the 20th century. Embarrassed by a Jewish immigrant crime wave and facing exaggerated accusations that Jews accounted for half the arrests in New York, American Jewish leaders boldly fought crime within their own community. Organizations such as B'nai Brith and the National Council of Jewish Women worked on community education and dramatic interventions to stop individuals from becoming outlaws. Writers and performers led a communal outcry – Sholem Asch's *God of Vengeance*, revived last month at Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre, resulted from that wave of artistic angst.

Perhaps most dramatically, the "Bureau of Social Morals" in New York functioned as a "Jewish secret service." Understanding that Jews could infiltrate Jewish criminal syndicates better than non-Jewish police officers could, these improvised "Jewish police stations" sought, as one popular slogan had it, "to catch guilty Jews first." Going undercover and sharing information with local police led to hundreds of arrests and the closing of dozens of illegal establishments, including 33 brothels on the Lower East Side. Eventually, the Jewish crime wave receded.

Like the Harper family, we all should take terrorism very personally. We must not become accustomed to the unacceptable. The more of us who remain vigilant, mobilized, outraged – especially those with ethnic, ideological, religious, moral or financial leverage over these sociopaths – the sooner we will tame this beast, or at least keep it far from our shores. No good citizen should shirk that responsibility.

# Summer reading: the beginnings of a list

Summertime, and the livin' is easy. Most Canadians make a point of taking some time out from their usual busy routines to relax and recharge. And whether we take to cottage country, the mountains, the shore or abroad, most of us reserve a small space in our suitcase for a book or two or three. To immerse ourselves in the imagined world of a novel or the remembered world of a memoir is a pleasure that, for many of us, defines vacation. To plunge into an account of contemporary or historical events represents, for many, the luxury of time not taken up by the demands of work and other obligations.

*Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto*

As a professor of literature and Jewish studies, I am often asked for reading recommendations, more so as people anticipate a bit of summer leisure. So here, in a global kind of way, is a short list of works that, if you have not yet had time or occasion to read them, might accompany you this summer, wherever you find yourself.

This summer, Aharon Appelfeld's compelling memoir *The Story of a Life* will be released in paperback. Considered one of the finest living Israeli writers, Appelfeld for many years found himself unable to write about his childhood experiences in Nazi-dominated Europe. This memoir, written with eloquence, sensitivity and the author's characteristic understatement, recounts how Appelfeld survived, against all odds, virtually alone in the forests and villages of eastern Europe.

When he began writing fiction about half a century ago, Appelfeld had difficulty getting published because his writing about the Jewish European past seemed out of sync with the Israeli sensibility, but now he has a strong international following. Many of you will remember the extraordinary impression Appelfeld made some years ago as a writer-in-residence at York University in Toronto. On his home ground, young Israelis particularly appreciate his meditations about the place of the past in the present. Appelfeld emphasizes the importance of the past in solidifying an authentic and meaningful sense of identity – one's personal past as well as the past of one's people.

A newly available documentary about Appelfeld – *Appelfeld's Table* – features the author speaking to a young reader at the Jerusalem café table where he regularly sits and writes. The film won the prize for best Jewish documentary at the 2004 Jerusalem film festival, and was an official selection of our own Hot Docs festival last year. The memoir, the film, and one of Appelfeld's novels – perhaps *Katerina*, or the more sombre *The Iron Track* – together make for a fine summer project.

In a different vein, *Expanding the Place of Torah* is a compelling and accessible book by Tamar Ross, a professor of philosophy at Bar Ilan University, that examines the encounter between Orthodox Judaism and feminism from the perspective of an insider – an Orthodox woman who feels bound by halachah and also responsive to the insights that feminism brings to Jewish learning and Jewish life. An expert on the scholarship of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook (first chief Ashkenazi rabbi under the British mandate, and founder of the renowned Jerusalem yeshiva, Merkaz ha-Rav) and on the modern mussar movement, Ross brings fresh and challenging insights to bear on Jewish thought and theology, as well as the role of women in Judaism. While the book tackles complicated subjects, the author's eloquent and clear writing opens up important topics to a broad readership.

Ross's book is a fine example of the vitality and relevance that characterize Jewish studies coming out of Israel. Increasingly, the works of fine Israeli scholars, writing in English or translated, are becoming available to North American audiences. Ideally, of course, we would want to read such works – and the works of superb authors such as Appelfeld – in Hebrew. But for those few readers of this publication who might find that daunting, the regular publication of such writing is the gift that allows us to enter the world of their sensibilities, thinking, and imagination.

A few words of caution: most people would not consider the works I've mentioned to be beach reads. But they are books that will engage, absorb, and challenge you. And isn't that what the summer is for?

The Kirshner File

# The passing parade...

They have passed on, leaving footprints in time…

**A.M. Rosenthal**, born in Canada, was editor of the *New York Times* – the most important daily in the United States – from 1969 to 1986. As a Pulitzer Prize-winning foreign correspondent, he reported from Poland, India, Switzerland and Japan. **Barbara Epstein** was a founder and co-editor of the *New York Review of Books* and the editor of Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl*. **Joseph Sherman** of Bridgewater, N.S., edited *ARTSatlantic* magazine, wrote books (*Chaim the Slaughterer*) and was a central figure in the Maritimes arts scene for more than two decades. **John David Bierman** was a seasoned journalist, writing for the *Winnipeg Free Press* and the *Daily Express*, broadcasting for the *BBC* and the *CBC* and working for *Maclean's* as foreign editor. An author, he wrote *Righteous Gentile: The Story of Raoul Wallenberg, Missing Hero of the Holocaust*.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

**Rona Jaffe** was the author of the 1958 bestseller, *The Best of Everything*, and **Wendy Wasserstein**, a playwright, crafted a reputation with works such as *The Heidi Chronicles* and *Uncommon Women and Others*. **Leona Nevler** edited Grace Metalious' *Peyton Place*, which sold more than 10-million copies, as well as the novels of John Updike, Margaret Atwood and James A. Michener. **Nathalie Babel Brown**, a daughter of the Russian novelist Isaac Babel, was the editor of *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel*. **Stanley Kunitz**, a U.S. poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, wrote *Selected Poems:1928-1958* and *Passing Through*.

**Morton Freedgood**, under the pen name of John Godey, wrote detective novels, notably *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three* and *A Thrill a Minute with Jack Albany*. **Philip Ressner** churned out children's books, including *August Explains* and *Dudley Pippin*. **Ted Berkman** wrote *Cast a Giant Shadow: The Story of Mickey Marcus, Who Died to Save Jerusalem* – which was transformed into a movie starring Kirk Douglas – and produced the screenplay for the comedy *Bedtime for Bonzo*, starring Ronald Reagan.

**Shelly Winters** (born Shirley Schrift), a Hollywood actress who appeared in 99 films, won two Academy Awards for roles in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *A Patch of Blue*. **Luba Kadison** was a leading lady of the Yiddish theatre in Warsaw and New York City. **Cy Feuer** produced Broadway musicals ranging from *Guys and Dolls* to *Can-Can*, and was the producer of the movie *Cabaret*. **Aaron Spelling** produced a series of TV hits: *Dynasty*, *Beverly Hills, 90210*, *Mod Squad*, *Charlie's Angels* and *The Love Boat*. **Ted Tulchin** was the producer of Stephen Sondheim's musical drama *Sweeney Todd*. **Dan Curtis** was a TV producer and director best known for the mini-series *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance*, based on novels by Herman Wouk.

**Reuven Frank**, a Montrealer and founding father of American broadcast journalism, twice served as president of NBC News and formed the team of Huntley and Brinkley. **Arthur Bloom**, the first director of *60 Minutes*, helped define the television newsmagazine format. **Brooke Forbes** was a CBC radio producer whose credits included *As It Happens*, *Sunday Morning* and *The Sunday Edition*. **Marion Andre** (Tenenbaum), the artistic director of Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Centre and Toronto's Theatre Plus, helped establish a drama program for the Protestant School Board in Montreal.

**Vincent Sherman** (Abraham Orovitz) directed a succession of Hollywood films (*Mr. Skeffington*, *Adventures of Don Juan* and *All Through the Night*) starring the likes of Clark Gable, Bette Davis, Errol Flynn and Joan Crawford. **Richard Fleischer**, a film director, made *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and *Tora! Tora! Tora!*

**German Goldenshteyn** was a klezmer clarinettist. **Gyorgy Ligeti** composed the soundtrack music for Stanley Kubrick's movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. **Bruce Hart** was a lyricist for signature songs ranging from *Sesame Street* to *Free to Be You and Me*. **Bob Weinstock** founded the independent jazz record label Prestige, which released records by Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins and Coleman Hawkins, among others.

**Frank Goodman**, a press agent, publicized more than 50 Broadway plays (*The Sound of Music* and *Gigi*, to name but two), and **Howard Rosenstone** was a theatrical agent whose clients ran the gamut from David Mamet to Wallace Shawn. **Ingo Preminger**, a Hollywood agent and producer, produced *MASH* and represented writers Ring Lardner Jr. and Dalton Trumbo.

**Sydney Leff** was a Tin Pan Alley sheet music illustrator whose credits included *Stormy Weather* and *Sweet Georgia Brown*. **Myron Waldman**, an animator, worked on such celebrated characters as Betty Boop, Popeye, Superman and Casper the Friendly Ghost. **Sid Barron** was a Canadian editorial cartoonist who appeared in the *Toronto Star*, the *Victoria Times* and *The Albertan*.

**Arthur Hertzberg** was a Conservative rabbi, president of the American Jewish Congress, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and author of *The French Enlightenment and the Jews: The Origins of Modern Anti-Semitism*. **Milton Himmelfarb** was a Jewish affairs essayist in *Commentary* and the author of *The Jews of Modernity*; while **David Patterson** was a scholar of Jewish life in Europe at Oxford University. **James Freedman** was the first Jewish president of Dartmouth University. **Theodore Draper**, a historian and social critic, wrote for leading U.S. magazines. **Paul Avrich** was the author of *Anarchist Voices: An Oral History of Anarchism in America*.

**James Ingo Freed** designed the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan. **Armand Bartos** was the architect of the Shrine of the Book, the onion-shaped structure at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem that houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. **Harry Seidler** was a modernist architect who helped shape the skyline of Sydney, Australia. **Leonard Gertler** created the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Waterloo, was a senior planner in Edmonton and Toronto and served as an adviser to Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister.

**Henriette Avram**, a systems analyst, was credited with developing the automated cataloging library system. **Joseph Owades**, a biochemist, developed a recipe for light beer, first produced by Rheingold Brewing. **Joseph Waksberg** helped invent a widely used phone survey method. **Leonard Arthur Kitz**, a lawyer and politician, was the first Jewish mayor of Halifax. **Belle Zeck** was a prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. **Boris Kostelanetz** was considered the dean of tax defence lawyers in the United States. **Edwin Cohen**, a tax expert, advised the Nixon administration on tax programs. **Louis Sohn**, a Polish-born Harvard law professor, helped draft parts of the United Nations charter in 1945.

**Marshall Goldberg**, an All-American running back and a member of the National College Football Hall of Fame, led the University of Pittsburg team to the 1937 championship and was a six-time All-Pro defensive back for the Chicago Cardinals. **Angelica Rozeanu**, the Romanian table-tennis star, won six straight world titles in the 1950s, a feat that still stands. **Harold Levitt** played with the Harlem Globetrotters, sinking in 499 consecutive free throws during the 1935 season. **Barry Halper**, a partner in the New York Yankees, assembled the largest private collection of baseball memorabilia in America, including 30,000 players' cards.

**Howard Newman** was an industrialist and mentor to Warren Buffet, the U.S. investor par excellence. **Bernard Loomis** was a toy manufacturer who turned *Star Wars* dolls, Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears into industry legends. **Flora Gill Jacobs**, the founder of the Washington Dolls' House and Toy Museum, was an internationally recognized authority on dollhouses. **Sol Cantor**, as president of Interstate Department Stores, was an early proponent and promoter of discount outlets. **Elaine Young** was a Los Angeles real estate agent to movie stars from Elizabeth Taylor to Frank Sinatra.

**Stanley Biber**, the dean of sex-change procedures and once a rabbinical student, was one of the first doctors in the United States to perform such surgery. **Morris Silverman**, a philanthropist, established the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, the richest award for medical research in the United States. **Oded Bar-Or** of McMaster University was an expert in child obesity. **Paulina Kernberg**, a child psychiatrist and authority in personality disorders, helped evaluate Elian Gonzalez, the six-year-old Cuban boy who was at the centre of an international custody battle in 2000. **Herman Roiphe**, a psychoanalyst, explored sexual identity in early childhood development. **Heinz Heinemann**, an industrial chemist, devised a method of transforming coal and natural gas into gasoline.

**Arnold Newman** was a portrait photographer whose work appeared on the covers of major U.S. magazines. **William Gottlieb** was a jazz photographer who worked with Billie Holiday and Miles Davis. **John Trever** was the first to photograph the Dead Sea Scrolls.

**Yitzhak Ben-Aharon** was an Israeli parliamentarian and secretary general of the Histadrut labour federation. **Yuval Ne'eman** founded Israel's space program and the now-defunct right-wing political party Tehiya.


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# We must be God's angels

**By RABBI SHARON L. SOBEL**

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

In our parshah this week, Chukat-Balak, in Bamidbar, the Book of Numbers, the Israelites are most fortunate. When the Moabite king, Balak, grew alarmed "because the people [the Israelites] was so numerous," he sent the prophet Bilaam to curse them. When Bilaam set out on his donkey to accomplish his mission, his donkey "caught sight of the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand." No matter how much Bilaam beat the donkey, the donkey would not move because of the angel. Eventually, God allowed Bilaam to see the angel as well, and the angel instructed Bilaam to do only as he tells him. The Israelites end up receiving a blessing instead of a curse.

Today, we have many modern-day versions of Balak, threatening to curse nations whom they fear. We must act as God's angel of mercy by metaphorically standing up to those who threaten to curse the innocent, and we must find a way to bring them the blessings of peace, safety, security and health.

I am particularly thinking of the people in the Darfur region of Sudan, and in Chad. We are well aware that the Sudanese government and government-backed militias continue to attack civilians in Darfur. Villages and towns are being bombed and scorched, water sources and food stores are being destroyed and civilians are being systematically targeted for mass killing – especially the men, while the women and children are being forced into slavery. Rape, mutilation and ethnic cleansing are rampant. Everything – livestock, food stores, possessions – has been looted. More than 400,000 civilians have died and nearly two million civilians have been displaced. Some 5,000 civilians die each month due to disease, malnutrition and continued attacks by the Janjaweed, a government-backed militia.

The genocide in Darfur has now spilled over into refugee camps in Chad – and the safe havens have now been turned into killing fields. Humanitarian groups working in eastern Chad have had to recall their workers. The country's military is unable to defend its long border with Sudan, and the refugees are at the mercy of the invaders.

The crisis is being made worse by actions that have blocked or hindered humanitarian aid. Food is not being delivered until "there is enough for everyone" and the food is piling up in relief storehouses. Humanitarian workers are being arrested and held hostage. The list goes on and on.

We are taught in Leviticus: "You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbour." Yet blood continues to be shed on Sudanese and Chadian soil. Our tradition teaches us that human life is sacred because all of humanity is *b'tselem elokim*, created in the image of God, and the Torah makes it clear that we have a responsibility to preserve the sanctity of life by speaking out about oppression and brutality in our world. As a people intimately acquainted with the horrors of genocide, we are obligated to speak out and take action when other peoples are similarly threatened with annihilation.

Let us find a way to act as God's angel – with the sword of intervention: write to your MP and the prime minister, join the "Coalition to Save Darfur" – there are many different ways we can help. But we cannot remain silent.

We have been fortunate and we have been blessed. Now it's time for us to share our blessings with others.

*Rabbi Sobel is executive director of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and ARZA Canada.*

# A prayer for unity

**By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ**

Midrashic Moments

This week's Torah reading includes the story of Bilaam. A Moabite king hires Bilaam, a gentile prophet, to curse Israel. God has forbidden Bilaam to accept such a mission, but he attempts the journey nonetheless. Along the way, there is an angel blocking his path, which he does not see but his donkey does. After a most interesting exchange between Bilaam, his donkey and the angel, Bilaam arrives at the camp. The king takes the prophet up one mountain where Israel can be seen in the valley below. Bilaam opens his mouth to deliver a curse, but instead a blessing comes out. The king is angry and suggests moving to a second mountaintop.

On the second peak, Bilaam once again blesses Israel. The angry king moves Bilaam yet again, and it's on this last mountaintop that Bilaam pronounces the words, "How good are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel," the very words that appear at the start of our siddur.

The story raises wonderful questions about God's communication with other nations and about the persona of a prophet. And one can certainly ponder the soulful integrity of a prophet whose donkey is more spiritually aware than he is.

Yet the most pronounced absurdity seems to be the movement from mountaintop to mountaintop. If Bilaam is unable to curse Israel from one mountain, why change locations?

The wording of the Torah is very precise. The king moves Bilaam around and tells him that he can now glimpse a portion of the people below. Based on a partial view, Bilaam is to find something wrong with Israel and compose a curse. The message is clear. When one views only part of a whole, it's easy to find fault and begin to curse. A piece of a plan, a single tile in a mosaic, a detail within a full story – each of these elements is flawed on its own. The power, or beauty, of the expression lies in its inclusion and fulfillment within something larger than itself.

The king understands that showing Bilaam a piece of Israel should easily present him with a flawed picture. Nonetheless, God ensures that Bilaam blesses Israel each time. Yet Bilaam's strongest blessing arises from his last view, which, the text tells us, allows him to view all of Israel. Once there is unity in what he sees, he pronounces the words with which we will begin our siddur.

Genesis Rabbah asks why the phrase "it was good" is missing from the second day of creation. This day is the only one missing such a pronouncement. The rabbis answer by saying that on the second day, God divides the waters above from the waters below. The act of separation and division is introduced into the world, and, therefore, the Torah refrains from pronouncing this a good thing. The rabbis conclude that if a Divine act of separation to create the universe lacks such a pronouncement, how much more so would such a pronouncement be absent in reference to our own human acts of division that cause pain.

What Bilaam saw in the end was a beautiful portrayal of unity, which he could not help but bless. We declare our hopes for such when we repeat his words upon entering a synagogue.

Likewise, as we teach our children to engage their voices in Jewish debate, we must also continue to emphasize that unity is the platform from which those debates issue.

Jewish Life

# A people anchored in history

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

"Past-Forward is a rather odd title for a column," I thought to myself when I was given the honour of writing this piece. Yet leave it to Mordechai Ben-Dat, the editor of *The CJN*, to come up with a clever heading for a byline by a history teacher and archeologist.

I had been asked to write about the impact that history and archeology have had, and are having, on us as a people. As Jews, we are credited with inventing history in the Bible, in the sense that events now had a purpose toward which they were moving. For us Jews, the past has become linear. We see events moving in a straight line for a specific purpose.

Before the Bible, the past was thought of as cyclical. People looked at the past as a never-ending series of cycles. This metaphor is still to be found in the Bible, in the book of Ezekiel, as "the wheel within a wheel" that was popularized in the 1960s song. For the pre-biblical ancients, this concept was to be found all around them. It's still there for us as well, in such things as the seasons, but now we call it "nature."

We no longer think of nature as being "supernatural." It's not controlled by such deities as Zeus, Marduk or Baal. The scientific revolution of the 17th century took care of that for us, and our schools have been hammering it home ever since. In fact, the Greeks were among the first to see that the heavens were not necessarily the abode of supernatural beings and that the movements of the heavens could be predicted, an idea they picked up from the Babylonians that would lead them to the first "scientific revolution" more than 2,000 years before Copernicus, Galileo and Newton. It has been called the Axial Age, and was arguably the first explosion of knowledge with a rational foundation.

We Jews also picked up a great deal from the Babylonians when we were exiled there more than 2,500 years ago "by the waters of Babylon." The Babylonian Exile would have a profound impact on us. Excavations at a number of major sites in Israel, such as Lachish and the City of David in Jerusalem, have revealed the devastation caused in Judah by Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian army as it inexorably moved toward its final destination in Jerusalem and the destruction of the First Temple.

Archeological excavations at the City of David by the late Yigal Shiloh in the 1970s and early 1980s revealed the extent of the Babylonian destruction. I was fortunate enough to have been involved in these excavations, where we found an ash layer attributed to the Babylonians that was over a metre deep in places. More than 10,000 people would be forcibly deported to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar after he demolished Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple. Archeology has even found the rations of Judah's last king, Jehoiakin, among the remains of the ancient city.

Archeologist/historians such as Baruch Halpern are using their skills to give us new insights into this fascinating period and its impact on us and our thought. We went into Babylon as Judeans and came out as Jews. Secular scholars believe the Bible began to assume its final shape there, and that Babylon was where we became the people of the Book in order to counter the enormous pull of assimilation and to preserve our heritage, which was in danger of being lost through assimilation. This is one of the first examples of "past-forward." By putting our sacred writings together, our sages had an anchor to counter the seductive pull of this cosmopolitan metropolis. Assimilation would become a major theme, as well as a danger, throughout our history.

*Alex Gropper is president of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies at the University of Toronto's St. Michael's College. He has been a teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for 34 years.*

# Tfillin lore and links, Pt. 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The Jewish Highway

"And I will betroth you unto Me forever,

And I will betroth you unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in compassion,

And I will betroth you unto Me in faithfulness and you shall know The Lord."

Hosea (2:21-22) **[www.breslov.com/ref/Hosea2.htm]**

Those verses sound like wedding vows and they certainly could be. But those beautiful words from the Book of Hosea are actually connected to another Jewish ritual – the donning of tfillin. Perhaps you are about to celebrate your bar mitzvah and wear them for the first time. Or maybe your bar mitzvah is long gone and you want to learn more about the tfillin that have been tucked away in your dresser drawer all these years. The answers are waiting for you on the Internet.

The Torah's instructions about tfillin are extremely brief. "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day... Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a frontlet between your eyes" (Deuteronomy 6:5-8). **[http://tinyurl.com/crlhb]**

As with most commandments, no reason is stated for its performance. The late Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan called tfillin a sign of the bond between God and man. He said the four biblical passages contained within the tfillin boxes (including the *Shema*, Hear O Israel...) "concretize for us that God created the universe, orchestrates world history and is intimately involved with our daily lives." **[http://tinyurl.com/9nr5v]**

Rabbi Louis Jacobs adds that "the head tfillin, the hand tfillin, and the wearing of the latter opposite the heart was all taken to suggest that head, heart and hand must all be brought into play in the service of God." **[http://tinyurl.com/b98k8]**

The rules regarding the construction and placement of tfillin – two small, square leather boxes attached to flexible straps, each containing four sections of the Torah inscribed on parchment are vast. Tfillin are worn on weekdays only – never on Shabbat or festivals. **[www.ahavat-israel.com/torat/tefillin.php]**

What about women and tfillin? Rabbi Kaplan explains why the commandment is one that is incumbent on men only. **[http://tinyurl.com/9nr5v]** On the other hand, Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen mentions some prominent women (most famously, Rashi's daughters) who we are told donned tfillin. He suggests that the Conservative movement's endorsement of women wearing tfillin is a natural development within Jewish law. **[www.beki.org/womentefillin.html]**

On the other hand, The Kolel: Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning website explains why some Jews object to the mitzvah of tfillin altogether. They "feel that it is inappropriate to worship God wearing leather in an age when many animals are treated inhumanely. Others feel that the experience of 'binding' themselves to God is theologically problematic, in that it suggests that we are servants or subjects of a commanding ruler whose will supersedes our own."

Rabbi Neal Joseph Loevinger understands these objections but suggests that tfillin can be a powerful aid to prayer. "Yes, it's an external ritual, but the symbolism is profound: we literally wrap ourselves up in the Torah, and bind ourselves to the Divine. What we wrap our bodies in can help us focus on our spiritual goals. I'm not suggesting that tfillin is the right next step for everybody, but it's been an important part of Jewish spiritual practice for a very long time, and something that all striving Jews should know about and understand." **[http://tinyurl.com/7pogf]**

And what of those straps? I'll leave the last word to the 18th-century founder of Chassidism. "It is told in the name of the [Rabbi] Baal Shem Tov that the mitzvah of tfillin is so holy it can bring man to a yearning that will make him depart this world. He must therefore bind them with straps, holding body and soul together." **[http://tinyurl.com/a53eo]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*


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# *Wartime Red Cross volunteers reminisce 60 years later*

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

To hear Edythe Feldman and Marion Gilbert reminiscing about their time in Europe as 21-year-olds is like living through history.

Feldman, 83, and Gilbert, 82, volunteered in a hospital in England following the Allies' declaration of victory in 1945. The Hamilton natives were the only Jewish participants in the nursing auxiliary section of the Red Cross Corps serving in Europe.

"I swear it was Marion who wanted to join up, and she swears it was me," Feldman said. "We just looked at one another and said, 'Let's sign up.'"

The girls were called up to leave for their year-long stint in June 1945. Gilbert showed up to her nephew's brit milah on the day of her departure, all dressed up in her navy Red Cross uniform.

"People asked, 'Marion, where are you going in that outfit?' We had been called up so suddenly that most of my family didn't know I had to leave that day," Gilbert said.

Feldman and Gilbert set off for England on the Lady Nelson, a merchant navy ship, but their voyage took almost two weeks.

"We didn't realize that the entire North Atlantic was full of mines all the way across to Liverpool. We had to sail down to the Falkland Islands near Argentina in order to avoid the mines," said Gilbert.

Once in England, Feldman and Gilbert were sent to the Park Prewett EMS Hospital in Basingstoke, Hampshire.

"We were amazed by the enormity of the hospital. We didn't realize how young the men were," Gilbert recalled. "Some were younger than us."

The 1200-bed facility housed a VIP ward whose patients included, among others, Sir Alexander Fleming, the doctor who discovered penicillin.

Feldman had a penicillin incident of her own.

"One time, the nurses wanted me to give penicillin to a patient. I had never given a penicillin shot in my life," she said. "Anyway, he lived."

Gilbert improvised as well on occasion. She remembers a patient whose parents lived on a farm. "An egg was such a rare thing at the time. The parents sent eggs from their farm to the hospital, wrapped in cotton, and asked if I would make eggs for her son," she said. "But back then I didn't even know how to make an egg."

The hospital was close to the southern coast of England. Feldman and Gilbert heard about D-Day from those who had experienced it first-hand, just one year earlier.

**At top, Marion Gilbert, left and Edythe Feldman, right, recreate their 1946 pose, in their Red Cross uniforms outside a subway station in London.**

"The locals told us about what happened on D-Day – how they had to amass every boat they had to help the army. They said that when you looked at the sky, all you could see was black because of all the planes flying to France," Gilbert said.

The reality of World War II hit home when the girls visited London, which had recently been bombed to the ground by the German Luftwaffe. "The devastation was unbelievable. It was all rubble. There was nothing left in the city.

"We were young. We were only 21. Seeing the ravages of war really gave us a different outlook on the world," said Gilbert.

The ladies concur that it was the strong Jewish values imbued in them in Hamilton that inspired them to provide much-needed assistance in England.

"We grew up in Jewish homes and we were brought up to know our Jewish roots. When we went over, we knew what had been going on in Germany," said Gilbert.

Hatred of Jews had not ended with the war, however. Gilbert felt the full impact of anti-Semitism on a train ride shortly after a Zionist group's bombing of the King David hotel, a British military headquarters in Jerusalem.

"I was on the train to Manchester to visit cousins, and I had my Red Cross uniform on.

"Two naval officers were sitting near me, talking about the bombing of the King David Hotel. They said that Hitler hadn't done enough to get rid of the Jews.

"The officers were just horrible, the epitome of the English upper class. I was burning up and couldn't stand it any more.

"I said, 'I'm over here helping England.' They said, 'Oh, you're from Canada,' and I said, 'Yes, and I'm Jewish. My name is Rosenberg and I resent very much what you're saying. The Jews in Palestine are people who lost everything and were not allowed to have a life in Europe. They were trying to get their land back because it was promised to them in the British Mandate. You're saying terrible things about Jews while I'm over here, contributing to your country.'

"The officers got up without a word and spent the rest of the train ride standing in the corridor."

Sailing home to Canada as first-class passengers on the Mauritania, Feldman and Gilbert had another brush with the British army. This time, however, they became acquainted with living history: General Bernard Montgomery, who defeated the Nazi General Rommel at El Alamein.

"Montgomery was coming to Canada to visit his brother in British Columbia," said Gilbert. "He kept to himself and didn't like having his picture taken.

**Continued on page 15**

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# Mountain climber memorializes former student

## *Toronto teacher scales Mt. Kala Patar in Nepal*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

**Harold Lass recites Kaddish for his former student Stacey Levitt on Mt. Kala Pattar in Nepal. In front of him is a memorial to her that he placed on the mountain.**

Harold Lass fulfilled a longtime dream in May when he travelled to Nepal to climb Mt. Kala Pattar, an 18,000-foot peak below Mount Everest.

When he decided to go ahead with the trek, he added a personal goal. He wanted to memorialize his former student Stacey Levitt, who died at age 18 in 1995 after being hit by a car while jogging.

Stacey had attempted a climb up Mexico's Mt. Ixta several months before she died, but was unable to reach the summit because of bad weather. Her father Ned, a Toronto lawyer, completed the climb as a memorial to her, leaving *I Am a Rose*, a book of Stacey's poetry published by her family after her death, along with notepaper and pens for other climbers to leave messages.

Lass recalls Stacey as a "sterling student" in his Grade 9 English class who once wrote an assignment for him about rappelling down a cliff. He contacted Ned with the idea of honouring her memory on his climb as well, and asked him for suggestions.

They agreed Lass would take copies of *I Am a Rose* for the libraries of six trekking lodges on his route, and present another six copies to the headmaster of the Hillary School in Khumjung village, more than halfway up Kala Pattar, for its library.

Lass, who is married and has an adult daughter, also took a small, acrylic memorial in the shape of a mountain, bearing a poem that Stacey wrote on an Outward Bound trip in the mountains of British Columbia in 1994.

Facing the summit of Mt. Everest, near the top of Kala Pattar, Lass wedged the memorial into a niche in the rock face of the mountain, and recited Kaddish before breaking down, overwhelmed by the emotional impact of his mission.

When Lass e-mailed Ned the first time, he was somewhat hesitant, fearful of opening old wounds. He knew the family only casually, and wasn't sure how to broach the subject.

But Ned told *The CJN* he was very moved by the gesture years after Stacey's death from "someone who was part of Stacey's life but was not family."

Physically as well as emotionally, the trek was not an easy one. "Nothing could have prepared me for what I encountered," said Lass, who walked and hill-walked four to five miles twice weekly and weight-lifted to tone his muscles before he left.

The "corrugated" up-and-down mountainous terrain, high altitude, cold temperatures and narrow paths with obstacles such as rocks and yak dung made for a challenging and potentially dangerous expedition, he said.

Complicating matters, on his way down the mountain, Lass slipped and fell against a rock, breaking two ribs. He persisted in his trek. "I kept popping painkillers," he said. "I was damned if I was going to be flown to Katmandu. I wanted to walk back."

The head of English at Northern Secondary School before his retirement seven years ago, Lass had hiked and wall-climbed, but had never attempted trekking at high altitudes. A previous wall-climbing incident that resulted in a broken wrist and pelvis didn't deter him from proceeding.

He organized his trip to Nepal through a company called Canadian Himalayan Expeditions; the two other trekkers in his group, at 32 and 29 respectively, were about half his age.

Given the difficulty of the trip, Lass said he wouldn't do it a second time. But he would still go once.

## *'We were exposed to all different types of people'*

**Continued from page 14**

"We decided to corner him and ask for his autograph after dinner anyway. He didn't want to be bothered, but when he saw we were Red Cross volunteers, he spent 15 minutes with us. He was curious about which hospitals we worked in and was very gracious. He asked us about our background, and he signed Edythe's menu as Montgomery of Alamein. He was very sweet to us," Gilbert said.

Meeting Montgomery as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury on the journey back to Canada was icing on the cake of a year Feldman and Gilbert say was one of the best of their lives.

"We were exposed to all different types of people and we learned from every one of them," Gilbert said. "It was the experience of a lifetime."


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On Campus

# Kulanu founder receives award for Jewish leadership

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Of all the awards and the recognition Dan Heller has received as a student, nothing compares to the sense of accomplishment he feels being this year's recipient of the Beth Tzedec Stephen Cooper Award.

The award, which is given through the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto – the school from which Heller graduated four years ago – recognizes excellence in leadership and commitment to the Jewish community.

With a degree in history and Jewish studies from the University of Toronto, an acceptance to Stanford University's eastern European Jewish history doctoral program (he hopes to become a professor) and his involvement with the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS), Heller, 22, was more than qualified to receive the $700 award last month.

Dan Heller

But one aspect of his Jewish involvement made him think twice about applying for it.

Heller is the founder and outgoing director of Kulanu, "Toronto's queer Jewish social group."

"I was really ambivalent about putting in an application because of the ambivalent relationship CHAT has with the issue of GLBT [gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered] students."

Heller said he recalled one of his teachers equating homosexuality to bestiality.

"I remember that being a hurtful experience, however, the students called ... the teacher [on her comment], and I think that continues to be one of CHAT's greatest strengths. It really is a place that fosters dialogue and Jewish pluralism," he said.

He said that despite the skepticism he felt about his ability to win the award, he applied for it nonetheless.

"I really didn't expect that I would receive the award, especially because of what Kulanu is. I think that receiving the award, it almost signalled the recognition that yes, Jewish gay students do exist in the community," he said.

"It was a hallmark of my four years at university because for the first time, I felt like I could go back to CHAT."

He said that when he graduated, he felt like he needed to take a break from all things Jewish. A year later, he came out of the closet.

"I think immediately after I came out I decided that I didn't want to give up my commitment to Judaism and Jewish life. The first thing I did in university that was heavily involving Jewish life was the founding of Kulanu. The purpose of the group was to foster a positive Jewish environment for these people who felt estranged from Jewish life," Heller said, adding that Kulanu helps to bring people back to the religion.

Heller added that his proudest moment came when a mother of a CHAT graduate and a Kulanu member told him how important Kulanu was to the both of them.

"She was just so thrilled that there was a place where he could continue to be excited about and express his Jewish identity."

Heller's involvement with Jewish campus life didn't end with Kulanu.

He became the assistant program chair of the ACJS, which organizes annual conferences on Canadian Jewish history and culture, after he presented his research paper about Toronto Zionist summer camps from the 1930s to '50s to the 2004 conference.

His research about the relationship between Canadian Diaspora Jews and the State of Israel and Zionism led him to become more interested in Canadian Jewish history and he continued his involvement with the ACJS the following year.

As the 2005-06 program chair, Heller organized a three-day conference that brought scholars from all over the world to discuss issues relevant to Canadian Jews, organized a klezmer concert, a dinner and a community panel called "The Futures of Yiddish Culture and Education in Canada."

Although Heller said he is unsure about how Jewishly involved he will be as a Stanford student, he said he is pleased with all that he has accomplished in his 22 years, and has plans for the future.

"It's great to be at a stage in your life when you continue to surprise yourself with the decisions you make. I've been very grateful to have supportive parents and a community that has been open to let me pursue all these different avenues."

One avenue that Heller is eager to pursue is to become a father one day and raise a Jewish family.

"My number 1 goal in life today is to become a father. I really struggled with that. Even at a young age, at 13, that was the kicker. I thought it would have to be either/or.

"I feel blessed to be living in an era where doors are opening up, but there are still tremendous obstacles," he said about becoming a Jewish, gay father.

Regardless of the obstacles, Heller and other Jewish gay people are sure to face, he is encouraged by the fact that he was recognized by CHAT as a contributor to the Jewish community.

"I'm deeply surprised and deeply grateful. I hope it is a signal that there is a place at CHAT to begin in a very serious fashion, in an open fashion, acknowledging that there were GLBT students and continue to be GLBT students, and to address the place that these students have in the Jewish community," he said.

"It is really my hope that someone gay at CHAT, someone [at another] high school, will read the article and see someone they can relate to."

For more information about Kulanu, visit www.kulanutoronto.ca.

## YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

## יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

### לאַסק און ראָזענע — אין אָנדענק פֿון צוויי שטעט

**אַ נײַ בוך וועגן מענטשלעכע ליידן און נישט־געראָטענע ביסט פֿון צוויי חורבן־געראַטעוועטע און וויער צופֿעליקע זרעפונג מיט אַ האַלבן יאָרהונדערט שפּעטער, געשריבן פֿון הערמאַן טאָובע, וואַשינגטאָן**

רעצענזיע פֿון מישלין אמיר (אַרכיוואַרין אין „אמעריקאַנער חורבן אַנדענק מוזיי" אין וואַשינגטאָן)

צוויי יידישע שטעטלעך: לאסק (לאָדזשער געגנט, פּוילן) און ראָזענע (וואָלינער געגנט) האָבן ביידע געזירט אַ געזעלשאפֿטלעך, קולטורעל, רעליגיעז יידיש לעבן ביז דעם אויסברוך פֿון דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה. ארכיוון דערציילן וועגן שולן, ביבליאָטעקן, ישיבות, רבנים און געלערנטע, שרייבער און מחברים, וועלכע האָבן דאָרט געלעבט און געשאפֿן, טראָץ עקאָנאמישע און פּאָליטישע באַגרענעצונגען, אַנטיסעמיטיזם און אויסברוכן פֿון פֿאַרבראָכענע קעגן יידן.

די גרויליקע נאַצי פֿאַרברעכנס אין לאסק, די סאוועטישע און שפּעטער די נאַציש אָקופּאַציע פֿון ראָזענע האָבן אכזריותדיק אומגעבראַכט די יידישע באפֿעלקערונג פֿון די צוויי שטעט. נעציילטע יחידים האָבן זיך אומגעקערט אהיים נאָך דער מלחמה אָבער צוליב די נעפּאַרן פֿון נייע פֿאַראָמאַנן זיינען זיי וויידער אָוועק פֿון וויערע היימען, געשמוגלט גרענעצן צו די „די־פּי" לאַגערן און פֿון דאָרט, מיט דער הילף פֿון „בריחה", אומלעגאַל אָוועק קיין ארץ־ישראל. וועגן אַזעלכע צוויי יחידים דערציילט **הערמאַן טאָובע** אין זיין נייעם בוך: **"The Translator"** — „דער איבערזעצער".

דוד קליינמאַן איז אָנגעלאָפֿן פֿון לאסק דעם 6טן סעפּטעמבער, 1939. ער איז אָנגעקומען קיין ראָזענע ערב דעם אריינמאַרש פֿון דער סאוועטישער אָרמיי. דאָרט האָט ער געפֿונען א היים ביי א פֿאַרמעגלעכער יידישער משפּחה, בלייוויס. זייער טעכטער, רייזעלע, א גראַדואַנטין פֿון דער בית־יעקב שול, האָט זיך באַזירינדט מיט דעם לאַסקער בחור, דודל. מיט עסלעכע וואָכן שפּעטער האָבן די סאוועטן נעצווונגען די בלייוויס פֿאַמיליע צו פֿאַרלאָזן זייער היים און זיי געשיקט אין אַרבעטס־לאַגער אין סיביר. דוד קליינמאַן האָט זיך צו יענער צייט געפֿונען אין שפּיטאָל און פֿאַרלוירן יעדע פֿאַרבינדונג מיט זיין רייזעלע.

מיט פּופּזיק יאָר שפּעטער, אין א מיטוואָך נאָך מיטאָג, בעת א לעקציע אין „אמעריקאנער חורבן מחיי" אין וואַשינגטאָן, האָבן רייזעלע און דוד זיך וויידער געפונען. צום באַדויערן האָבן מיר נישט געוווּסט פֿלאָץ צו קענען אריסברענגען די איינצלהייטן וועגן זייער צוזאַמענטרעף. מיר קענען אויך נישט באַשרייבן די אומפֿאַרגעסלעכע בילדער וועגן די צוויי שטעט ראָזענע און לאסק, ווי זיי וועלן פֿאַרגעשטעלט אין בוך פֿון הערמאַן טאָובע. נוצנדיק טאָשמעס פֿון די אַרכיוון, ווי אויך אַטערוויזן מיט חורבן־געראַטעוועטע, האָט טאָובע אַרויסגעברענגט נאָר א סך פאקטן וועגן די שטעט און וועגן זייערע יידישע איינוווינער אין די מלחמה־יאָרן און אויך שפּעטער אויף זייער וועג צו א נאָרמאַל לעבן.

דער בולטסטער שטריך פֿון בוך איז דער פּסיכאָלאַגישער קאָמף, וואָס דוד קליינמאַן פֿירט מיט זיך אליין. א האַלבער יאָרהונדערט שפּעטער פֿיניקן אים די שוידער־בילדער און טרויער־זכרונות. עס איז אַן אמתע געשיכטע פֿון צוויי גראָטעוועטע מענטשן, וואָס האָבן אינגעלעבט די גרויליקע מלחמה־יאָרן און וויל מיט אלע כוחות בריען א נײַ לעבן. „דער איבערזעצער" איז א וויכטיקער ביישטייער צו דער חורבן־ליטעראַטור פֿון יידישן פֿאָלק. עס דאַרף גענייענט ווערן פֿון יעדן, וואָס איז אליין דורכגעגאַנגן די שואה, און פֿון די, וואָס ווילן זיך באַקענען מיט דעם אמת פֿון האָלאָקאוסט.

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Coast to Coast

# Israelis, Palestinians present new peace initiative

By LAUREN KRAMER
*Special to The CJN*

**VANCOUVER** — A group of Palestinians and Israelis from the Municipal Alliance for Peace in the Middle East (MAP) were here last month during the World Urban Forum to present their efforts to build peace and city diplomacy.

A joint initiative of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities and the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, MAP was conceived last year "in response to the increasingly louder calls of Palestinian and Israeli citizens for security, peace and prosperity, and the stagnation of the peace talks at national level," says Wafa Saad, regional co-ordinator for the Middle East at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which is actively involved with MAP.

The United Nations' Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) has organized the World Urban Forum every two years since 2002, to examine rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. The theme for the third forum, held this year in Vancouver, was "Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action."

MAP was invited by UN-HABITAT to present its initiative whose goal is to work towards finding a solution wherein Palestinian and Israeli citizens can live side by side in two states, Palestine and Israel, in security, peace and prosperity. They hope to achieve this through mutual dialogue and co-operation between the local authorities and by creating a partnership that will address the obstacles that prevent the two groups from making peace.

In their quest to achieve their goals, they have the support of an international secretariat that will assist the MAP partners to formulate and implement their local action plans. An international board will help determine the priorities in the action plan, which will be reviewed annually and now includes youth and culture, environment, economic development and municipal management.

"The list is limited to allow MAP to establish itself and demonstrate its usefulness and its limitations during its first years of operations," Saad says. "The main goal is to go beyond dialogue and enter into partnership to achieve actual projects."

The international secretariat that supports and endorses MAP includes government representatives from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom. In addition, the European Union, the World Bank, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and UNESCO had representatives at the MAP presentation and made commitments to support the fledgling organization's agenda.

Together with the Union of Local Authorities in Israel and the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, the FCM has agreed to participate in activities designed to further Israeli-Palestinian co-operation and to facilitate the exchange of information in areas such as decentralization, peace building programming and sustainable development.

MAPs next meeting is scheduled for October 2006, in Italy.

# Nova Scotia community puts shul up for sale

By JOEL JACOBSON
*Atlantic Correspondent*

**YARMOUTH, N.S.** — It's a sign of the times for small Jewish communities.

Yarmouth, N.S., once thriving with 50 Jewish families, has placed its synagogue of 96 years on the real estate market.

With only 15 Jews living in the small southwestern Nova Scotia town, most of whom are in their 80s or older, it's no longer feasible to keep the building, said local motel operator Victor Indig, who has lived in the community for 28 years.

Before he came to town, "there was a rabbi and a kosher butcher," Indig told the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*. "When I arrived, we were having six services a year. Now we're down to two."

Carol Lee (Cohen) Loebenberg of Halifax grew up in Yarmouth, moving to Halifax in 1958 to attend Dalhousie University. At that time, there were more than 40 Jewish families in Yarmouth, including a rabbi and kosher butcher.

"My generation never went back," she said. "We went to university, got married, and then our parents followed us when they retired."

With a smile, she added: "The Jewish people owned downtown. Everyone knew that downtown [stores] would be closed during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur."

She said that "Yarmouth was an active community. The shul had a kitchen, a rec room, a Hebrew school and a strong Young Judea program. It was a nice, safe place to grow up."

Almost 20 years ago, the congregation signed an agreement with Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax to take over the Yarmouth shul's assets if its numbers dropped below 10 people or it could no longer afford the upkeep on the aging building.

That time has arrived. The remaining 15 members of Agudath Achim congregation can no longer keep up the building that was a Baptist church 100 years ago when it was purchased in a small adjacent town and moved to land owned in Yarmouth by the Agudath Achim Society.

Indig said Shaar Shalom will give the Jewish community money to donate to a cause in Yarmouth to show that the Jewish people were once there. "We haven't yet decided who will receive our donation," he told *The CJN*.

After the building is sold, Indig said, memorial plaques and artifacts will either be shipped to Shaar Shalom or to the Yarmouth County Museum.

He said it's unknown where services, specifically on High Holy Days, will be held once the building is sold. Members have talked of renting a room, or even travelling 300 kilometres to Halifax to the Shaar Shalom synagogue.

"It's an end of an era," said Jon Goldberg, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council, noting Jewish communities in small towns in Atlantic Canada have been dwindling for the last 30 years.

"Forty years ago, there were nine or 10 synagogues flourishing, all with rabbis. Now there are three rabbis in Halifax and one each in Moncton and Fredericton."

Other communities, such as Sydney, N.S., St. John's, Nfld., and Saint John, N.B., still have synagogues, although the synagogue in Saint John has been for sale for a couple of years. But services in those centres are usually held only on Erev Shabbat and Saturday and are run by local congregational lay leaders. During the High Holy Days, a rabbi is brought in to run services.

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

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# Winnipeg pharmacist leaves $1M for homeless

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — It is written that one of the highest forms of charity is to give anonymously. That's the way the late Saul Sair would have had it.

"My brother was a very modest, unassuming person," Ann Senensky said of Sair. "He wouldn't have wanted people to know about his bequest."

Sair died about three years ago at the age of 87. In his will, he left $1 million to be distributed among organizations that help the homeless, but he didn't specify which organizations. His bequest only recently came to light when a member of the committee charged with distributing the funds contacted a *Winnipeg Free Press* columnist with the story.

Sair knew what it was like to live in difficult circumstances. He, his younger brother, Alan, and their sister, Ann, grew up with their parents in a one-bedroom apartment in the old north end. The children slept in the dining room.

Sair opened his first pharmacy with the help of a $500 loan from an aunt. His sister recalls that for the first few months, he slept on the floor of the pharmacy so that he would be able to open early and close late.

In 1940, he opened Sair's Pharmacy across the street from what is now the Health Sciences Centre's Women's Pavillion. (At the time, the Winnipeg General Hospital, as it was called then, was the city's largest hospital complex.) He operated the pharmacy in partnership with his brother, Alan, for more than 50 years before retiring in the early 1990s. Sair never married.

The lawyer responsible for administering Sair's estate died about a year ago. Sair's nephew, Barry Senensky, an actuary living in Toronto, was called in to take over as executor. He got another lawyer involved and began the process of fulfilling his uncle's final wishes.

"In April, we sent out requests for proposals to nine Winnipeg charities that help the homeless," Barry Senensky said. "The deadline for responding was the end of May. We received proposals back from eight of the charities. I put together a committee of five to review the proposals. We hope to make our decision about how we are distributing the money by the end of July."

Senensky has lived in Toronto for most of his adult life, so he said he didn't know his uncle well. He remembers him as a nice, gentle man with a good sense of humour.

# Congress helped facilitate visit

**Continued from page 3**

June 20 with MPs from various parties, as well as with Senator Romeo Dallaire's executive assistant.

"We went because we realized that the experience of the Holocaust obligates Jews to worry about human rights, everywhere around the world," Rabbi Steinmetz said. "In my mind, our trip on behalf of the people of Darfur is a fulfilment of the biblical verse [in Deuteronomy], 'You, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.'"

The visit was facilitated by Leyla Ester Di Cori, government relations associate for Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), who briefed the students on lobbying, governmental affairs and CJC's involvement in the Darfur issue.

"It was invigorating to see young students wanting to make our world a better place. Working for Canadian Jewish Congress, I can't stress enough how it is truly fulfilling to see youngsters from our Jewish community take such a strong stand, condemning the ongoing tragedy in Darfur," Di Cori said after the visit.

"I commend Rabbi Steinmetz and all of the students, as they have realized, like many other Canadian Jews, that because we have experienced the Holocaust, we, as Jews are obligated to worry about human rights, everywhere around the world," she added.

The MPs were impressed with the students' concern and depth of understanding of the issues.

"I was impressed with the seriousness of purpose evidenced by the demeanour and insightful comments of the students. They asked probing questions," said Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott.

Alexa McDonough, NDP MP for Halifax, concurred: "I was delighted to have an opportunity to meet with so many youth who were clearly deeply concerned about the unfolding genocide in Darfur."

Liberal MP Keith Martin, said: "I was so encouraged by the interest shown by the students to help those who are the victims of gross human rights abuses. I would really like to thank the CJC for their hard work in advocating for human rights issues on the Hill."

Rabbi Steinmetz said he sees the trip as more of a beginning for the students, a foundation on which to build. "This, I believe is the real challenge. Will these students continue to take the values of the [March of the Living] and make them part of their lives? Only time will tell. But I believe these are remarkable young people and are truly up to the challenge," he said.

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# *Longtime teacher was 'loving and caring'*

Obituary

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Hilda Weil, a highly respected and popular teacher, died in Israel, in her sleep, on June 23. She was 73.

Her daughter-in-law, Shari, said she died "with dignity – like a lady. She was fiercely independent."

Weil was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. When she was six, her family moved to Jerusalem. Moving to New York to continue her studies and to teach at Breuers (K'Hal Adath Jeshurun), she met her husband, Dr. Joseph Weil.

The couple moved to Toronto, where they raised their family, and Joseph Weil had a family practice in Etobicoke.

In 1975, the family went on sabbatical to Netanya. The sabbatical turned into a three-year stay, as Joseph Weil became the first medical director of Laniado Hospital, Shari Weil said.

"He had met the Sanz rebbe [who founded the hospital] and was so impressed that he wanted to be a part of what he was doing."

Unfortunately, when the family moved back to Toronto in 1980, Joseph Weil died, at age 51.

Hilda Weil, however, was quite resilient. "She was one of the most positive, strong individuals I ever met," Shari said.

She was a teacher for her whole working life, including at Breuers in New York, at York University, and at Mekorot, an adult education program for women. She also gave lectures and taught shiurim, small groups of people learning Torah subjects.

From 1985 to 2001, she taught at CHAT, where she was co-ordinator of the Ivrit program. CHAT director of education Paul Shaviv said the school's administrators, teachers, students and parents are shocked and saddened to hear about her death.

"She was exceptionally knowledgeable, not only in Hebrew language, but in Tanach, Chumash and Jewish literature," Shaviv said. "The Ivrit program, and its high standards, were her creation."

Her books on *dikduk* (Hebrew grammar), *Choveret Hadikduk* and *Hamishpat Mivnei*, showed teachers how to teach Hebrew, Shaviv said, and became the standard books of Hebrew grammar across North America.

More than that, however, she was very kind to other teachers, especially those who came as shlichim from Israel, Shaviv said.

Last August, she moved back to Israel to be near her children and their families who lived there. She continued teaching, giving shiurim and lectures. Shari said she had planned to teach at Hebrew University in the fall.

Hilda Weil never stopped learning, Shari said. "She learned from everyone she met."

She described her mother-in-law as a "kind, selfless, loving and caring mother, and an amazing grandmother (the grandchildren called her 'the coolest safta') and mother-in law. I was privileged to have been part of her life."

Shari, who spoke for the family, added that Hilda had a great sense of humour and loved a good argument. "You can see from the eclectic group coming to the shivah that she was able to connect to every type of person."

Hilda Weil was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, and her brother, David Kastner. She is survived by siblings Miriam Kastner and Josef Kastner, and her children Yael (Avi) Schacter, Uri, and Dani (Shari), and 10 grandchildren.

ב"ה

# DEMAND JUSTICE

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## An Open Letter of Protest to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

We the undersigned are concerned members of the Jewish community who are deeply involved in Israel, where many of our friends and closest relations reside, and care deeply about its Jewish and democratic character.

We are profoundly concerned about the massive government violence inflicted upon unarmed protesters at Amona on February 1 this year. We have reviewed the video evidence of the event produced by the Council of Settlements of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, the Legal Forum for Eretz Yisrael, and the Israeli police, as well as written reports by the Knesset Committee to Investigate the Events of Amona and by nongovernmental civil rights organizations in Israel

It is clear beyond any reasonable doubt that Israeli Police, in a planned and premeditated manner, inflicted unwarranted violence and engaged in sexual harassment, verbal and physical, against hundreds or thousands of unarmed civilians, most of them minors, the overwhelming majority of whom were engaged in peaceful protest. It is not possible to justify the scale of violence employed by the police or its premeditated nature in terms of self-defense, particularly in light of such evidence as has emerged regarding the instructions the police received from their commanders and the IDF.

The images of mounted policemen riding down unarmed young Jews and assailing them with whips and clubs raise deeply painful historical associations on which it is unnecessary to dwell.

We are aware that the police operation in Amona was undertaken in order to execute a court order and that a small minority of protesters themselves engaged in violence. That cannot excuse or atone for the massive, deliberate and gratuitous police violations of the law and of civil rights that took place. What happened at Amona was illegal and immoral.

We have in the past and, we trust, will ever in the future be supportive of the People of Israel living in the Land of Israel. By the same token we feel called upon to speak in defense of the welfare and civil liberties of Jews everywhere in the world. Just as we protest violence against Jews in France or Russia, so too we cannot remain silent in the face of the brutalization of Jews by the government of the State of Israel. Our pain is great, but so too is our indignation.

We join with President Katzav and call upon you to investigate and determine, speedily and without favor, who was responsible for authorizing or, in the course of events, condoning the massive police brutality at Amona, and to bring those people to Justice. And we call upon you, at a time when our brethren in Israel are deeply divided over great public and moral issues, to ensure that another event such as Amona, whose effect on the solidarity of the Jewish people within Israel and in the Diaspora must be disastrous, does not happen again.

*Please add your name to this protest of human rights abuses by visiting www.ItsOurLand.com.*

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## Conference looks at healing and spirituality

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Jewish healing uses spirituality to strengthen the spirit of people who are dealing with pain, illness, loss, despair and disruption.

That was the theme of a recent one-day conference at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue titled "God Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" and sponsored by the Toronto Jewish Healing Project (TJHP), a volunteer organization.

Forty participants, including health-care workers and members of the community, heard speakers and took part in workshops on a wide variety of topics, including "Finding hope when hope seems lost," "What do I expect from God?," "Ten mystical Jewish thoughts to get us through tough times," and "The poetry of pain: how art responds to personal crisis."

Rabbi Joseph Kelman, Beth Emeth's rabbi emeritus and a longtime advocate for people with disabilities, welcomed participants by saying, "It's about time we had a conference about God."

Conference co-ordinator Etta Ginsberg McEwan, who helped found the TJHP in 1996, spoke of two new healing CDs created by the group.

*Nostalgic Memories* features Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple, and *A Healing Lecture Series* includes Rabbi John Moscowitz, senior rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple, as well as Rachel Turkienicz, director of the Learning Centre; Molyn Leszcz, psychiatrist-in-chief at Mount Sinai Hospital; and breast cancer survivor Heather Bross.

Keynote speaker Rabbi Dow Marmur, rabbi emeritus at Holy Blossom Temple, noted that TJHP is the only healing program of its kind in Canada

"If the States can do it, so can we," he said.

Referring to verses from Psalms and other sacred texts, Rabbi Marmur spoke of the Jewish experience of pain and suffering and the Jewish response to it. Instead of offering theories and explanations, he said his aim was to bring reflections and testimonies.

Quoting Psalm 22, he commented that in the midst of suffering and near despair, "the Psalmist nevertheless turns to God and seeks divine help. It is indeed the experience of most people whether they're believers or not, that in distress, as they feel abandoned by God, they often paradoxically also look upward in search of solace and guidance."

He added that knowing we can't banish suffering from the world, "we seek ways of transcending it. That's why the Psalmist pleads in love and seeks a loving response."

He emphasized that "the enterprise in which we're engaged is to practise love, neither to hold out a false promise or cure, nor to mount a pulpit in order to preach vacuous doctrine."

Rabbi Marmur also quoted Martin Buber, the great 20th-century Jewish thinker and Bible scholar, and Viktor Frankl, the famous Viennese psychiatrist who was a Holocaust survivor and a disciple of Buber.

"Jews have a long record of suffering, but very rarely did the people despair," Rabbi Marmur said. "Our ancestry found meaning in their history, despite the pain, not because of it."

Holocaust survivors, despite unspeakable pain, "found meaning and love and gratitude and built their lives on these values instead of being imprisoned by the pain."

He added that the promise of healing rests with the community. "Being with others doesn't remove the pain, but it makes it more bearable because it's shared."

The individual healing CDs are $20 each or both for $35. All proceeds go to the TJHP. To order, call 416-944-3359, e-mail etta2000@sympatico.ca, or write to the Toronto Jewish Healing Project, 55 Wellesley St. E., Suite 603, Toronto, M4Y 2T6.

## *Calgary girl performs act of loving kindness*

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

An 11-year-old Calgary girl has cut off her long golden locks and donated them to Angel Hair For Kids, which will help transform her snipped-off hair into wigs for children who need them.

Cassandra Macdonald, who this year graduated from middle school at the Calgary Hebrew Academy and will enter Grade 7 in the fall, cut her hair in front of close friends and family members at Calgary's Temple B'Nai Tikvah, on June 23.

She made the decision to cut about 13 inches of hair following Passover this year, her mother, Sharon Polsky, said.

"She said, 'Mom, I need to talk to you. I've decided I want to cut my hair.' It was her choice completely," said Polsky, who agreed to make the arrangements.

Polsky initially contacted the American organization Locks of Love, which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair. She was seeking information on a possible Canadian affiliate organization.

When they were unable to help, Polsky contacted the Canadian Cancer Society, who agreed to send Cassandra's hair to be made into a wig, but "they weren't really clear as to where it would go." They couldn't tell her if the wig would go to a child, she said.

Polsky learned of the Mississauga-based Angel Hair For Kids through an Internet search, and she contacted founder and executive director, Roslyn Yearwood.

"I did a lot of digging," Polsky said. "Once we found out what this place was, I found out a little more about it and was satisfied," she said. "It is a Canadian organization. The hair will be made into wigs for children in Canada from low-income families, at no cost to them. It sounded right."

Children who receive the wigs may have lost their hair as a result of chemotherapy treatments, radiation, burn accidents, alopecia or for other medical reasons.

The two-year-old program is run by A Child's Voice Foundation, a registered charitable organization whose mandate is to create and manage programs that provide tangible help for sick and underprivileged children and their families. To date, it has sent six wigs to Calgary, where it has two branches.

**Cassandra before she cut her hair, left, and, above, after she shed her locks.**

It takes between 10 and 12 ponytails to create one wig.

The organization also raises funds to pay for having the wigs made. Polsky said Cassandra raised more than $4,000 before cutting her hair, and people have been very supportive of the cause.

"We're all amazed at people's generosity. She just mentions what she does and people are literally putting their hands in their pockets and saying, 'Here, take this,'" she said. "They don't want a tax receipt. They don't want anything. It's amazing."

Human hair wigs retail at between $1,500 and $3,000.

Polsky said Cassandra, whose hair is now arm-pit length, cut her hair after learning about tzedakah at school.

She said Cassandra wants to continue to grow her hair long until she graduates from junior high school. Then she'll again cut her hair for Angel Hair for Kids.

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# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to

*SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!*

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
**or email them to:**
cblackman@cjnews.com

**Happy 50th anniversary to Phyllis & Morris Schwartz. Love, their children, son-in-law and grandchildren, Gwynne, Paul, Ellen, Jory, Adam, Shane and Danny**

**Mazel Tov**
*Sarah Hacker*
on the occasion of her
90th birthday,
July 8.
Love from your children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

**Mazel tov to Viki & Johnny Rumack on your 65th wedding anniversary. Love, your children, Rochelle, Max, Judy, Jerry, and grandsons Stuart, Randy and Kevin.**

**Happy 50th anniversary Esther & Murray Berman from Sharon & Dave, Dede & Mike, Wendy & Dan, Michelle & Kevin, Richard & Randi, and 14 grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov to Sherry & Jerry Rozencwajg who are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Love, Jordan and Shawn, Mom & Dad, Marla & Willie.**

**Happy birthday Harvey White from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov to Harvey & Frieda White on your wedding anniversary. Love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Monday, July 10, is the deadline for the July 20 issue. There is no issue July 27. The July 20 What's New will cover events from July 20 to Aug. 2. Monday, July 17, is the deadline for the Aug. 3 issue and Monday, July 24, is the deadline for the Aug. 10 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, July 6

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Abe Rotstein**, profession of economics at U of T, speaks at the Yiddish Vinkl get-together. 12:15 p.m. at Free Times Café, 320 College St. RSVP to yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca or to **Bess**, 416-630-7222.

**SIMPLY TSFAT CONCERT**

The House and Anshei Minsk Synagogue present a concert by Simply Tsfat, from Tsfat, Israel. 7:30 p.m. at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrews St. Students $10, adults $18. Proceeds benefit the Shabbos Awareness Center and Simchas Torah Life Advancement Program of Yerushalayim. For tickets, call 416-595-5723 or e-mail reachus@theminsk.com.

***THE DA VINCI CODE*: A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE**

**Rabbi Michael Skobac** examines the phenomenon of the immense popularity of **Dan Brown**'s bestseller and explores the issue of hidden histories. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. Free admission. For information or to register, call Jews for Judaism, 905-761-0040.

## Saturday, July 8

**PARSHAH DISCUSSION**

**David Schaeffer** on the weekly portion *Chukat-Balak*, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

## Sunday, July 9

**SINGLES WALKING GROUP**

Join Walk and Talk Etc. for a walk in Richmond Green Park, 1300 Elgin Mills Rd. E. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the secondary school/library at the northwest corner of Elgin Mills Rd. E. and Leslie St. Registration at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

**JACS FAMILY BBQ**

JACS Toronto, an organization dedicated to encouraging and assisting alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and their families, friends and associates to explore recovery in a nurturing Jewish environment, is holding its second annual family barbecue. 12-4 p.m. in Hendon Water Park. $10, $36 for family. For information, call 416-410-5227 or visit www.jacstoronto.org.

**A HEALING SERVICE**

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Judy Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359

**SINGLES MIX AND MINGLE**

Join a new group for singles 50-70 for a get-together, meet new people and have some fun. For information, call **Leon**, 905-731-9705.

## Tuesday, July 11

**GARAGE SALE**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, holds a garage sale every Tuesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through the summer A huge selection of new and gently used clothing and shoes for the whole family. Also books, toys, games and housewares. Proceeds support programs and services of NCJW including women's shelters, breakfast clubs and seniors' enrichment programs. 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100

**MEGA CITY SWING BAND**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Tuesday Night Live, a series of concerts through Aug. 29 at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Tonight

**Continued on page 23**

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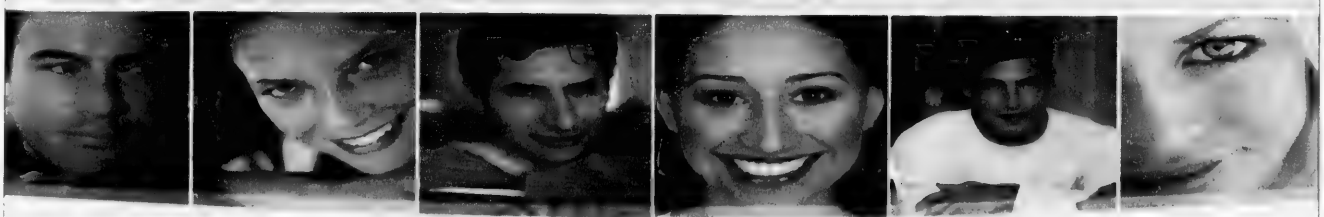

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**Continued from page 22**

Mega City Swing Band. 7:30 p.m. 416-395-7873

## Wednesday, July 12

**THE PROPHETIC BOOKS**

Holy Blossom Temple offers Sisterhood Torah Study, "The Prophetic Books," every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. with **Rabbi Edward Goldfarb**. 416-789-3291

## Other news

**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents "Family Fun Summer Festival," Thursday, July 13, with activities 5:30-7 p.m. including a jumping castle, games, parachutes, hockey activities and crafts followed by a performance by the Ballet Creole Drummatix at the Zukerman Theatre, Earl Bales Park. Free. 416-395-7873

**JVS TORONTO CELEBRATES**

In September 2006, Jewish Vocational Service Toronto celebrates 60 years of helping people succeed in school, work and life. If JVS helped you or a family member in the past, they would like you to share your memories as they begin to build a living library of the past, present and future. This is an opportunity to celebrate a milestone and become part of our living history. E-mail marketing@jvstoronto.org or call 416-787-1151, ext. 287.

**RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS**

If you are a caregiver looking after your spouse or parent at home and would like some time off, call **Sharon**, respite co-ordinator at the Bernard Betel Centre, 416-225-2112, ext. 118.

**L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP**

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. L'Chaim members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-633-0409.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. How and when to tell the children as well as ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs will be discussed. Tuesday, July 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313. To register, call **Shawna** at ext. 215.

## FOR SENIORS

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Casino Rama, Wednesday, July 12; Sunday dance, July 16; Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Aug. 29; Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

The Montrealer' Group meets Thursday, July 6, in the Fireside Lounge, 10:30-11:30 a.m., to share Montreal stories.

Book and Munch Club meets weekly. Short stories are read aloud by group members and then discussed. 12-1:15 p.m., in the Volunteer Members' Lounge. Bring your lunch. Call **Monica,** ext. 2273.

"Sing Along For Your Health," an hour of light entertainment featuring **Perry Foster, Alex Korn, Dorry Korn** and **Annette Till**, Wednesday, July 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Members free, guests $2.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Join "Fitness on Sundays" begins July 9.

Day trip to African Lion Safari, Tuesday, July 11. $60, non-members $70.

"*The Da Vinci Code*: A Jewish Perspective," Tuesday, July 11, 10 a.m. $2, non-members $4.

"Jewish Genealogy" with **Bill Gladstone**. Wednesday, July 12, 9-11 a.m. $3 at the door.

Israeli Festival, Wednesday, July 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Hebrew book sale, Israeli lunch, movie, vendors' market, entertainment. Free admission.

Israeli Etrog Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Swimming lessons and family swims throughout the summer. For information, call ext. 530 or e-mail aquatics@mnjcc.org.

Mini-Me Camp: Half-day camp for 3-5 year olds. Call ext. 320 or e-mail christinam@mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club for seniors meets every Thursday 1-3 p.m. For information, call ext. 129 or e-mail shawndac@mnjcc.org.

Downtown Summer Choral Institute, a weeklong choral camp for adults, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily or afterwork option, 4:30-6 p.m. Workshops, lectures and ensemble vocal experiences for community singers, including African drumming, ear training, conducting, Jewish music, vocal production, movement for singers, vocal health, jazz, a cappella, joint choir and small ensembles. Suitable for singers of all levels. July 24-28. $350, 7-workshop pass $100; 3-workshop pass $40. For information and registration, call ext. 277 or e-mail samc@mnjcc.org.

Downtown Suzuki Day Camp Plus: Semi-private and group lessons each day – choir, fiddling, African drumming, ear training, swimming and crafts. July 31-Aug. 4. $325. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult or a buddy for Suzuki will be provided for $125.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Space available for September 2006 morning school Tic Tac Two Program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers and senior kindergarten. Programs include music, fun centre gym, Hebrew, Discovery Museum and weekly gym program. For information, call ext. 248 or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

**SHLICHIM HOUNOURED: Minyan Sepharad Congregation, in the Eitz Chaim Patricia branch, recently honoured the Shriki family. Shai and Galit Shriki are shlichim from Israel who taught at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for the past four years. The family returned to Israel on July 2. In the front row, from left, are Laura Bendelac, Galit Shriki, Leor Shriki, Adi Shriki, Joseph Botbol, Moses Elmaleh, Rabbi Shai Shriki and Roee Shriki. In the back row, from left, are synagogue president Nisso Keslassy, Joe Elmaleh, Vidal Keslassy, Messod Boussidan, Leon Elmaleh, Louis Elmaleh and Marc Bendelac.**

**BETH JACOB RAISES FUNDS FOR ISRAELI SOLDIERS: Members of Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz Congregation recently presented a cheque to the Association for the Soldiers of Israel Canada (ASI). The funds will go toward recreational and educational facilities at Ramat David Air Force Base in northern Israel. From left are Rabbi Moshe Ginz, social fund chair Sam Faivish, ASI board member Wilf Shiff and Beth Jacob treasurer Joseph Joseph.**

***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Marty Tepperman | Jun 17/06 | 4003 Bayview Avenue |
| Denise Freedman | Jun 17/06 | 3636 Bathurst Street |
| Stan Cohen | Jun 17/06 | 4189 Orkney Beach Road |
| Mark Kvint | Jun 16/06 | 34 Medoc Place |
| Ruth Laxton | Jun 17/06 | 315 Russell Hill Road |
| Sophie Summers | Jun 19/06 | 155 Balmoral Avenue |
| Clara Starkman | Jun 19/06 | 139 Viewmount Avenue |
| Albert Gurland | Jun 20/06 | 10 Kenneth Avenue |
| Dorothy Heufeld | Jun 19/06 | 2 Buchan Court |
| Katherine (Kay) Perlman | Jun 16/06 | 111 Avenue Road |
| Klara Mlawski | Jun 20/06 | 7908 Seville Place |
| Edith Bernstein | Jun 21/06 | 2604 Coral Beach |
| Paul Levy | Jun 20/06 | 69 Hillcrest Drive |
| Monya Sax | Jun 18/06 | 2829 Shattuck Avenue |
| Evelyn Katz | Jun 21/06 | 3705 Bathurst St. |
| Edith Logan | Jun 20/06 | 550 Cummer Avenue |
| Ruth Shaul | Jun 20/06 | 33 Delisle Avenue |
| Ben Blidner | Jun 21/06 | 55 Skymark Place |
| Mildred Franklin | Jun 20/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Sasha Bella Stein-Blumbe | Jun 20/06 | 24 Ellsworth Avenue |
| Giza Gotesman | Jun 23/06 | 42 McAllister Road |
| Esther Hermant | Jun 22/06 | 111 Avenue Rd. |
| Morris Korman | Jun 24/06 | 58 Sea Island Path |
| Solly Levstein | Jun 24/06 | 6 Forest Laneway |
| Ann Drevnig | Jun 25/06 | 1201 Steeles Ave. West |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Carol Spring | Jun 19/06 | 5460 Yonge St. |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**GRETA HAHN** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, July 9th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St. 3km north of Major Mackenzie Dr
Habonim Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**HELEN LEVY TOLLINSKY** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, July 9th, 11:00 a.m.**
**Jones Avenue Cemetery**
480 Jones Avenue
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**KLARA WISE** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, July 9th, 10:30 a.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
1986 Wilson Ave
Shaarei Shomayim Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The family of the late
**Orna Spiegel** ז"ל
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**SIGMUND REISER** ז"ל
will take place
**Tuesday, July 11th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Bathurst South of Steeles
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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## Hamas government urges prisoner swap

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Amid growing fears of a large-scale Israel Defence Forces operation in Gaza, the Hamas government has appealed to Jordan, Egypt and other Arab countries to talk with Israel about a prisoner swap that would lead to the release of kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit and thousands of Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

Sources close to Hamas said the call was relayed to Egyptian, Jordanian and Qatari mediators who have been trying to secure Shalit's release.

This was the first time the Hamas government expressed its desire to hold talks with Israel about the possibility of a prisoner exchange. Taher al-Nunu, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Authority Foreign Ministry, confirmed that his government had approached some Arab countries with a request to mediate between Hamas and Israel to find a peaceful solution.

"We have called on some Arab countries to launch a diplomatic effort to reach an agreement about a prisoner exchange with Israel," he said. "We hope that the crisis will be resolved peacefully and through negotiations."

Moussa Abu Marzouk, Hamas political leader Khaled Mashal's deputy, said he believed the kidnappers want to keep the soldier alive to trade him for prisoners. "For sure, he's in hands that will protect him and treat him well. Our morals and our religion dictate that we do this to every prisoner," he said. But he also warned that a military operation could jeopardize Shalit's life.

Osama Hamdan, a Hamas official in Beirut, said that If Israel does not negotiate a swap, the kidnappers would conclude "that they should capture more soldiers so that the Israelis will speak to them," he said. "The message for the resistance is to kill soldiers, even if they have the opportunity to capture them."

Hamdan denied Mashal was behind the kidnapping and warned Israel against trying to assassinate him. Mashal, who lives in Damascus, was summoned to Cairo for urgent talks with Egyptian officials about the latest crisis.

The Hamas government also called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss Israel's military activities in Gaza. The PA Foreign Ministry said it had asked its representative to the UN to consult with Arab representatives about calling for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to condemn Israel's raids on Gaza.

"We are demanding an international commission of inquiry into the massacres perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinians," the ministry said in a statement. "We have also called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League to discuss the latest deterioration."

After most senior Hamas leaders in Gaza have gone into hiding for fear of being targeted by Israel, movement officials in the West Bank continued to hold press conferences to strongly condemn Israeli military strikes.

Deputy Prime Minister Nasser al-Shaer and Finance Minister Omar Abdel Razek said Israel is waging a "war of genocide." But they said their government wants a peaceful solution to the crisis. "We call for pursuing diplomatic efforts to solve the problem peacefully."

PA President Mahmoud Abbas expressed outrage over last week's IDF strikes in Gaza and accused Israel of committing "crimes against humanity."

In Canada, Canada-Israel Committee chair Marc Gold said the IDF operation in response to Shalit's kidnapping is limited and precise in its objectives. "This operation is about the noble effort to rescue a hostage taken from within the boundaries of the State of Israel, to prevent the Hamas kidnappers from smuggling the victim out of the area and to fulfill the responsibility of all governments to reduce and eliminate a chronic, terrorist threat," Gold said.

He said the "unremitting terrorist attacks" from Gaza against Israeli civilians have become "untenable," and that "in the absence of any efforts by the Palestinian authorities to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure – as required by the 'road map' [peace plan] Israel has no choice but to address the threat directly."

Gold added that "the Palestinian Authority, including the Hamas government and President Mahmoud Abbas, must accept full responsibility for the failure to eliminate the terror network and for facilitating violence… against Israelis."

He also praised Ottawa for supporting Israel's right to defend itself.

## Captured officials to be tried in military court

By DAN IZENBERG
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — According to a Justice Ministry official, all of the Hamas leaders who are eventually indicted, including those arrested in east Jerusalem, will be put on trial in a West Bank military court.

A Justice Ministry official explained that although those of the detainees who live in Jerusalem are in principle subject to Israeli law and judicial procedures, they may be tried in the West Bank according to the principle of "greater linkage." In other words, the focus of activity regarding the crimes of which they are suspected is more connected to the West Bank than to Israel.

The arrest and detention procedures that apply to the detainees are based on Military Order 378 Relating to Security Instructions, a catch-all piece of legislation enacted by the West Bank military commander, which deals with criminal procedures, arrests and military court laws.

According to the order, security forces may hold a suspect for eight days before bringing him before a military judge, should the authorities want to extend the remand. Furthermore, a detainee may be prohibited from consulting a lawyer for up to 90. The detainee may appeal the decision to prevent him from seeing a lawyer to the Supreme Court.

However, a human rights lawyer who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was rare for the court to intervene in military decisions of this nature.

According to a Foreign Ministry statement, the detainees "are suspected of criminal offences such as membership or activities in a terrorist organization, membership in the leadership of a terrorist organization and other possible offences that constitute a violation of the law according to the Ordinance for the Prevention of Terrorism."

Meanwhile, the Simon Wiesenthal Center called for an international arrest warrant to be issued for Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, according to a press release put out by that organization.

"The time has come for the United Nations to demand that Syria give up Khaled Mashaal," wrote Rabbi Marvin Hier, the center's dean, in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan last Thursday.

"Mashaal is the real face of Hamas and as long as the international community allows him to live freely and continue his terrorist activities, there will be no Road Map [peace plan] and no prospects to achieve Middle East peace," Rabbi Hier added.

*With files from Haviv Rettig.*

## *Family and fellow students bury murdered youth*

By DINA KRAFT
*JTA*

**TEL AVIV** — On June 28, Miriam Asheri pleaded for the release of her kidnapped son. The next day, she buried him.

Eliyahu Asheri, 18, from the West Bank community of Itamar, was abducted June 25 by a Palestinian terrorist group called the Popular Resistance Committees. Soon after, according to Israeli officials, he was shot in the head and buried in a field near Ramallah.

"He was so gentle," Miriam Asheri said. "It always felt so good to talk to him."

She said Eliyahu was always speaking out for others, trying to make peace.

"Whenever there was a fight, he would always say, 'Stop, everyone should have their place,'" Asheri said.

Thousands of people attended Eliyahu's funeral on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Eliyahu Asheri laid to rest
*[Isranet photo]*

Eliyahu was a yeshiva student in Neveh Tzuf, a West Bank settlement, and planned to join the army after completing his studies. He vanished on the evening of June 25 after trying to hitchhike.

Fellow students helped launch a search for him. In the early morning of June 27, following information from an arrested Palestinian, the Israeli army found Eliyahu's body.

The next day, one of the kidnappers showed a copy of Eliyahu's identification card and threatened the teen would be "butchered in front of TV cameras" if Israel did not stop its operation in the Gaza Strip to save another kidnapped Israeli, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19.

Eliyahu was remembered as an especially positive and friendly youth. In photos he is seen with a bright, wide smile.

Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, head of Eliyahu's yeshiva, eulogized the teen as fellow students wept.

"Eliyahu, you were like my son and a brother to your fellow students. I can't look at the empty chair you used to occupy," Nissim said.

# The 'prisoners' document' - don't get too excited

By EVELYN GORDON
*Jerusalem Post*

Analysis

Whether the so-called "prisoners' document," which Fatah and Hamas signed last week, will end Palestinian infighting remains unclear. As propaganda, however, the document has been an unqualified success.

Both in Israel and abroad, the media (with the notable exception of the *Jerusalem Post*) have universally lauded the document for "implicitly recognizing Israel," something Hamas had thus far refused to do. Even the *Wall Street Journal* – not usually a Palestinian apologist – credited it with "implicit recognition of Israel" in a June 15 editorial.

Yet the document does nothing of the sort, and not only is this plain from the text, but Hamas spokesmen have said so explicitly.

To see the document as "implicitly recognizing Israel" requires interpreting its demand for a Palestinian state in "all the territory occupied [by Israel] in 1967" as signifying this territory only, thus implying an Israel alongside it. Unfortunately, the text belies this interpretation.

According to a Hebrew translation published by *Ha'aretz*, the actual wording is as follows: "The Palestinian people desires the liberation of its lands and the realization of its right to liberty, return, independence and self-definition, including the right to establish an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital on all the territory occupied in 1967."

In other words, a state in this territory is merely part of the broader goal of "the liberation of [Palestinian] lands." Or to put it in historical context, this is a reincarnation of the PLO's 1974 "phased plan," under which any "liberated" territory would be a base for pursuing Israel's ultimate destruction.

And, lest anyone misunderstand, both the documents' authors and other Hamas spokesmen have stated this explicitly.

On June 6, Abdel Khaleq Natsche, who signed the document for Hamas, and Bassam al-Sa'adi, who signed for Islamic Jihad, issued the following clarification: "We scorn the attempts to attach nonexistent content to the document, and therefore, we emphasize that it does not contain any declaration or hint of recognition of the occupation state and does not contain any call for this."

Mohammed Abu Tir, a senior Hamas parliamentarian, also made this point in an interview with *Ha'aretz*: Hamas, he said, has no problem with the document's demand for a state in "all the territories occupied in 1967," but does not accept its "recognition of international decisions that indirectly mean recognition of Israel."

In other words, Hamas doesn't see the call for a Palestinian state as implicitly recognizing Israel. It if did, it would reject this article, too. Rather, it views such a state as compatible with its goal of Israel's destruction.

But the document offers additional proof of its non-recognition of Israel's right to exist: its insistence on a "right of return" for Palestinian refugees and their descendants, which is a euphemism for eliminating Israel demographically. The 4.3 million refugees and descendants (according to UN figures), combined with Israel's 1.4 million Arab citizens, could democratically vote the Jewish state (with 5.3 million Jews) out of existence.

Natsche and Sa'adi, incidentally, have since withdrawn their support for the document, though Natsche said this was due not to its content, but to PA President Mahmoud Abbas' "abuse" of the document for political gain.

Media outlets have also lauded the document on another score: an alleged Hamas concession on terror. Granted, far from renouncing terror, it explicitly urges more attacks on Israelis in the territories. Nevertheless, say media pundits, confining attacks to the territories, while eschewing them inside Israel, constitutes progress.

However, the document does nothing of the sort. It says merely that "resistance" will "focus" on the territories. In other words, the territories will be the main, but not exclusive, venue for attacks.

But the document does not merely preserve the terror status quo. For the first time, it enshrines terror as official PA policy. Previously, while Hamas and Fatah both practised terror, Fatah at least paid lip service to the need to end it. The document, however, calls for "establishing a unified resistance force, called the Palestinian Resistance Front, which will lead the uprising against the occupation, and also unifying and co-ordinating resistance operations and creating a unified political authority for the Front."

Since "resistance" is the Palestinian euphemism for terror attacks, this means that terror, rather than being the work of "opposition groups" (as the PA used to claim), would become official policy.

Finally, the document has been praised for accepting international agreements, thereby also implicitly recognizing Israel. Yet as Natsche and Sa'adi explained in their clarification, "the document's reference to recognizing just international resolutions does not mean recognizing all resolutions, but only those that do not harm the Palestinian people." But Hamas has called all the Israeli-Palestinian agreements "betrayals."

The international community set three conditions for relations with the Hamas government: recognizing Israel, renouncing terror and accepting previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements. The prisoners' document, however, does none of these things. It doesn't recognize Israel, even implicitly; it doesn't recognize previous agreements; and far from renouncing terror, it enshrines it as official policy.

Despite this, the media have swallowed Abbas' propaganda wholesale and are touting the document as sufficient to satisfy international demands. One can only hope world leaders will scrutinize it with greater care and honesty.

# Yonatan Bassi: go slow on realignment

By TOVAH LAZAROFF
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — On his last day in office, Disengagement Authority head Yonatan Bassi, who helped oversee the Gaza withdrawal, had two words of advice for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert should he evacuate more territory: "Go slow."

Bassi told the *Jerusalem Post* on June 29 he believed that six to eight years were needed to properly execute Olmert's realignment plan, in which Israel would withdraw from isolated areas of Judea and Samaria and consolidate the settlers within more condensed blocs in the territories.

"I do not believe that 70,000 people can be evacuated according to the same program carried out in the Gaza Strip," he said. Given its scope, he added, one could not compare realignment with the two-week evacuation of 9,000 people from Gaza and four communities in northern Samaria.

In offering these comments, he stressed that his office had only been charged with compensating and helping to relocate disengagement evacuees. But based on that experience, he said: "If the prime minister would ask my advice, I would say, do it slowly, slowly. We have to do it district by district."

An initiative such as realignment could not even be completed during a single prime ministerial four-year term, said Bassi, as he sat behind his desk in his Jerusalem office.

As much as possible, he said, the program should be implemented through consensus and communication with the settlers involved and with the nation as a whole.

"You must do it in such a way that people will be with you," he said. Otherwise, he warned, there was a risk that many religious conscripts in the army would refuse to execute the plan.

"Think of what could happen if they are against the government's decision," he said. The IDF must address this problem.

In looking ahead to the realignment plan, he said he believed that the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip was also likely to play an important role in improving the process and ensuring that it not become a replay of the disengagement, when most of the Gaza leadership refused to make plans for the day after.

Having watched it happen once, the council now recognized it could happen again, said Bassi. "I know they have begun to speak about how to be prepared for it," said Bassi. The council had learned that it was better to be prepared, he said.

He blamed many of the problems relating to the technical aspects of resettlement on the Gaza regional council which, he said, refused to co-operate with his office and assured the Gaza settlers until the last minute that the plan would never come to pass.

"There is no doubt that if we had [worked together for] half a year before the evacuation a lot of things could have been better," said Bassi.

When he first took office in 2004, most of the Gaza settlers refused to talk to him and complained that he was the stumbling block keeping them from finding a solution. The relationship, however, underwent a sea change following disengagement. "Afterwards they understood that they needed a shoulder to lean on and they found it here," he said.

When Bassi announced this winter that he was not seeking another term of office, Gaza settlers urged him to reconsider. But Bassi, who appreciated their support, told the *Post* that he was ready for a change and looking forward to relaxing and resting.

He is being replaced by Tzvia Shimon, the deputy director-general in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for manpower and human resources.

Bassi said he was glad that his office had compensated some 80 per cent of the 1,750 families for the loss of their homes and that only 20 to 30 families were still living in hotels. Even more significant, he said, was the fact that his office had found communal solutions for most of the families who wanted to live together.

He said he had always supported the disengagement plan and had not changed his mind despite the current turmoil in Gaza.

# Hamas officials to face military trial

**Continued from page 1**

It is not at all clear whether Israeli military action in Gaza hurts Hamas politically. In what to Israeli eyes seems like the logic-defying reality that is Gaza, it is not at all clear whether blowing up bridges and knocking out electricity in Gaza weakens public support for Hamas, or – paradoxically – whether it might in fact strengthen it.

Furthermore, it is not even clear that Hamas doesn't want some IDF action to further its victimization narrative in the world. Already some in the world are asking whether the capture of one Israeli soldier merits the type of military action we saw last week.

Before disengagement from Gaza, there were some dreamers who said that if everybody just played their cards right, Gaza could someday turn into the Hong Kong of the Middle East. Wrong. Try Lebanon, only more so.

# Terrorists want Israel to kill civilians

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ
*Jerusalem Post*

Opinion

The increasing number of Palestinian civilian casualties unintentionally inflicted by Israel in its effort to stop rocket attacks against its own civilians reflects the success of the terrorists' policy.

The goal of Palestinian terrorism is to increase the number of civilian deaths on both sides. Yes, the Palestinian terrorists who now fire rockets into Israel from Gaza want the Israel Defence Forces to kill Palestinian women, children and old men. If they did not, they would fire their rockets from isolated areas, where there are no civilians. Instead, they deliberately fire their rockets from heavily populated civilian areas in order to induce Israel to cause the highest possible number of Palestinian civilian casualties.

Every time the Israeli military accidentally kills a Palestinian civilian, the Palestinian terrorists win a propaganda and political victory. The more children and women the Israelis kill, the bigger the Palestinian propaganda victory.

No wonder the victims are treated as martyrs. They are the new suicide terrorists – only they did not volunteer to die for the cause. They were "volunteered" by the terrorists who selected their neighbourhood as the place from which to fire their missiles.

This is not a new tactic. As one European diplomat told the *New York Times* several years ago: "The Palestinians have mastered the harsh arithmetic of pain. Palestinian casualties play in their favour and Israeli casualties play in their favour. Non-violence doesn't pay."

It may be difficult for some decent people to believe that Palestinian terrorists are actually trying to increase the number of casualties among their own civilians, but the evidence is overwhelming.

Not only do the terrorists seek to draw Israeli fire into heavily populated civilian areas, they use children as suicide bombers without even telling them that they have been "volunteered" to die.

Perhaps the most notorious example of this deadly form of child abuse took place in 2004, when an 11-year-old Palestinian child was paid one dollar to take a parcel through Israeli security. Unbeknownst to the child, the parcel contained a bomb that was supposed to be detonated remotely as he was passing through the checkpoint.

Fortunately for him, and for the Israelis at the checkpoint, the plot was foiled. After the Israeli authorities determined that the boy was an innocent dupe, they released him to his parents.

His mother blamed the Israelis.

Terrorists who are prepared to sacrifice a child for the cause are prepared to sacrifice other civilians as well. The religious zealots among them do not even regard their deaths as sacrifices, since the martyrs are expected to go to paradise where they – or at least the men among them – will be served by 72 virgins. (Perhaps the female child victims will serve as the virgins.)

This despicable "culture of death" promoted by extremist Islamic imams, in which an honourable death – even if not voluntarily chosen is deemed preferable to life, is the major cause of Islamic terrorism.

Nor can terrorism of this sort be deterred by the prospect of imprisonment, or even death. It must be prevented before it can be carried out. That is why the Israeli military has been aggressively attacking those who are preparing to fire rockets into Israeli towns and cities.

This is not to justify every Israeli attack. Even if the Palestinian terrorists welcome the killing of their own civilians, Israel should refrain from taking action when the risk to civilians is disproportionately high. Israel should hold itself to a higher standard when it comes to Palestinian civilian lives than the Palestinian terrorists themselves do.

What, then, should Israel do? It cannot simply tolerate the killing of its civilian population. No Western democracy would do that. Israel has already ended the occupation of the Gaza Strip, and the rocket attacks have only increased. Were it to withdraw from most of the West Bank – either unilaterally or as part of a negotiated settlement – there is no reason to believe the attacks would end. Indeed, there is some reason to believe they might increase, since it is far easier to fire rockets from areas with no Israeli military presence than from areas under the control of the Israeli military.

I believe Israel should follow the route once proffered by its late prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin: to pursue peace as if there was no terrorism, while fighting terrorists as if there were no prospects for peace.

Despite the risks of increased terrorism, every effort should be made to pursue the possibility of a two-state solution. This will not be easy with Hamas now in power, but opinion polls continue to show that a significant majority of Palestinians favour some sort of two-state solution.

That's a start. If a negotiated two-state solution isn't possible with Hamas calling the shots, then Israel should go forward with the plan for unilateral withdrawal behind the security barrier.

At the same time, it must continue to attack those who are in the process of firing rockets at Israeli civilians, but it must do a better job of reducing the number of civilian casualties.

If it is true that Palestinian terrorists benefit from every increase in both Palestinian and Israeli civilian casualties, then it is equally true that Israel benefits from every decrease in such casualties.

Among the best deterrents against Palestinian rocket attacks would be for Israel to stop creating martyrs – and propaganda objects – among Palestinian civilians.

*Alan Dershowitz is a professor at Harvard Law School.*

# BBC rejects call to change terminology

By GEORGE CONGER
*Jerusalem Post*

**LONDON** — The BBC has rejected a call by an independent panel studying charges of bias in its coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to change its editorial policies on using the word "terrorist" and appoint a senior editor to oversee its Middle East coverage.

Using the word "terrorist" to describe attacks on civilians would make the "very value judgments" it had been asked to eschew, BBC management argued in a paper released June 19.

An independent panel found in May that the BBC's reporting from Israel did "not consistently constitute a full and fair account of the conflict, but rather, in important respects, presents an incomplete and in that sense misleading picture." But the 38-page report commissioned by the BBC's board of governors to "assess whether the BBC's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict meets the required standards of impartiality" found that apart from "individual lapses" there "was little to suggest systematic or deliberate bias" in its reporting.

The panel found that BBC reporting displayed "gaps in coverage, analysis, context and perspective" and failed to "maintain consistently the BBC's own established editorial standards, including on language."

It recommended that a senior manager be appointed to oversee BBC coverage of the Middle East, that its reporting provide a "full and fair" account of the "complexities" of the conflict, that its complaints procedure be revised, and that it reform its use of language.

The report chided the BBC over its reluctance to use the word "terrorist" or "terrorism" and recommended it describe violent attacks upon civilians that had the intent of causing terror for political or ideological reasons "whether perpetrated by state or non-state agencies" as "terrorism."

The BBC's board of governors "welcomed the finding of no deliberate or systematic bias" noting, "most viewers and listeners" in Britain "regard the BBC as unbiased." But they said they had "not been persuaded to change the editorial guidelines" on using the word "terrorist."

Using the word "terrorist" in the manner defined by the panel, BBC management argued, "would exclude attacks on soldiers" and would make "the very value judgments" the editorial guidelines "ask us to avoid." BBC management said they do permit the use of the word "terrorist," but cautioned reporters "against its use without attribution."

However, appointing a senior manager to provide "more secure editorial planning, grip and oversight" in its Middle East coverage would add an extra layer of management that "could undermine the independence and accountability of BBC editors." To improve its coverage, the BBC said it would appoint a correspondent to cover the West Bank and give its current Middle East editor a greater role "in helping to formulate the BBC's overall coverage strategy." Monthly editorial meetings will now be held to oversee thematic coverage of the region.

The BBC conceded that more could be done to "explain the complexities of the conflict" and tackle its viewers' "high level of incomprehension." To help give perspective and context to the conflict the BBC news website will launch a podcast series titled "Undercurrent Affairs" focusing on the region.

But Trevor Asserson, director of BBCWatch, said the only way for the BBC to put "its house in order" is to "improve its systems. Senior editors must be given the responsibility of systematically imposing impartiality and an independent complaints system must be set up that tells the BBC when it fails."

## Israel Briefs

### *Israeli planes buzz Syria*

Israeli warplanes flew over Syrian President Bashar Assad's palace last week. The move was seen as a warning to Assad for hosting Hamas leader Khaled Meshal. Israel has called on the international community to press Syria to hand over Meshal, who is seen as being behind the recent kidnapping of an Israeli soldier.

### *Churches call for calm*

Israeli press reported that a coalition of churches appealed to the Bush administration to restrain Israel and calm the crisis in Gaza. Churches for Middle East Peace, a Washington-based group of 21 Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches, sent a letter to Michael Doran of the National Security Council and to David Welch, the top U.S. State Department envoy to the Mideast. It called Israel's destruction of Gaza's power plant and bridges "acts of collective punishment that have resulted in tremendous suffering by ordinary Palestinian people." The United States must "insist that [Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defense Minister Amir Peretz] restrain their military response and work with" PA President Mahmoud Abbas "to find a diplomatic resolution to the crisis." The letter also condemned the Palestinians' kidnapping of Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, which precipitated Israel's invasion.

### *Airforce strikes Gaza*

Israeli aircraft fired missiles at numerous targets in Gaza early last Friday. The attacks targeted several facilities which had been used to plan terror operations. According to the army, 16 airstrikes targeted access routes and open areas in southern Gaza. Seven other strikes hit a weapons storage facility, an Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades office, the interior ministry building in Gaza City, a Hamas office and three terror training camps.

### *Israelis warn NASA*

Israeli scientists were invited to present key research on "double asteroids" at a U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration workshop in Colorado. The paper, which was to be presented last week by Tel Aviv University researchers at the NEO (Near-Earth Object) Detection and Threat Mitigation workshop, tells of the discovery of a high incidence of double "Aten-type" asteroids and the danger of their potential collision with Earth. TAU runs an information centre, supported by the Israel Space Agency and the Science and Technology Ministry, on near-Earth asteroids and comets that could strike Earth.

*with files from JTA and Jerusalem Post*

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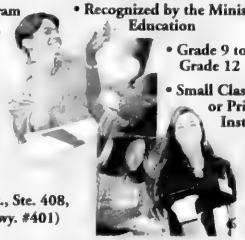

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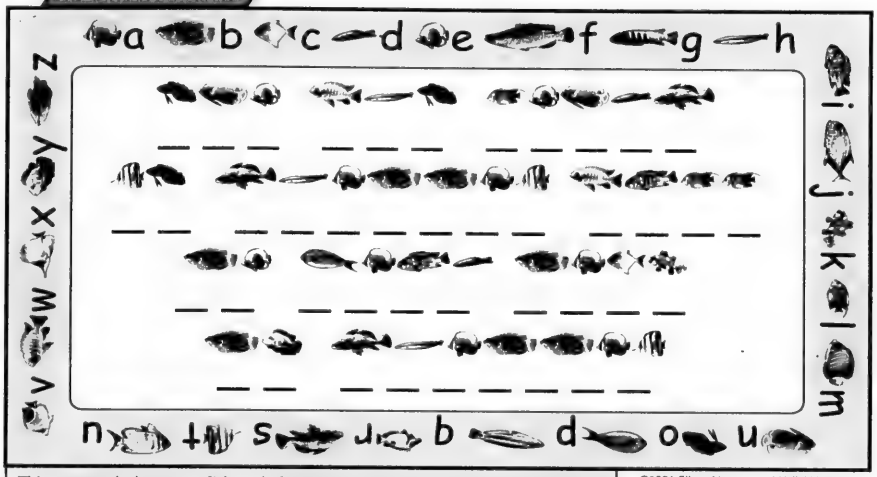


This message looks pretty fishy...it's from Gemara Shabbat 119a. Can you decode it?

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Write to us at ENewman613@aol.com

## Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat

adapted from Gemara Shabbat 119a

**Jovius shifted anxiously** as the Chaldean fortune teller gazed at him. For several minutes the Chaldean barely moved, staring intently. Finally he spoke. "Jovius, everything you own will go to the Jew, Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat."

"WHAT?" gasped Jovius.

"There is nothing you can do to prevent this. It is foreseen."

Jovius rushed through the marketplace, his head spinning from the dire prediction. "Tell me," he asked the first Jew he met, "where does Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat live?"

"Down that alley, on the left."

Jovius followed the directions, and approached the house. Lively singing from inside greeted him. Jovius stared through the window, transfixed. At the head of a table decked with white, surrounded by his family, sat a man who must be Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat.

"For six days we do our work," they sang, "and the seventh day is God's... We eat eat fine foods and wear our best... on Shabbat we rest."

The song ended, and the house fell silent. Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat lifted a silver cup, overflowing with wine, and sang the *Kiddush* blessing. Then he lifted two loaves of fresh bread, draped with a silken cloth, and recited the *Hamotzi* blessing. He deftly sliced the bottom loaf, and passed the pieces around to his family. Then the meal began. His wife brought out trays of fish and fruit. After everyone had eaten the first course, again they broke out in song.

More delicacies were brought to the table, followed by more spirited singing. Then Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat began speaking about the holiness of Shabbat. His son asked a question, and Yosef smiled, explaining.

Jovius didn't know how long he had been there, watching, absorbed in the celebration. He shook himself. This Jew was going to end up with ALL his money. This was no time to get sentimental.

"Tell me," he asked someone walking by, "is this not the home of Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat?"

"Indeed it is."

"He is quite wealthy, is he not?"

The man looked puzzled. "Not really. What makes you say that?"

"Why, he is in the middle of a lavish feast! What, doesn't he do this often?"

"Every week in fact."

"And you tell me he is not wealthy?"

"He does all this to honour the Shabbat," the man replied. "That's why he is called Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat: Joseph-who-honours-the-Sabbath."

Jovius staggered away, dazed. This man, Yosef, was somehow going to get his fortune. "No. NO! I will not allow it!" he yelled.

That very day, he sold all his estates and landholdings, using the money to buy a pearl of exquisite beauty. A pearl he could keep with him always. He commissioned a jeweller to place the pearl in a gold setting, and pinned it into his hat. Proudly, he left the jeweller's shop, knowing that nothing could take his fortune away from him.

Jovius' home was on the far side of the river that flowed through the town. He strutted vainly over the bridge which would bring him home, when a sudden gust of wind sent his hat tumbling into the river below. He watched, stunned, as his hat and his pearl sank into the murky depths. He dived into the water desperately searching, but all he could find were fish. The Chaldean was right. He was ruined.

* * *

"Wow, look at this fish. What a catch! We could fetch a pretty penny for this one. Only problem is I'm afraid it's too late. All the Jews already bought fish for Shabbat. Wait — there is a Jew, Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat, who would definitely buy this. Damien, bring this fish to Yosef-Mokir-Shabbat to sell it to him."

Yosef already had fish prepared for Shabbat, but when he saw this beautiful fish, he bought it without hesitation. "In honour of Shabbat," he declared.

The Shabbat was fast approaching so he hurried to cut and clean the fish — and drew in his breath. Something was inside, shining, gleaming. He picked it up and wiped it off. It was an exquisite pearl in a setting of gold. Yosef raised his eyes to the heavens. "In honour of Shabbat," he repeated fervently, "in honour of Shabbat."

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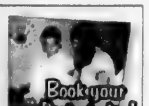


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# *Dare to leave your seat belt unbuckled*

**By JESSICA FREIMAN**
*CJN Intern*

The setting for Toronto theatre artist Julie Tepperman's play *Rosy* is a grey sedan in a parking lot.

Audiences won't have to use their imagination to feel part of the action, though: they will sit inside actual cars to view *Rosy* and six other short plays at AutoShow, a theatrical production for the Fringe Theatre Festival in Toronto.

The action of each play, written by seven different Toronto playwrights, takes place inside and around cars themselves.

AutoShow is presented by the Convergence Theatre Collective, which was founded in 2004 by 26-year-old Tepperman, her husband Aaron Willis, and their friend Rebecca Benson.

"The idea for AutoShow came when we were refused the rights to produce Autobaun [a cycle of short plays set in cars by American playwright Neil Labute]. We wanted to actually put on the plays in cars themselves, and The Fringe Theatre Festival liked that we wanted to set our plays in cars," Tepperman said.

Julie Tepperman as Rosy in AutoShow [Aaron Franks photo]

"There are so many talented peers in this local theatre community, so we asked some to write ten-minute pieces that could take place in a car.

"What we've ended up with are seven wildly diverse pieces. We're still a little bit terrified of how we're going to execute everything," she said.

The goal of AutoShow, said Tepperman, is to make people feel like they have been invited to an event.

"We want the audience to feel like it's an actual auto show, where anything can happen. We were just fascinated by this car culture. It's not until I started working on this show that I realized how many car commercials we're bombarded with in today's society.

"It's the idea that your car will change your life. The kind of car you drive will reflect the life you have."

AutoShow also tries to capture the private moments that occur inside of one's automobile.

"What goes on inside the car is very different, very private," Tepperman said. "We're trying to get very intimate in the spaces in the cars. We want to give people the feeling of, 'Ooh, maybe I shouldn't be watching this.'"

Tepperman's own theatrical journey began as a young girl growing up in Thornhill.

"My parents always took me to see theatre from the time I was a very small child. My love for it certainly developed from that. I knew theatre was what I wanted to do with my life even before I knew it could be a career," she said.

She is grateful to her parents, who have "always been really supportive" and enrolled her in drama programs since the age of five. "I also had wonderful, influential teachers in high school and then I went to George Brown Theatre School. I was immersed in drama and the arts."

Support for her work has come from fans at Tepperman's synagogue, the First Narayever Congregation. For the second year in a row, she and her husband have directed *SHTICK! A Celebration of Jewish Playwrights* at the synagogue. "It's really wonderful to have the support from our own personal community," Tepperman said.

AutoShow has been a huge undertaking for the theatre artist. "I've been working on writing on my own and in collaboration. I'm acting, writing and producing this massive project," she said.

Just how massive? The endeavour involves two directors, one choreographer, seven writers and 18 actors, most of whom are involved on a volunteer basis. "These people come on board for the artistic experience, not for the money. We're really grateful for those who have jumped on board for the idea," she said.

This project also marks the first production of the Convergence Theatre Collective, and Tepperman is thrilled to be presenting AutoShow through the Fringe Theatre Festival. "The Fringe offers a great opportunity for artists at any stage of their careers to expand with new pieces. We are participating in the 'bring your own venue' category. We really like being under the Fringe umbrella – we're one of 130 companies doing shows in an 11-day period. It's a wonderful, collective feeling," she said.

AutoShow runs nightly at 8 p.m. from July 6 through 16, rain or shine, at the Royal St. George Collegiate Parking Lot at 120 Howland Avenue. Tickets are $10. For more information, call the Fringe Hotline at 416-966-1062.


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Arts & Travel

# Film explores German's moral heroism and family ties

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Friedrich Kellner was a German man of conscience, a court magistrate who never reconciled himself to the tyranny of Adolf Hitler's regime.

A life-long Social Democrat, Kellner kept a diary in which he recorded his impressions of Germany's descent into totalitarianism.

Like the renowned diarist Victor Klemperer (*I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years*), Kellner meticulously documented Hitler's rise to power and vented his anger and indignation over the ugly turn of events.

Kellner's diary of moral heroism and family ties remains unpublished, but not unknown. The Canadian husband-and-wife team of Fern Levitt and Arnie Zipursky has ensured that Kellner's cri de coeur will be heard.

They have made a documentary about Kellner and his grandson's quest to translate his diary into English. *My Opposition: The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner* was shown at a private screening late last month at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

Robert Scott Kellner, Kellner's middle-aged, soft-spoken grandson, was at the screening, watching the one-hour film for the first time.

"This is a wonderful tribute to my grandparents," he said in brief remarks. "If Friedrich could have been here, he would have heartily approved of the film."

Max Eisen, a Holocaust survivor, praised Kellner as a strong, courageous person of vision who stood up, intellectually at least, to the Nazis.

But Eisen, who was swept up by the Holocaust in Hungary, pointed out that the anti-Semitic hatred that gave way to the murder of six million European Jews has not really vanished.

*My Opposition: The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner*, which was filmed for the CanWest Global television network, tells two interlocking stories.

The first revolves around Kellner, a poet, artist and musician who earned a living as a mid-level court administrator, and the second is about his son, Fred, Robert Scott's father.

In his diary, Kellner denounced Hitler and his National Socialist government and prophetically predicted that the Nazis would lead Germany to disaster.

He and his wife, Pauline, had only one child, and when Fred came home one afternoon singing the *Horst Wessel* song, the unofficial Nazi anthem, they were shocked and dismayed.

They had tried to insulate Fred from the siren song of Nazism. But like millions of Germans, Fred had been swayed by the Nazis.

**Robert Scott Kellner with his grandparents Pauline and Friedrich in 1960.**

In desperation, they sent Fred to the United States, hoping that geography would shield him from the bane of Nazi influence.

In 1937, Fred met and married a Jewish woman, Frieda Shulman, and they had three children.

Meanwhile, Kellner came under increasing pressure to join the Nazi party, but he refused, and continued writing entries in his diary. He regarded the diary as "a torch for future generations to light their way through the darkness" of Nazi Germany.

In this spirit, he wrote of the forced removal of Jews from Laubach, a town in northern Germany to which he and Pauline had moved.

There was more grist for his mill when, in October 1941, a soldier told Kellner of the anti-Jewish atrocities he had witnessed in eastern Europe.

Kellner described Nazi crimes as a stain that could never be erased from the annals of history.

Without consulting him, Pauline burned some of her husband's diaries, fearing that he would be punished if they fell into the wrong hands. But Kellner, stubborn as ever, rewrote the pages Pauline had destroyed to protect him.

Shortly after World War II ended, Fred abandoned his family in the United States and returned to Germany.

Finding herself a single mother, and unable and unwilling to support her children, Frieda placed them in a Jewish orphanage in New Haven, Conn. They languished there more than a decade, during which Fred committed suicide.

Robert Scott was always interested in tracking down his grandparents, although he knew nothing about them. He got his opportunity in the early 1960s when, as a U.S. Navy sailor, he was posted to what was then West Germany.

After a nearly futile search, he found his long-lost grandparents. There were misconceptions on both sides. He feared that they might have been Nazis, not realizing that they were ardent opponents of Hitler.

For their part, the Kellners had never been informed that Fred had married and sired three children.

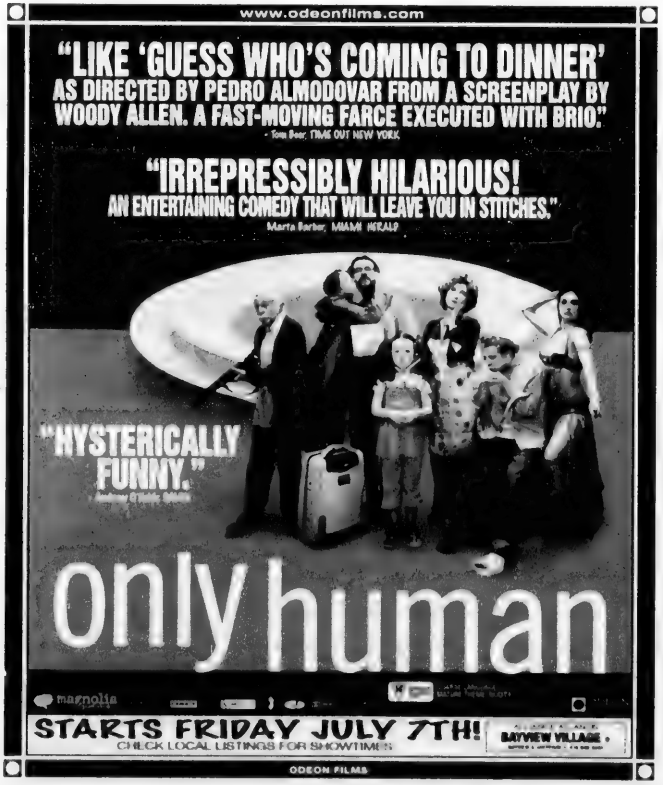
Having told Robert Scott about his anti-Nazi views, Kellner presented him with his 10 diaries.

Robert Scott went back to school, learned German and translated the diaries into English.

The diaries have been displayed in a museum in Germany and at the George Bush Library in Houston.

Within the next year or two, they will be published by a university press in Germany. But after almost 40 years, Robert Scott is still looking for an American publisher.

The diaries may or may not be published in the United States, but for now, they are the subject of an unusual and interesting Canadian film.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# Film on post-9/11 anti-Semitism uneven

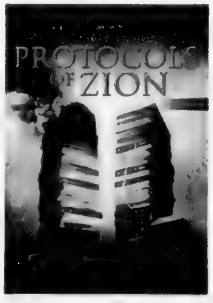
By JOSEPH SERGE
*Arts Editor*

On the weekend of June 24, some 1,200 people gathered in Los Angeles for a conference on the conspiracy theories behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

That so many Americans can believe that the U.S. government, or maybe the Mossad, was behind the terror attacks in Washington and New York City seems far-fetched.

Or does it?

Thinkfilm is releasing Marc Levin's film *Protocols of Zion* on DVD on July 11. The documentary examines the rise of anti-Semitism around the world since the 9/11 attacks.




It begins with the claim, held by some Americans and distributed widely on the Internet, that 4,000 Jews who normally worked at the World Trade Centre stayed home on the day of the attacks, after being warned by the Mossad.

This, of course, is nonsense. But Levin was so surprised to hear people take this seriously that he set out to make a documentary on anti-Semitism and how a century-old claim made in the Russian racist tract *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* – that Jews are plotting to take over the world – still exists today.

**Continued on page 31**

# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## CANADIAN FILM ARTISTS ATTEND JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL

A delegation of eight award-winning Canadian film directors, actors and producers is in Israel this week for the Jerusalem Film Festival, an international cinematic celebration organized by Israel's Foreign Affairs and Tourism ministries, running July 6 to 15.

**Kim Cattrall**, **Marie Josée Croze**, **Atom Egoyan**, **Simcha Jacobovici**, **Arsinée Khanjian**, **Robert Lantos**, **Denise Robert** and **Patricia Rozema** have come to Israel to share their artistry and showcase their films. All are guests of the festival and represent an enormous breadth of talent, interests, backgrounds and creative visions.

Besides participating in the festival, the film artists will tour Israel, a first for some of them. "We are confident that members of the Canadian delegation will witness that life as usual goes on in Israel, that Israel is a modern world-class destination, " said Israeli Consul General **Yaacov Brosh**.

The group is also scheduled to participate in two press conferences, one for the Israeli media and a second for the foreign press. Their hosts and sponsors include the Consulate General of Israel (Toronto), Israel's Foreign Affairs and Tourism ministries, the Canada-Israel Committee and El Al Airlines.

* * *

**Names in the News: Edwin and Anne Mirvish**, the famous bargain-house and theatre impresario and his sculptor wife, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a private reception in the lobby of the Princess of Wales Theatre last week.

The couple was married in Hamilton on June 29, 1941, and embarked on a life together not knowing where the journey would take them. Along the way they have created the world's largest discount emporium, restored historic theatrical landmarks, built an award-winning modern theatre, produced countless plays and musicals, brought the world's best in theatre to Toronto, and even created a neighbourhood, Mirvish Village, solely devoted to artists. Anne also created beautiful sculpture and other works of art. They have become legends.

**Anne and Ed Mirvish on their wedding day in Hamilton, Ont. in 1941.**

Attended by family and friends, the celebration was hosted by son **David Mirvish** and family, remarks were delivered by Toronto **Mayor David Miller**, the former lieutenant-governor of Ontario **Lincoln Alexander** and provincial Minister of Tourism **Jim Bradley**. Performers **Michael Burgess**, **Andrea Garafalo**, **John McDermott** and **Louise Pitre** entertained the gathering.

* * *

**More Names in the News:** Torontonian **Edith Grosman** was in Sabinov, Slovakia, in June to accept an honour on behalf of her late husband, **Ladislav Grosman**. The occasion was the 40th anniversary of the release of the film *The Shop on Main Street* based on his novel, which won the Oscar for best foreign film in 1966. A museum bearing his name is being planned for Sabinov.

• **Seymour Mayne**, the Ottawa-area poet-professor, returned home recently from a month-long lecture tour in Argentina, where a group of his word sonnets appeared in a Spanish edition. Besides visiting various universities and institutes, Mayne was a guest of the Jewish communities of Cordoba and La Plata, and held a luncheon colloquium with the rabbinical class at the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires.

• **The Sisters of Sheynville** grace the Dundas Square main stage in the Celebrate Toronto Street Festival on July 9 . • Dora winning-actor **Lauren Brotman** plays Lady Anne in *Richard 3, Queens 4 (the deadly game)*, a new adaptation of Shakespeare's *Richard III* in the Fringe Festival. It's at the George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place, July 7 to 15. 416-966-1062

# Shocking revelations of modern anti-Semitism

**Continued from page 30**

There are some strong points in the film, including an interview with Shaun Walker, leader of the National Alliance in Virginia, a white supremacist group.

Walker calls Hitler's turgid *Mein Kampf* an eye-opening book and says the *Protocols* is a timeless piece of work. He is deluded enough to believe that media mogul Rupert Murdoch must be Jewish.

But at times, Levin's interviews fall flat. A visit to a prison doesn't amount to anything and an interview with lapsed Catholic author James Carroll about the apparent anti-Semitism in Mel Gibson's *Passion* doesn't reveal anything new.

This documentary makes some good points and its revelations of basic anti-Semitism among everyday urban Americans are shocking. But sometimes it seems like Levin is clutching at straws and using weak arguments to make his point.

The DVD features include extended interviews with Levin, Carroll and the late graphic novel author Will Eisner.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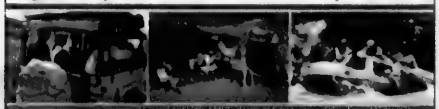

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# *Journey of the Jihadist* explains a disturbing phenomenon

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

The reverberations of the jihad movement have been felt far beyond the borders of the Middle East, in cities ranging from New York and London to Madrid and Paris.

Jihadists not only want to destabilize existing Muslim governments and replace them with theocratic states, but to rid the Middle East of what they regard as corrupting American and Western cultural and political influences.

These jihadists, who plotted and carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States and various bombings in Europe since then, are the subject of Fawaz Gerges' important and revealing book, *Journey of the Jihadist* (Raincoast Books).

Fawaz Gerges

A Lebanese Christian political scientist who lives in the United States, he explores the mind of jihadists through the prism of several of its members, the most interesting of whom is Kamal el-Said Habib, an Egyptian who played a pivotal role in the 1981 assassination of Egypt's president, Anwar Sadat.

Habib was also a key figure in the first generation of Muslim militants who, in the 1970s, planted the seeds of jihad in Muslim lands. Through Habib, Gerges opens the veiled and cloistered universe of the jihadist to a reader.

In introducing them to us, Gerges compares jihadists to mainstream Islamists, who accept the rules of the political game, embrace democratic principles and oppose violence. By sharp contrast, jihadists subscribe to revolution and totalitarianism and are not at all averse to bloodshed.

Gerges identifies Egypt as the birthplace of the modern jihadist movement and of the first mainstream Islamist organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna, a school teacher turned ideologue.

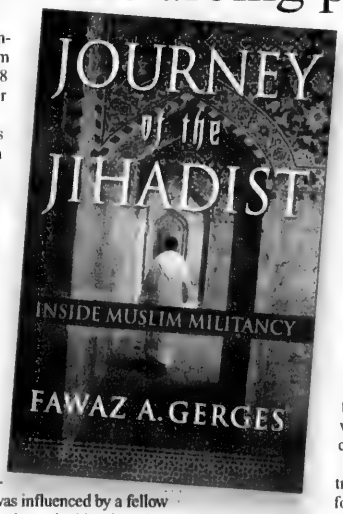
Having gained Habib's confidence, Gerges draws a portrait of a man who can serve as a prototype of the contemporary jihadist, even though he has since left the movement. Not having come from a very religious family, he discovered Islam after Egypt's ignominious defeat in the 1967 Six Day War.

Israel's victory shaped his psyche, driving him away from the fold of Arab nationalism and socialism and into the receptive arms of radical Islam. Like Islamic revolutionaries of his ilk, Habib was influenced by a fellow Egyptian, Sayyid Qutb, a poet who was charged with subversion and hanged in 1966. Qutb, having visited the United States in the late 1940s, was appalled by American materialism. But to him, Washington's support of Israel's statehood was the greater crime.

To Habib, Islam was not merely a means to an end, but an end in and of itself, while secularism was evil incarnate.

Habib's grievances turned on his perception that Sadat had reneged on a pledge to impose Islamic law on Egyptian society, but the last straw was Sadat's decision to sign a peace treaty with the arch adversary, Israel.

His position was that the struggle between Muslims and Jews "will not end except when one camp excises the other, and both sides must recognize this fact."




According to Gerges, the Arab-Israeli conflict has shaped Arab and Muslim views of the United States more than any other factor. As he writes: "On this score there exists no difference between Islamists and secularists, leftists and conservatives. All blame America for tipping the balance in favour of the Jewish state."

Having examined Habib's motivations and values, Gerges concentrates on the wider issue of jihadism.

He points out that the first truly global army of jihadist warriors was assembled to fight the Soviet army in Afghanistan from 1979 onward. When the Soviets retreated, the jihadists felt so empowered that they took up new causes. In particular, they focused on the civil war in Yugoslavia, where Muslims became targets of ethnic cleansing by hardcore Serbian nationalists.

Gerges explains that a Palestinian expatriate named Abdullah Azzam exerted a formative influence on Osama bin Laden. Azzam, a refugee born in the West Bank, believed that Afghanistan could be a launching pad for the struggle to create a caliphate in the Muslim world.

Gerges argues that the current war in Iraq has been "a powerful recruitment tool" for Al Qaeda, which took credit for the events of Sept. 11 and beyond. Bin Laden's acolyte, the Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahiri, has said that the goals of jihadists in Iraq are four-fold: to expel the Americans, to fill the vacuum with an Islamic authority, to extend the jihad to neighbouring Arab countries and to fight Israel to the death.

Gerges contends that, in the eyes of Arabs, Iraq is as much "an open wound" as Israel. And as far as jihadists are concerned, the U.S. occupation of Iraq is a carbon copy of "the Jewish occupation of Palestine."

In a book of this scope, the Islamic Republic of Iran, probably Israel's foremost foe today, cannot be ignored, and Gerges does indeed examine that bastion of Muslim fundamentalism.

He writes that the Ayatollah Khomeini, the spiritual leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, established the religious and intellectual framework for anti-American rhetoric and suicide bombings, more than a decade before Al Qaeda declared war against the United States.

Apart from its close relationship with Israel, the United States was condemned in jihadist circles for at least two reasons. Washington's "unholy" alliance with corrupt Arab rulers led to Islamic nations' loss of political, economic and military independence, while America's global dominance threatened the future of the jihadist movement.

Yet, as Gerges notes, jihadists may be their own worst enemies. He claims that there are "real indicators" that Arab and Muslim public opinion has turned against Al Qaeda. "The bombings and killings of civilians in Saudi Arabia, London, Indonesia, Egypt and now Jordan have all triggered a torrent of angry responses by ordinary Arabs and Muslims across the political and religious spectrum."

Although Gerges is a careful scholar, he makes a few sloppy errors.

He claims that anti-Jewish sentiments in Muslim countries stem from Israel's creation and the displacement of "millions" of Palestinians. Anti-Semitism is found in Koranic verses, and it tormented Jews long before the emergence of modern Zionism. And as he must surely also know, "millions" of Palestinians were not displaced by Israel.

In this wrong-headed spirit, Gerges' bald assertion that "there were no Islamic pogroms" is simply untrue. Jewish communities in the Arab world were subjected to numerous attacks, though the Holocaust was a uniquely European plan.

For a scholar of his calibre, these are serious errors. Nevertheless, *Journey of the Jihadist* is a timely, thoughtful account of a disturbing phenomenon.

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CJN Profile

# Matisyahu: An Orthodox Bob Marley

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Some call him a phenomenon; others, a curiosity. *Rolling Stone* magazine described him as "the strangest thing to climb the Billboard charts this year."

One thing is certain, however: Chassidic reggae superstar Matisyahu has arrived, and in a big way.

Despite his black suit, velvet kippah and tzitzit flying in every direction as he bopped around the stage at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre last month, the audience was dancing right along with him, mouthing lyrics such as "treif wine clouds the heart."

Those singing along, however, were not Lubavitch – they were in their teens and early 20s, and were not necessarily Jewish.

Matisyahu's unique blend of Chassidic adages and reggae pop has created such a buzz that his first studio album, *Youth*, released this year, debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard album chart. Not to mention that it has sold more than one million copies.

But the ba'al tshuvah/beatboxer has no desire to be the poster boy for Orthodox Judaism. "I'm not trying to do anything except be the best singer, performer, person, Jew I can be," he told *The CJN* in an exclusive interview. "It's not about trying to be a role model or trying to be an artist. I am who I am.

"Like everyone, I'm trying to be as good as I can be at what I do. In the process, if that inspires people or makes Jewish kids feel proud to be Jewish, that's good. But that's not my sole purpose."

Although the genre of reggae pop is not the traditional avenue of Orthodox creativity, Matisyahu believes that what he creates is Jewish music.

"Whatever culture Jews are in or whatever area they were in, they adapted the music of that culture, and then they infused it with Jewish ideas and perspectives. I would say what makes music Jewish is the content of the ideas in the music… so I would say my music is Jewish," he said.

Singing about *Galus* (exile) in one song, the High Priest in the next, and wanting Mashiach now on his most popular single, *King Without a Crown*, which enjoys heavy rotation on MTV, Matisyahu is arguably contributing the only example of "Jewish" music to popular culture today. He is definitely the only Orthodox Jew who, in the past few months, has opened for the Dave Matthews Band and shared the stage with Sting.

Seeing other Orthodox Jews make it in the mainstream music world is not necessarily a goal of the 6-foot-4 star. "It is what it is. I wouldn't like to see Orthodox Jews becoming famous just because they're Orthodox," he said.

"It would be good to see people becoming famous that are substantial people and that have something to say, making a kiddush HaShem and making a good name for the Jewish people in general."

In a world where anti-Jewish sentiments are not uncommon, a positive Jewish public figure like Matisyahu may be countering negative attitudes toward Judaism.

"I think my music is creating a good vibe for a lot of people, all kinds of people who don't understand Jews or Judaism. I'm just being out there and doing something positive in the world, which Jews really have always done in Judaism," he said.

Born 27 years ago to secular Jewish parents in White Plains, New York, the artist formerly known as Matthew Miller has travelled a distinctive path since he was taken to a Grateful Dead concert while still in diapers. Growing up, he was sent to Hebrew school and despised it. Later, he dropped out of high school to follow rock band Phish across the United States on their tour and he experimented with LSD.

Next, his parents sent him to a drug treatment centre in Oregon, where he performed reggae and beatboxing locally (beatboxing is the art of creating beats, rhythms and melodies using the mouth), calling himself MC Truth.

Upon his return to New York, a chance encounter with a rabbi and some visits to the Carlebach Synagogue put him on a completely different path to spirituality. He eventually moved in with the campus rabbi at New York University, changed his name to Matisyahu, and the rest is history.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Matisyahu has been compared to reggae icon Bob Marley: both focus on Zion, Jerusalem and redemption in their music. Compare Marley's lyrics "Iron like a lion in Zion" to Matisyahu's "Fire descends from on high in the shape of a lion/ Burn the sacrifice of pride and ride on to Mount Zion."

**Reggae phenomenon Matisyahu wants to make aliyah: "I plan on moving to Israel, probably in the next year or two," he told *The CJN* in an exclusive interview.**

Matisyahu can see the connection. "I think there's a tradition in reggae music of artists drawing from the Torah for inspiration and quotations," he said. "Within reggae music today, there's a whole genre dedicated to consciousness. Not all music is like that. In the area of rock, there's no such thing as 'conscious rock.' In reggae, there's a genre: conscious reggae.

"Reggae music is spiritual music. Less is more. It's humble music, it's meditative music. Those qualities in themselves are spiritual," he said.

Particularly spiritual is Matisyahu's hit *Jerusalem* in which he sings, "3,000 years with no place to be/ And they want me to give up my milk and honey/ Don't you see, it's not about the land or the sea /Not the country but the dwelling of his majesty."

It looks as though Matisyahu himself will be dwelling in the Zion he sings so much about. "I plan on moving to Israel, probably in the next year or two," he said. "I would be based there and do travelling and touring."

The aliyah of this rebbe-rastaman would be a rare example of an international star choosing to make his home in Israel. But to Matisyahu, it makes a lot of sense.

"Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. It's obvious to me. I was just there. It's still the exile, it's still *Galus*, and there's still bad and negative things going on there, but it's all Jews," he said.

"It's kind of like a family, you know? The family might be dysfunctional but at least we're all together. Whereas when you come out into the world outside of Israel, it's just dispersed. You don't get that same sense of a family."

He smiled as he reminisced about a recent flight to Israel with his wife, Tahli, and baby, Laivy. "My wife just takes my son and just drops him off on some lady's lap, and three hours later in the flight, the lady brings him back to us. When you get on the plane to go to Israel and everyone on the plane is Jewish, it's just a different vibe completely."

Maybe living in Israel will make observant life a bit easier for the singer. "I won't be doing any concerts during the nine days [before Tisha b'Av, during which traditionally music is not performed to commemorate the destruction of the Temples]. Everyone always needs time off and time to do different things. With me, I just know which days I need off very far in advance," he said. "You can't perform every day of the year anyways."

Sometimes the pressure is on for Matisyahu to broadcast a certain message about Judaism or about life through his music.

"A lot of people tell me what they think, and I choose what I want to write about.

"I just try to represent what I know," he said.

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Coast to Coast

# Hamilton shul welcomes new rabbi

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
*Special to the CJN*

**HAMILTON** — Rabbi Dan Selsberg calls his move to Hamilton a successful "shidduch."

A friend suggested that Rabbi Selsberg, a recent graduate of the Conservative movement's Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, would be a good fit with Beth Jacob Synagogue. A meeting was arranged and it was decided that Selsberg will become the rabbi of the Conservative synagogue next month.

Beth Jacob has been without a full-time rabbi for a year, since Rabbi Mark Biller, who led the congregation for six years, moved to New Jersey. After that, Julia Andelman, a rabbinical student, served as part-time spiritual leader for the fall and winter, flying in once a month.

Since last August, a team has worked to find a new rabbi and revitalize the shul.

"There are many small synagogues looking for an infusion of energy and struggling with demographic issues. Many have a defeatist attitude about the future," Rabbi Selsberg said. "Beth Jacob had an upbeat, positive response to the demographic issue. They saw that everybody could come together to change things, to make the synagogue a vibrant centre of conservative Judaism.

"That positive attitude is what really attracted me."

Rabbi Selsberg grew up in Kenosha, Wisc., and his wife Karen grew up in New Jersey. They have two-year-old twin boys.

"People ask why I would move from California. But where I grew up was not unlike Hamilton. In addition to the weather, it also had a lot of industry and a small Jewish population," Rabbi Selsberg said.

His love of, and talent for, learning history led him to become a teacher.

"I had a talent for working with people one on one and with groups, but as my Jewish learning deepened, it became clear that instead of being a public school teacher, my skills would be better lent to the rabbinate," he said.

"I want to serve a community, to serve God and to serve Jewish people in a deeper and more profound way."

Rabbi Selsberg visited Hamilton last month and led a Friday-night and a Saturday-morning service, as well as a teaching session, a social and a question-and-answer program.

"He is bright, passionate, funny. He has a lot of integrity as a human being," Wendy Schneider, Beth Jacob's co-president, said of the rabbi. "And his wife Karen, she is just a big an asset as he is. She was a youth director at a synagogue. She can read Torah. She chanted the Haftorah when they visited. It's a good match."

The year of transition for Beth Jacob has prompted many members to become leaders in various parts of shul life. Schneider wants that to continue.

"Rabbi Selsberg is a team player. He is committed to see the synagogue revitalize itself and is committed to have us do it with him, not on his own."

Rabbi Selsberg wants Beth Jacob to be a comfortable place for people of all ages.

"I want to see kids running around and young parents chasing after those kids," he said. "There are not a lot of places the generations can mix."

He wants the synagogue to offer programs such as movie nights, yoga classes and book groups, as well as children-and-parent programs in art and music. He also hopes to have children's programming on Shabbat morning, so all members of the family can have a rewarding service.

Schneider is also looking forward to more adult education and a revitalized Hebrew school.

"Now the real work starts," she said. "We want to offer choice to families, not just in the main sanctuary. There will be programs to appeal to different people at different stages of their lives."

Rabbi Selsberg said he's excited to work with people dedicated to the principles he holds sacred.

"I will provide services that are compelling and spiritual, with content that people respond to," he said. "This is something I look forward to building on for years to come."

# JVS helps marginal youth start businesses

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

JVS Toronto's youth services division and York University's Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship York (ACE York) have teamed up to enable seven youths in the Jane-Finch community to start new businesses.

They're doing it as part of the Ontario government's Summer Company program, which is funded by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and provides training and mentoring to students starting a full-time business over the summer before returning to school in the fall.

Deborah Lewis, director of JVS Toronto's youth services division, says the students were chosen out of a group of 35 who sent in proposed business plans.

Among the businesses chosen are an ethnic-specific dance camp, a website created to sell hand-painted T-shirts, a math tutoring business, and a company that installs garage doors.

If the students are successful in completing a number of tasks, including taking part in mentoring sessions and keeping a business journal, they will be given a $1,500 bonus at the end of the season.

Lewis, a social worker, says her division, an employment centre for youth ages 15 to 30, moved to the Jane-Finch community from Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue about one year ago, "because it was an underserved area. There are youth services, but none that focused on employment. The goal of JVS is to move its services into areas in which they're needed, and they are clearly needed here."

Her centre offers a holistic approach to job seeking, she says. "We have a job developer, a counsellor to work with youth on probation or parole, and someone to teach them skills in retail and customer service."

There is a large immigrant population in the Jane-Finch area, and "although [most of them are anxious] to get jobs, they face a number of barriers. They may have no high school certificate, no computer skills, no job experience, and if they have children, they may have no one to look after them while they look for work," Lewis says.

"Many are also shy and lack the self esteem to say they need work. We have to draw it out of them. When they come here, they get a sense of fulfilment. They see that people care about them."

The centre's next endeavour is to offer babysitting services for single mothers, she says, "and we're looking into partnering with a college that offers early childhood education."

It's also looking to partner with schools in the area to help young people who have not completed high school, Lewis says.

Clients also have to learn about job maintenance, she says. "They need to learn about employers' expectations. It's one thing to get a job, but they also have to learn how to keep it.

"If youth don't have meaningful employment, they don't feel part of society. They get bored, and they could get caught up in the wrong activities."

Since her centre opened at the Jane-Finch Mall, Lewis says, about 3,000 youth have registered and received services.

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# Island Yacht Club dedicates new clubhouse

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

It was a festive afternoon as 300 members, guests, politicians and representatives of other local yacht clubs came to Mugg's Island for the official ribbon cutting of the Island Yacht Club's new clubhouse.

Father's Day, June 18, marked the second anniversary of the late-afternoon fire on Father's Day in 2004 that destroyed the club's historic clubhouse and its precious memorabilia collection.

"That fateful tragedy in 2004 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the Island Yacht Club, now celebrating its 55th year of existence," said Cynthia Amsterdam, commodore of the Island Yacht Club (IYC).

The IYC was founded in 1951 by a small group of Jewish sailing enthusiasts at a time when Jews were denied membership in other Toronto yacht clubs. As elsewhere, the social climate in Toronto of the 1950s was less than welcoming to Jews.

Amsterdam, a partner in the law firm, Heenan Blaikie, has been sailing since she was 11 years old and spent many summers teaching at the club. She has competed locally, provincially and nationally.

"It is our collective love of our island retreat, the ambience, our beautiful grounds and our deep-rooted friendships – that's what makes the IYC a summer home and a close-knit community," Amsterdam said.

"That was the core of what has kept the IYC going over these past two difficult years," she told *The CJN*.

In her remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony, standing on the steps of the new steel and glass clubhouse, she made special mention of vice-commodore Ron Kobrick, who, she said, "personally oversaw the entire planning and rebuilding of the new clubhouse, from the inception right through to the last nail being hammered into the deck."

**Commodore Cynthia Amsterdam, front in white, surrounded by the Island Yacht Club's board of directors, cuts a ribbon at the dedication ceremony of the club's new clubhouse.** [Cynthia Gasner photo]

The clubhouse's open concept blends dining, social and recreational spaces with an open area for lounging and quiet contemplation.

Several commodores from other yacht clubs spoke and presented memorabilia to the IYC to help the club start a new collection.

There was also an official flag-raising ceremony, and a miniature cannon, presented to the IYC by the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, was fired.

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from everyone here today," said Amsterdam, adding that "it is one of the high points in making our official opening such a success."

# Berlin hosts interfaith soccer tourney

*JTA*

**BERLIN** — An interfaith youth soccer tournament was held late last month in Berlin.

The June 25 event, which included Jewish, Muslim and Christian children, was staged as the World Cup was being held in Germany.

"When I see Muslim kids running around in Berlin shouting, 'Go, Germany!' and waving the flag, I think it's great that they really feel a part of this society. And that's the way we Jews feel, too – we are at home in Germany," said Berlin cantor Avitall Gerstetter, who organized the event with local Turkish, Christian and non-religious groups for the second year in a row.

The Muslim team won the tournament.

**GOLF CLASSIC:** **Pictured with Associated Hebrew Schools' golf committee co-chairs Shelly Carr, left, and Gerry Richler, right, are the winning foursome from the 12th annual Associated Golf Classic, held June 8 at The Club at Bond Head: from left Mickey Ostro, Tom Campbell and Moe Zoladek, and Joe Micell, front.**

# Religion and comics

ARTS IN FOCUS
By Oren Shefa

In 2002, ending years of speculation, Benjamin Jacob Grimm conclusively revealed to the world that he is Jewish.

The former high school football star, turned U.S. Air Force test pilot, who hails from New York City, managed to live through 40 years of religious ambiguity before finally sharing his background with the world.

Grimm's religious outing became quite the sensation. Not only did it turn out that Jews could become football stars, but apparently they were also breaking into popular culture as mainstream comic book superheroes. Better known as The Thing, Grimm is instantly recognizable as the super-strong, orange-hued, rock-plated member of the Fantastic Four.

Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby in 1961, Ben Grimm was the not-so-loosely-based creation of artist Kirby, a Jew who grew up in tough neighbourhoods around the Big Apple. Both Kirby and Lee, who is also Jewish, never saw the sense of delving into the faiths of their creations. Lee especially felt that focusing on a character's religion would limit his appeal. "I wanted the stories to be palatable for readers of every type," he said.

Nonetheless, six years after Kirby's death, writers of the FF series decided to once and for all clarify Grimm's back story. The event was akin to discovering that the Green Lantern was really a Mormon or that Wolverine practised Buddhism. Sure, there have been Jewish superheroes in the past: The Seraph, an Israeli teacher adorned in the robes of Elijah, the ring of Solomon, the hair of Samson and brandishing the staff of Moses even fought alongside Superman, but characters like that were of interest to few people. The Thing, however, was and remains a hugely popular character with millions of fans around the world.

In recent weeks, clearly brought about due to the June 28 release of the hotly anticipated blockbuster *Superman Returns*, debates surrounding the faith of the son of Krypton have heated up with a number of groups clamouring to pronounce the most beloved superhero of all time as one of their own. Superman's Judaic links have been examined since the character's inception. A recent article on ABC News online highlighted similarities between Superman's narrow escape from his home planet and subsequent deliverance to Earth in a vessel to the story of Baby Moses plucked from the Nile, who would mature into the deliverer of the Jewish people. Other ties include Superman's Kryptonian name, Kal-El, which closely resembles the Hebrew words Kol El or Voice of God. Finally, like The Thing, Superman was created by a Jewish writing duo – Jerry Seigel and Canadian Joe Schuster.

Despite these and other connections, there is very little evidence to suggest that Superman clandestinely practised Judaism or any other faith for that matter. One of the greatest appeals of the comic book genre is the knowledge that superheroes are the protectors of all innocent men, women and children of all races, beliefs and backgrounds. Their one unifying constant has been their penchant for always taking the moral high road and fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves. For most renowned superheroes, religion has never been a precursor in the decision to battle evil, and as such has never played a part in their becoming the iconic beings we've come to know and love.

In a way, the absence of religious observance among superheroes is a breath of fresh air. In today's world, where religion has created more division than solidarity, it's nice to imagine that in some dimensions, even ones as fantastical as Metropolis, there are selfless beings hovering overhead whose motives revolve solely around aiding humanity in securing a safe, harmonious and peaceful coexistence.


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1 1/2 c cooked broccoli stems, tough outer layers peeled off
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1/4 tsp ground cumin
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/2 tomato, diced
1 green onion, sliced
1 canned green chili, chopped

In a food processor, blend broccoli stems with lemon juice, cumin and garlic powder until completely smooth. Add remaining ingredients and mix well by hand, but do not blend. Chill before serving for best flavor.

Yield: 2 cups.

*Recipe from: Jewish Food Recipe Archives*

**BLESSINGS FOR SDEROT RESIDENTS**

**Rabbi Moishe Taub confers a blessing upon a father and daughter in the main synagogue of Sderot. The southern Negev town has been under constant rocket fire from Palestinians in Gaza ever since Israel left the Gaza Strip last August.**

**[RNS/Reuters photo]**

# Ve'ahavta: 10 years old!

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

How time flies. Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee is in its 10th year. Mazel tov.

It seems like only yesterday that we were planning our first medical mission to the rainforests of Guyana, from the basement of my place at Queen and Broadview. It feels like a blip of time has passed since Ve'ahavta joined a convoy of school buses going to El Salvador, loaded with humanitarian and relief items for five different villages. Now that was a mission! We not only delivered the items, but we left the buses there as well.

So a hearty mazel tov to all of us – the founders, volunteers, donors and clients, for bringing a unique gift to Canada's Jewish community, and ensuring a commitment to tikkun olam.

Ten years after Ve'ahavta's launch, it's truly amazing to look back at our programs and the way in which we have grown from a small non-profit to a full-blown movement.

Since Ve'ahavta was established in 1997, the organization has sent more than a dozen medical teams to Guyana, where our volunteers set up makeshift clinics in and around the rainforests. Some of our successes, in this the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, includes the eradication of YAWS, a chronic infection that tends to strike children, affecting the skin and later the bones, as well as a potentially fatal vitamin A deficiency among children.

In Guyana, our team regularly holds Shabbat dinners. Many of Toronto's private Jewish schools, shuls and organizations have helped us secure resources for these missions, participating through tzedakah programs. Yom Huledet Samayach. Happy Birthday Ve'ahavta!

Ve'ahavta has sent volunteers to Zimbabwe to work at the Howard Hospital, a Salvation Army Hospital. Through a partnership with Sunnybrook Hospital, we have set up a TB as well as an HIV/AIDS clinic to help pregnant women with HIV/AIDS.

Ve'ahavta has published a number of academic studies. One of them, from research we conducted in Zimbabwe, shows that for $5 (Cdn) we could decrease transmission of HIV/AIDS from pregnant mother to child more than 50 per cent of the time. Ve'ahavta was also instrumental in bringing conjoined twins from Zimbabwe to Canada to undergo successful surgery separating the two at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Ve'ahavta's homeless program, launched through seed money provided by such philanthropists as Edward Bronfman and Milt Harris (rest in peace), has helped countless people living on or near the street. The department's agenda includes a powerful relationship with the Native Men's Residence (Na Me Res); an annual creative writing contest for the homeless; Passover seders for those "who are hungry"; and the opportunity for bar/bat mitzvah students and others to lend a hand on our homeless van.

Since our inception, Ve'ahavta has responded to crises in Sudan, Honduras, El Salvador, Cuba and Sri Lanka, often together with our American and Israeli counterparts. We have worked with Frontier College, a literacy organization, and University of Toronto's literacy program to assist Somalia children living in Regent Park through a homework program. Ve'ahavta has developed outstanding leadership – excellent Jewish community professionals – and worked with more than 1,000 volunteers.

Corporations and individuals have played a fundamental role in financing our programs. They include Apotex; Novopharm, Pharmascience, and Gamma-Dynacare, companies that have provided us with hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

On Dec. 31, Ve'ahavta will be 10. Throughout the year, we will mark this milestone with events and communications celebrating our existence and our having done our best to encourage all Jews to live up to our commitment of "never again" – our promise that Jews would not stand by when others were suffering the way we did during the Holocaust.

Happy Birthday Ve'ahavta! Thank you Canadian Jewish community for your support and joining us in our infancy and now as we approach our adolescence. We have done well. Yasher koach!

*avrum@veahavta.org SUDAN?*

# A Community of Caring

## Join us for events in support of Mount Sinai Hospital

### Henry's Tournament *fore* Health,

benefiting the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre
August 3, 2006 – Angus Glen Golf Club, Markham

Lace up your shoes, practice your swing and come out and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Henry's Tournament *fore* Health in support of the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. To date, this successful tournament has raised more than $1.2 million for research and programs at the Breast Centre, which treats more than 22,000 patients annually. Help us swing for our $1.5 million mark! Sign up today!

### Works of Heart

September 26, 2006 – The Royal Ontario Museum

Join us for an international auction of exquisite and rare works from well-known artists including Tony Scherman, Charles Pachter and Group of Seven member Franz Johnston. Works of Heart, chaired by Honourary Chair Yossi Sheffi, is a way for big hearts like yours to support the small hearts of our most fragile patients. Funds raised will support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mount Sinai Hospital and Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Centre.

### Behind Closed Doors: An Entrée to Private Collections

October 22, 2006 – Toronto

*Behind Closed Doors*

Have you ever wanted to view some of Toronto's most exquisite and exclusive private art collections? Usually they are hidden behind closed doors, but for this one day only, you can have a personal pass to see some of the city's most revered collections in magnificent homes and affluent businesses. Funds raised will support programs and initiatives at Mount Sinai's Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre.

### Mount Sinai Classic Golf Tournament, presented by Equitable Trust

The 12th Annual Mount Sinai Classic Golf on June 22 celebrated a record-breaking year, raising more than $250,000 in support of the Leadership Fund for Excellence in Research.

Congratulations to co-chairs Brian Cohen and Steve Miller and their entire committee for another tremendously successful event.

### Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary Gala 2006

Congratulations to the Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary which raised an unprecedented $1.5 million at its annual gala on May 1st featuring Juno award-winning singer Michael Bublé, in support of the Women's and Infants' Health Program at Mount Sinai.

A special congratulations to gala chair Karen Goldlist and Auxiliary President Barbara Hermick and their committee for outstanding work and commitment to this great cause.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

For more information on any of these events, please contact the Events Team at the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation at 416-586-8203

Check out the latest updates on our events on our website at www.mtsinai.on.ca/foundation/events

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## This Week

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# Olmert stands firm on Gaza

By DAN BARON
*JTA*

**JERUSALEM** — Two weeks into the biggest crisis he has faced as Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert appears determined to demonstrate that Israel is willing to stay in the Gaza Strip for now.

With little public progress in efforts to recover an Israeli soldier abducted by Palestinian gunmen on June 25, and troops and tanks waging a bloody sweep for Gaza rocket crews, Olmert on Sunday vowed more of the same.

"This is a war that cannot be put on a timetable," he told cabinet ministers. "We will press this campaign with calm and patience, mustering all the right means and preserving the proper discretion."

In tactical terms, the Gaza Strip campaign has scored points for Olmert.

Some 50 Palestinians, mostly combatants, have died, compared to one Israeli soldier likely killed accidentally by his comrades in northern Gaza. Despite censure from the European Union over "disproportionate force" by Israel, global outcry has been largely muted.

And while Cpl. Gilad Shalit remains captive somewhere in Gaza, the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority government, which at first distanced itself from his kidnapping, has as the military pressure mounts become more outspoken on the need to keep him alive and embrace diplomacy.

After days of intense Israeli military pressure, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh proposed a truce on Saturday.

"To solve this crisis, we must return to the starting point, to calm, including an end to military actions on both sides," he said.

Olmert rejected the overture, just as last week he rejected a demand by Shalit's captors that hundreds of Palestinians jailed in Israel be freed.

"We will not negotiate with terrorists. We will not negotiate with Hamas. To do so would encourage more abductions," Olmert said.

But one of Olmert's closest allies

**Continued on page 27**

**Ehud Olmert at Sunday's cabinet meeting in Jerusalem.** *[Israel photo]*

# *From biblical times to Land of the Bible*

**First of a series**

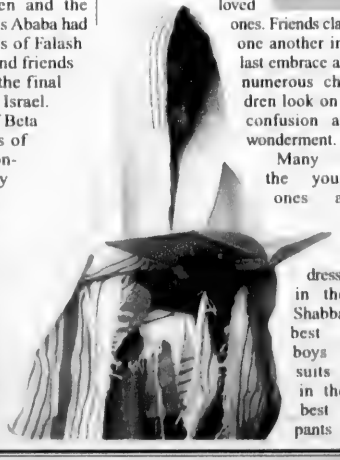
By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** — Well after night had fallen and the bustling streets of Addis Ababa had become still, hundreds of Falash Mora, their relatives and friends gather to prepare for the final leg of their journey to Israel.

The descendants of Beta Israel, the black Jews of Ethiopia, who had converted to Christianity over the past 100 years, say their final tearful farewells before leaving for Israel and reunification with their Jewish families.

Buses line up to ferry them to the city's international airport and trucks are piled high with their belongings suitcases mostly, and odd-looking oval contraptions used to make Ethiopians' unique bread-like staple, *injera*.

Some women wail as they say goodbye to loved ones. Friends clasp one another in a last embrace and numerous children look on in confusion and wonderment.



Many of the young ones are dressed in their Shabbat best boys in suits or in their best pants and shirts, girls wearing "princess" dresses suitable to the occasion.

On this night in late June, more than 200 Falash Mora board two flights to Israel. One is a regular flight organized by the government of Israel, the second a special charter hired by Toronto entrepreneur Walter Arbib, with financial support from businessmen Alex Shnaider, Nathan Jacobson and Arbib's Serbian associate Mike Trojanovic.

For Arbib, chartering the aircraft and accompanying the olim to Israel is half the reason he has come to Ethiopia.

Arbib, president and co-owner of SkyLink Aviation, with American partner Counterpart International, had earlier facilitated the shipment of badly needed AIDS pharmaceuticals to the Mother Teresa Orphanage in Addis Ababa, home to some 400 orphans afflicted with the HIV virus.

For both acts of charity, Arbib has deflected the credit to the Jewish communities where he has felt most at home — Toronto, where he lives, and Italy, which took him in when he and his family were forced to leave their native Libya after the Six Day War in June 1967.

At the airport, Arbib watches as dozens of Falash Mora file past him through the extensive security checks.

**Continued on page 29**

**Pinchas**
**Candlelighting: 8:40**
**Havdallah: 9:45**
*Greater Toronto Area*

**Jewish astronaut to memorialize Ilan Ramon — please see page 28**

# The News in Brief

## CANADA

### Israeli Shot at Hotel

**TORONTO** — An Israeli Canadian man who was shot July 2 at a Toronto hotel in what police said was a botched drug deal was once jailed for using haredi Jews to smuggle ecstasy into the United States from the Netherlands. Sean Erez, 36, survived and was charged with drug possession and trafficking after police found four kilograms of cocaine hidden in an ice dispenser. Also charged were Erez's Israeli girlfriend Nataly Abitan, 27, of Montreal, and Evgene Starchik, 22, of B.C. In 2001, Erez, a Quebecer, was given 15 years in jail in New York in the ecstasy case. He later applied to serve his time in Canada, where he was paroled in 2005.

### Hate Case in Court

**OTTAWA** — A London, Ont., skinhead was in Federal Court last week on charges that he posted racist Internet messages despite a court order not to do so. Tomasz Winnicki faces up to a year in jail for allegations by the Canadian Human Rights Commission that he posted 30 hate screeds on U.S. neo-Nazi sites between October and April, claiming the Holocaust was a hoax and that non-whites are criminally minded and intellectually inferior, Sun Media reported. He also faces jail time for previous alleged postings. In 2003, Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which heard the case last August. In October, Winnicki was ordered not to post more messages until the tribunal returned a decision.

### Hearing For Accused

**TORONTO** — The man charged with second-degree murder in the killing of Alicia Ross was in a Newmarket, Ont., court last week for a preliminary hearing that was subject to a publication ban on evidence. Daniel Sylvester, 31, lived next door to Ross, 25, in Markham, a Toronto suburb. He turned himself in to police five weeks after she vanished last Aug. 17. Her remains were found north of Toronto.

### Terrorist Says He's Too Sick To Leave Canada

**HAMILTON** — A Brantford, Ont., Palestinian man who was part of a 1968 hijacking of an Israeli airliner in Athens that left one Israeli dead has diabetes, hepatitis and heart problems that would worsen if he was deported to Lebanon, his lawyer said in his latest appeal to avoid removal.

Ottawa has been trying to deport Mahmoud Mohammad Issa Mohammad, a former member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who turns 64 this month, since 1988 for lying about his past in order to get into Canada.

In 1970, a Greek court sentenced him to 17 years for manslaughter and other offences, but he was granted a pardon and released four months later after another Palestinian terror squad hijacked a Greek airliner and demanded his release. He turned up in Canada in 1987, Canadian Press reported.

Mohammad lost his initial case, and a 2003 pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA) concluded he could be safely deported to Lebanon. In 2004, his lawyer, Barbara Jackman, appealed to the Federal Court of Canada, which ordered a new PRRA, but no decision on it has been made yet. His latest appeal could drag out his case for years, CP reported.

Jackman said last week that if Mohammad is deported to Lebanon, he would face harsh conditions in a refugee camp because he's a stateless Palestinian.

## WORLD

### Records Vault To Open

**ROME** — The Vatican will open archives covering the period 1922-1939, it said last week. The period covers the papacy of Pope Pius XI, and ends just before the ascendance of Pope Pius XII, who critics say turned a blind eye to Nazi treatment of Jews. But some papers could shed light on the activities of Pius XII when he was papal envoy to Germany and then the Vatican's secretary of state. Among other actions, he negotiated a treaty with Germany at the onset of Nazi rule and was believed to favour accommodation with the Nazis. The archives will be limited to scholars.

### Rabbis Ban Smoking

**NEW YORK** — A committee of a centrist Orthodox rabbinical group said Jewish law is opposed to smoking. The halachah committee of the Rabbinical Council of America said the ruling is based on the value Judaism puts on health and scientific findings on the dangers of tobacco. It urges Jews to avoid or quit smoking.

### Not Guilty Plea

**FRESNO, Calif.** — A Fresno high school teacher accused of beating a Jewish mother in 2005 has pleaded not guilty. Donna Jean Hubbard of Coarsegold, Calif., entered her plea to the hate crime charge last week. She allegedly pulled the hair of a mother of one of her students, kicked her and said she wished she burned in the Holocaust. Police closed the case after concluding they couldn't establish who started the fight, but reopened it this year after discovering Hubbard and her husband hosted a white supremacist rally.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# CJPAC backs two anti-terrorism bills

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

If Josh Cooper has his way, the families of Canadian victims of terrorism may one day be able to sue foreign states that sponsor or harbour terrorists.

Josh Cooper

Cooper, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), has come out in support of pending legislation in Parliament designed to help Canadians fight terrorism.

If passed, Bills C-346 and S-218, sponsored respectively by B.C. Conservative MP Nina Grewal and Senator David Tkachuk, would enable Canadians to take legal action against the backers of terrorism.

"Today, Canadians have no recourse against sponsors of terrorism in Canadian courts," said Cooper, whose organization was launched last November, on the eve of the federal election.

"These bills enable the families of Canadian terror victims to launch civil suits against foreign countries and local sponsors of terrorism responsible for the death or injury of loved ones."

Cooper, who ran unsuccessfully as a Conservative party candidate in Thornhill in the 2004 federal election, said the bills could deter states and organizations from sponsoring terrorism and provide compensation to the victim's family.

He added that the private members' bills, apart from some minor technical differences, are essentially identical.

As for when they may become law, he said, "It can be a long road."

In the meantime, Cooper is pleased that at least two MPs from all major parties – Conservatives, Liberals, NDP and Bloc Quebecois – have rallied behind C-346, which was introduced last month.

"MPs realize that this is not a partisan issue," he said. "It's a Canadian issue."

Cooper urged Jewish Canadians to support the bills by lobbying their MPs and Minister of Public Safety Stockwell Day.

Meanwhile, they can visit CJPAC's website (www.cjpac.ca) to express support.

"In the end, if people don't speak out, the bills will likely not pass," he warned.

Cooper said that he and a friend, Danny Eisen, initiated the campaign to enact the bills.

"We have friends who lost a loved one to terrorism, and victims needed a voice," he explained.

In this spirit, Cooper and Eisen were instrumental in establishing the Canadian Coalition Against Terrorism (C-CAT) last year and organizing a community-wide event last month in which terrorism and radical Islam were condemned.

Cooper explained that CJPAC's mission is to advance and protect the interests of Canada's Jewish community and strengthen Canada's relationship with Israel by participating directly in the political process.

Asked whether CJPAC is not duplicating the work of either Canadian Jewish Congress or the Canada-Israel Committee, he said: "Although there are several community organizations that meet with government on the community's issues, they are funded by charitable dollars.

"So, while they can meet with elected officials to discuss their charitable purposes, these organizations cannot participate in elections or the political system on a partisan level. They simply cannot engage in partisan politics."

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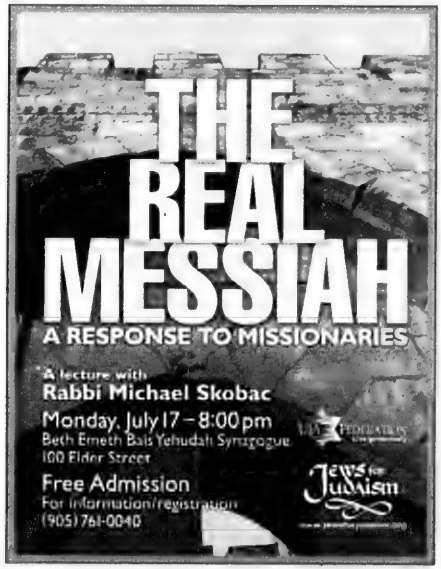


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# When murderers tell the truth

*From the editor's desk*

As these words are being written, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority has deepened into what appears now to be an unbridgeable chasm.

In their determination to bring more death into Israel's heartland, the Hamas-inspired Palestinians have launched their rockets into Ashkelon. This follows upon the unceasing barrage of more than 1,000 rockets that have been fired against the people of Sderot and nearby kibbutzim in the Negev Desert since Israel left the Gaza Strip last August, almost one year ago.

The rockets are the centrepiece of a campaign of war against Israel's people that includes unceasing efforts to send suicide bombers into Israeli cities and, last month, the killing of two IDF soldiers and the kidnapping of Cpl. Gilad Shalit near Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

Even the Israelis who were most hopeful that the disengagement from Gaza might lead to a calmer coexistence between the two contending nations have become disillusioned. They too, have now lost their capacity for disbelief at the consistently malevolent decisions of the Palestinian people and their leaders.

Like noxious fumes that emanate from a failed chemistry experiment and suffocate the innocent, the disappointment felt by Israelis, not just the previously hopeful ones, has expanded to fill all the beakers in all the laboratories of the many missed opportunities for peaceful coexistence.

But now, disillusion, disbelief and disappointment commingle with anger and rage. (See the Perspectives essay by Larry Derfner in this issue.)

Rather than attempt to build a society in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Authority has used it as a staging ground for its war against Israel. Many Israelis were opposed to the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza for this very reason, citing the duplicity and unreliability of the Palestinian leadership. The grand strategists of Hamas have made prophets out of the disengagement opponents.

The attack against the military position near Kibbutz Kerem Shalom was an unprovoked, vicious violation of the sovereignty of another country. In former times, in other parts of the world, between other contending nationalities, such an attack, sanctioned and encouraged by the governing authority of one of the two sides, would have likely been a *casus belli* (an act that provokes war) in its own right.

The distressingly sad, indisputable fact about Israel's conflict with the Palestinians remains that the Palestinian leaders are singularly focused on targeting Jewish men, women and children for death. That is the overriding, overarching national purpose of the Hamas government and their ubiquitous supporters. That the toll of death and destruction in Israel from the rain of Palestinian rockets has not been greater owes more to the competence of the attackers than to their intention and overall aim.

Lest anyone harbour any illusions about Hamas' overall aim, Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, Hamas' political second-in-command, after Khaled Meshal, recently elaborated his movement's purpose to the German magazine *Der Spiegel*. He spoke with its correspondent Gabriella Keller in Damascus on June 30, five days after the attack against Kerem Shalom.

***Der Spiegel*:** Doesn't that [the signing of a protocol with Fatah approving the so-called Prisoners' Document] mean that Hamas inevitably accepts the Israeli state in the rest of that area?

**Abu Marzook:** The document does not say that at all. It is purely about the future of our people and about how a government uniting all Palestinian factions can work on building their independent state.

***Der Spiegel:*** And does Hamas also believe that an Israeli state can exist alongside a Palestinian state?

**Abu Marzook:** Hamas has always said clearly: we will never accept the occupation, because it is not legal, not correct and not just… we insisted on including a paragraph that says that we will never recognize the legitimacy of the occupation…

***Der Spiegel:*** Looking at the consequences [of Shalit's abduction], one has to recognize that violence against Israel will never really help the Palestinian people.

**Abu Marzook:** Of course such actions help. Because every Israeli now knows that there will always be a reaction to violence. If Palestinians are killed, Israelis will be killed. That should be clear to all Israelis.

***Der Spiegel*:** It is hard to imagine that approach would ever bring an end to reciprocal violence.

**Abu Marzook:** No matter what, the violence will not stop. We are on the weaker side and we do whatever we can. The Palestinians have no other choice.

Marzook's proud, boastful declarations are the window through which all of us can see the details of Hamas' national project: unending violence against Israel.

And like every other country on earth would do, Israel must and will defend itself against "the violence [that] will not stop." When murderers tell the truth we should listen.

*— MBD*

## Omission

The article "Rabbi, high schoolers press MPs on Darfur" (*CJN*, July 6) neglected to mention that a delegation of students, led by Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Montreal, also met with Conservative MP James Lunney and with Bloc Québécois MP Francine Lalonde, in addition to the MPs mentioned. Lalonde was also pictured in an accompanying photograph, standing to the left of Liberal MP Keith Martin. *The CJN* regrets the omissions.

SeeJN

**PLEADING FOR SHALIT'S RELEASE: Israel's Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yona Metzger holds a photograph of abducted Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, as chairman of the Caucasian Moslems Board Haji Allahshukur Pashazadeh looks on during the World Summit of Religious Leaders in Moscow last week.**

**(REUTERS/RNS photo)**

# Conservative movement faces 'daunting challenges'

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Even if the Conservative movement approves the rabbinic ordination of gays and lesbians and opens the door to same-sex commitment ceremonies later this year, it will not necessarily affect shuls in Canada, says a Canadian lay leader of the denomination.

"My feeling is that there's a great deal of strength in various approaches, as long as there's a central theme of observance and halachah," said Paul Kochberg, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Canadian region, which encompasses Ontario and extends to the East Coast.

Paul Kochberg

With the possibility that several tshuvot (responsa) on the gay/lesbian issue will be accepted in a December vote by the movement's committee on Jewish law and standards, the body that sets halachic policy for the Rabbinical Assembly and the Conservative movement, Kochberg said that "our more traditional, non-egalitarian synagogues may choose to follow a tshuvah that says they will not accept clergy that are openly gay or lesbian, and will carry on as they have carried on before."

However, he added, some congregational leaders may ask themselves how they can continue to belong to a movement that is headed in a more liberal direction.

"It's not a simple issue," Kochberg said.

In an interview last month with *The CJN*, Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, who retired June 30 as chancellor of the movement's flagship Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, characterized the potential ordination of gays and lesbians as a loosening of the "halachic moorings" of Conservative Judaism.

Speaking at his shul last December, Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Adath Israel Congregation proposed the establishment of a Canadian "sovereignty association" within the Conservative movement that would agree to disagree with the American movement.

Rabbi Saltzman's suggestion came on the heels of the Conservative biennial convention in Boston, where Rabbi Menachem Creditor of Sharon, Mass., challenged the philosophy of halachic pluralism – an approach affirmed by movement leaders – when he said that it's immoral to allow non-egalitarian synagogues to be part of the Conservative movement.

Kochberg said there is a concern about where more traditional, non-egalitarian synagogues will find their rabbis if gays and lesbians are accepted for ordination.

Even now, many rabbinical students at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) "will not interview, let alone serve, in congregations that will not consider all graduates on an equal footing," said Rabbi Wayne Allen, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario region. The result is that male rabbis, as well as female rabbis, may not consider working for a non-egalitarian congregation.

"We don't see a lot of [local synagogues] having a need for new rabbis in the very near future, but people are looking down the line," said Kochberg.

The situation is no different in non-egalitarian Conservative congregations in places such as New York, Philadelphia and New Jersey, he added.

In the United States, Kochberg said, there is a great fear that the gay/lesbian issue will split the movement, regardless of the outcome later this year. "There are going to be unhappy people on both sides of this decision."

Kochberg noted that there has been a slow evolution in Conservative synagogues in Toronto, where "more and more women are taking part in some aspect of the service."

Of the eight affiliated congregations in the GTA, only two are fully egalitarian. The rest are non-egalitarian or partially egalitarian.

Kochberg laments the fact that Conservative Judaism is often identified by what it isn't: not Orthodox, not Reform, but somewhere in the middle.

He prefers to focus on what it is. "No other movement or stream of Judaism addresses to my satisfaction the dichotomies that sometimes arise between social justice and strict interpretation of Torah," he said. On a personal level, he finds Conservative Judaism "positive" and "uplifting."

Other issues in the movement include the retirement of Rabbi Schorsch after 20 years as JTS chancellor, a position sometimes referred to as titular head of the Conservative movement. He is being replaced by Arnold Eisen of Stanford University, only the second non-rabbi to head the JTS in its 120-year history. Eisen has gone on record as being in favour of gay/lesbian ordination, but he defers to the rabbis for an actual decision.

Also, American Jewish demographics have changed: Reform Judaism is now the largest denomination in the United States – not Conservative Judaism, as was previously the case – and intermarriage has grown.

At least in Toronto, however, Conservative Judaism is the largest denomination, at 37 per cent of local Jews, said Rabbi Allen, citing a recent UJA Federation of Greater Toronto survey. "There are a number of congregations that are very strong here. Membership is stable if not growing… I think there is a sense of strength and optimism.

"At the same time," he said, "there is the realization that our congregations are aging, and that the cost of synagogue affiliation in full-service organizations has become more and more of a challenge for young people.

**Continued on page 6**


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# Kidney donor's decision changes friend's life

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

Peter Seligman believes there are three fundamental things a person can give during their life – time, talent and treasure.

Looking at his own life, it is clear he is a man of his word.

Seligman put his philosophy into practice a year and a half ago when he donated one of his kidneys to his close friend Barbara Steinberg.

Saving her from the imminent need for dialysis, Seligman's kidney has profoundly changed the course of Steinberg's health.

"Today, things are completely normal," she says.

"That's remarkable in and of itself."

What's even more remarkable is Seligman's view of the donation.

"To me, I truly believe that I got the gift," says Seligman, 49.

**Peter Seligman and Barbara Steinberg**
**[Marc Crabtree photo]**

"How often do you get the opportunity to give like that?"

In recognition of the charitable act, the friends are this year's co-honorees at the Kidney Foundation of Canada's second annual Kazman Kidney Classic Golf Tournament.

While both are modest about the honour, Seligman says he looks forward not to hitting drives, but rather, driving the drink cart.

"I'm not a golfer, but by being in the refreshment cart, I get to shmooze with everybody," says Seligman, the owner of Seligman and Associates, an estate and insurance planning company in Toronto.

"That's really nice because it will give a sense of camaraderie."

Steinberg, 53, initially had her kidney operated on at the age of six, but kidney disease did not significantly present itself until the 1990s.

By 2005, doctors stressed the need for a transplant.

When Seligman learned about the transplant situation, he instinctively offered to help.

"I was very proactive about being a donor and I would have been very disappointed had I not had the opportunity," says the father of three, who is no stranger to important causes, ranging from fundraising for Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), to donating blood a staggering 140 times.

Seligman's proactive approach proved to be quite fateful.

Steinberg was not in a rush to have the transplant and would have likely waited longer had Seligman not persisted. But waiting would have had dire consequences, as the condition of Steinberg's kidney plummeted severely the day before surgery.

"Had surgery been delayed or had I not had a donor, [dialysis] would have the next step," says the mother of three.

"That's why I'm so lucky because most people who have kidney disease are on dialysis for years. Their lives are turned upside down by it."

It is estimated that two million Canadians either have kidney disease or are at risk of it.

The disease is on the rise, though it is treatable.

In less than three hours from the time Seligman went into surgery, his kidney was already in Steinberg.

She was out of the hospital six days later and back at work as a psychotherapist within a month.

"Although I am so deeply appreciative for the way things have worked out for me… I am also aware of so many people with kidney disease in our own community whose stories are filled with so much pain, sadness and isolation," Steinberg says.

"It is my hope that Peter's unparalleled act of giving will inspire others to give in whatever ways they can."

The golf tournament takes place on Aug. 17 at Caledon Woods Golf Club in Bolton, Ont.

For more information, visit www.kidney.ca or call 416-445-0373.

# Kochberg addresses intermarriage issue

**Continued from page 5**

"There are daunting challenges, and I'm only scratching the surface."

Kochberg said intermarriage "has not surfaced as quite as large an issue" as in the United States. "But certainly it is an issue, and I think more and more Canadian congregations are going to be addressing it."

To the best of his knowledge, Toronto's Beth Tikvah Congregation is the only Conservative synagogue in Canada that has a formal program for intermarried couples and their families.

Kochberg noted that contrary to what many people perceive, Canadian Conservative congregations are "not monolithically non-egalitarian." He corrected himself when he started to use the word "traditional," noting that egalitarians also consider themselves to be traditional.

"Eastern Canada has a whole range of synagogues from fully egalitarian to fully non-egalitarian," he said. "That's what pluralism [within the Conservative movement] is all about, and it's working really well in this region."

As to what will happen in the future, Kochberg said he doesn't know. "I can't project what the reaction will be [to the December vote], but I'm hoping it will be calm and people will look at the decision, whatever it is, with intelligence and serenity, and evaluate how it's going to impact on them personally and on their own communities."

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# A test for the West too

More than two weeks after Israel Defence Forces Cpl. Gilad Shalit was kidnapped from Kerem Shalom in the Negev and two of his colleagues were killed, his murderous abductors – and their supporters – still preferred to bring about large-scale military confrontation with Israel rather than return the soldier to his family.

As of this writing, some 51 Palestinians have been killed and 180 injured in fighting with the IDF. But the kidnappers and the Hamas government that encourages them are unmoved by the spilling of blood and the waste of human life. Indeed, it is the moving sidewalk of their credo, the long, blood-stained road of their journey to freedom and independence.

And according to the dismaying results of a poll conducted on July 7 and 8 by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center (JMCC) among Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, they do not travel alone.

Fully 77 per cent of those questioned supported the kidnapping of Shalit, and about 67 per cent said they would support even more kidnappings. Some 69 per cent believe Shalit should be released only in an exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

If the results of the JMCC poll suggest that the violent, anti-Israel Hamas ideology has taken root in Palestinian society, the outlook is bleak indeed for peaceful, co-operative coexistence in this generation between Israelis and Palestinians. For the Hamas ideology is in lock step with radical, fundamentalist Islam as practised by Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda and the rulers of Iran.

Indeed, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vociferously joined the fray last Friday in an anti-Israel rally in Tehran when he threatened that Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip could set off an "explosion" in the Islamic world.

Without subtlety and without any shame, he threatened the West as well as Israel. "They [Israel's western supporters] should not let things reach a point where an explosion occurs in the Islamic world," Ahmadinejad said. "If an explosion occurs, then it won't be limited to geographical boundaries. It will also burn all those who created [Israel] over the past 60 years."

And of course, the Iranian Republic's ruler used the occasion to once again make plain his intentions for the Jewish state: "This is a fake regime... it won't be able to survive. I think the only way [forward] is that those who created it [the West], take it away themselves."

It is thus imperative that Israel show the firmest resolve in dealing with Hamas. Much like the psychological and strategic advantage the Iranian Ayatollahs won over U.S. president Jimmy Carter when they perceived American weakness in the face of the Iranian hostage taking some 27 years ago, Hamas and its fellow travellers will pounce upon any apparent or perceived lack of Israeli decisiveness. But it is not Israel alone being tested. As the Iranian president told the world last week, it is the entire democratic West.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Yitzhak (Antek) Zuckerman, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, was buried at his home, Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot, which he helped co-found after the war in an area north of Haifa. He died June 17, 1981, at age 66. Israel's president, Yitzhak Navon, and other public figures joined former anti-Nazi fighters at his funeral.

## Youth with a project

The United Nations has called it "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world." The United States has officially declared it genocide. An estimated 400,000 people have been killed, 2.5 million have been displaced, and countless more victims have been raped and mutilated. Recent peace deals have not succeeded in stopping the violence.

Everyone with a conscience feels that something must be done about the situation in Darfur. Unfortunately, for many people, guilt rarely turns into action. There are people, however, who are not satisfied with merely shaking their heads at the tragedy in Darfur. Interestingly, a strong voice is being heard from the youth population. These future global citizens are not content to idly sit by.

In Toronto, the youth call to action is being headed by Project Equity, an organization founded by and made up of public and private school students of various denominations. Co-director Assaf Weisz says, "There is an incredibly untapped abundance of socially and politically transformative energy within youth. Our challenge to ourselves and to everyone is to get those wheels of political will rolling."

On April 30, Project Equity organized a rally in Toronto to coincide with rallies throughout North America – to show their support for the victims in Darfur and to show their opposition to the government's apathy. More than 1,000 people attended. High-profile speakers and politicians from all federal parties shared the podium.

With the growing interest among students in alleviating the situation in Darfur, Project Equity has expanded. Co-director David Berkal describes the organization as "an outlet for youth to express social activism. By breaking the stereotype that youth are apathetic, we choose to directly affect the world we will soon inherit."

The leaders of Project Equity aim to increase the awareness raised by the rally. They are currently planning future projects, including hosting a "party in the park" in September, to encourage youth empowerment and to raise awareness about global issues. For more information, visit Project Equity's website at www.projectequity.org.

**Alisha Kaplan**
**Elie Tradburks**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Strong, united Jewish student voice

For Jewish university students in this country, it is, as Charles Dickens wrote in *A Tale of Two Cities*, the best of times and the worst of times. I say this because, despite the vehement anti-Israel rhetoric that has become mainstream on many of our nation's campuses, a proud, strong and united Jewish voice has emerged.

With an estimated 30,000 Jewish post-secondary students across the country, this is no small feat. Surely, we do not all agree – certainly not all the time. Canada is a nation with vastly different regions representing exceedingly different constituents. Western Canada and Eastern Canada often seem to be worlds apart; and Orthodox and Reform traditions sometimes seem like polar opposites, rather than slight variations. As the Jewish tradition teaches us, we accept these differences and we embrace the challenges that plurality provides. When all is said and done, regardless of where we stand geographically, religiously or even politically, Canadian Jewish students stand with Israel.

Over the last few months, delegates from universities and colleges across the country have elected the new executive of the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students. The 2006-07 CFJS executive comprises: Melissa Lantsman (president); Jay Solomon (vice-president, external); Daniel Pink (vice-president, internal); Sarah LaFreniere (vice-president, finance); and Isaac Apter (vice-president, programming). In addition, the board includes members-at-large Kira Driliuk, Eva Zucker and Kyle Lichtman, as well as committee chairs David Belous, Corey Sheffman, Jennifer Eidelman, Alex Halpern, Tamar Katz and Jeff Justiz.

Building on the successes of the past, and with the generous support of our community partners, we look forward to serving the Jewish students of Canada this year.

**Jay Solomon**
**Vice-President, External**
**Canadian Federation of Jewish Students**

* * *

## CJC's advocacy roots

I could not agree more with the sentiment Gerald Gall expressed in his column "CJC must return to its advocacy roots" (*CJN*, June 22).

In recent years, Canadian Jewish Congress has suffered considerably from a decrease in its budget for advocacy activities. Whether this has been from neglect or from an intentional desire to limit CJC's activities is irrelevant. The fact is that CJC is not being given the funds required to do the job and the community has suffered as a result.

I hope that there are more people who feel the way Gall feels.

**Manuel Shacter**
**Montreal**

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# Giving up on the Palestinians

By LARRY DERFNER
*Jerusalem Post*

None of the recent kidnappings, bombings and killings would be going on now if the Palestinians hadn't welcomed Israel's exit from Gaza – settlers and soldiers – with only more rockets aimed at Israeli civilians.

If the Palestinians had taken last summer's disengagement as a confidence-building measure and responded in kind by suspending attacks, instead of taking it as a sign of weakness that vindicated those attacks, things could have been different.

If someone had told me in the 1980s or 90s that Israel would one day get out of Gaza, I would have predicted that this would definitely soften the Palestinians' attitude and that it would bring the two sides closer together.

I would have said the same thing if someone had told me Israel would one day offer the Palestinians 100 per cent of Gaza and 97 per cent of the West Bank, including much of Arab east Jerusalem, in peace negotiations

But by the time Israel left Gaza, I realized the Palestinians – as a whole, not Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and other powerless moderates – would conclude from this that terror works, and go out to do more. By last summer, I looked to Israel Defence Forces retaliations, not territorial concessions, to bring Israel peace. I still do on the border with Gaza, and one day on the border with a post-occupation West Bank.

I still believe what I've always believed that Israel has no right to rule the Palestinians, that ruling them is bad, not good, for Israeli security, so it's both immoral and impractical for Israel to gobble up the only territory the Palestinians have for their own

However, the belief I've lost is that the Palestinians are basically a rational, reasonable nation, that they can be talked into putting down their weapons and making peace with Israel – if not out of goodwill, then out of their own self-interest.

What I believe now is that only Israeli military deterrence, which will no doubt require the periodic use of force, can get the Palestinians to stop fighting.

My disillusionment with them began after the 2000 Camp David talks, but not because they didn't accept Israel's offer. They had no obligation to accept it, and refusing it didn't make them into warmongers. What appalled me, instead, was how triumphant former PA president Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians were after the talks failed.

"Saladin" they were calling Arafat as they carried him on their shoulders. The Israeli peace camp was stunned and trying not to despair, while our "partners" were exultant.

Something was wrong here. Something was out of whack.

After the intifadah got under way, what embittered me was not that the Palestinians had gone to war. Tension was high after Camp David, and after Ariel Sharon and 1,000 cops went up to the Temple Mount, a riot ended with a half-dozen Palestinians dead.

**The Palestinian leaders who have been incapable and unwilling to make peace with Israel: from left, Yasser Arafat, Mahmoud Abbas and Ismail Haniyeh.**

I could understand a spasm of rage lasting a week or two. But what blighted my view of the Palestinians was that the intifadah didn't stop, because they were having too glorious a time killing and dying. For them it wasn't the tragedy that former U.S. president Bill Clinton and the Europeans were moaning over. It was the greatest thing they'd ever done. They just got crazier and crazier.

(Again, Abbas and a few others spoke out against the terror from the beginning, but they didn't count.)

At the same time came another source of disillusionment. After the intifadah began, the Palestinians themselves declared proudly that their role model was Hezbollah. As with the disengagement from Gaza, they'd welcomed Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon as a "prize for terror" instead of a signal that Israel was serious about peace. (Unlike those who still regret that the IDF left Lebanon, I don't think this was the catalyst for the intifadah, but only one of many.)

Finally, what caused me to give up on the Palestinians was watching Arafat in action, without giving him every benefit of every doubt, but rather just taking him at face value. What a gargoyle, what a caricature of a corrupt, violent, temperamental, megalomaniacal dictator. The one time I saw him in person was in early 2001 at his Muqata compound in Ramallah, when then-U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell came to visit, and, after addressing Powell as "general," he smiled that hideous smile of his and said, "But then, I am a general too." And all his lackeys in the hall exploded in laughter at his legendary wit.

> 'The character of Arafat wasn't incidental to the national character of the Palestinians, it was a reflection of it'

This was the symbol of the Palestinian people. This was their leader, their inspiration, since 1969. The character of Arafat wasn't incidental to the national character of the Palestinians, it was a reflection of it, which is a very depressing realization.

So why are they like this? Because they're Arabs, because they're Muslims, because they're a nation of the Middle East? No, not at all. We've made peace with Egypt. We've made peace with Jordan. The other Arab countries may not like us, but they're not fighting us.

> 'Israel is determined to separate from them, while Egypt and Jordan are even more determined to stay separate from them'

Look at what's been going on in this crisis with Gaza: while the Palestinians are being the Palestinians, Egypt has objectively taken Israel's side. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak tried to broker a prisoner exchange for the kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit that I'm sure Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert would have gone for, but this meant, of course, that Hamas and its partners never would have considered it. (The deal was for Israel to release prisoners due to be released within the year anyway, in return for Shalit.)

Right after the kidnapping, Egypt put 2,500 soldiers along the border with Gaza in order to keep the kidnappers from smuggling Shalit into Sinai, and to keep masses of Palestinians from stealing into Sinai themselves.

So the Palestinians' problem isn't that they're Arab or Muslim. It's not that they don't accept Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state in the Middle East – what Arab or Muslim around here does? But other Muslims aren't fighting Israel over it. Only the Palestinians are.

The difference, the thing that's unique about the Palestinians in this region, is that they alone have had to build their nation in direct competition with a people that runs circles around them at nation-building. The other Arabs can hate Israel and go on with their lives. The Palestinians can't. The other Arabs can forget their losses in war to Israel. Their countries are intact. The Palestinians' losses in war to Israel have left their country in pieces, and themselves scattered. They live with the results of their war losses to Israel every day.

Evidently they can't forget, they can't move on.

Nobody wants them for neighbours, either. Israel is determined to separate from them, while Egypt and Jordan are even more determined to stay separate from them.

This is another belief I've lost: the possibility of a "viable" Palestinian state. With whom for leaders - Hamas and the Army of Islam, and Islamic Jihad and al-Qaida? With half the state in the West Bank and the other half in Gaza, with nothing but "Keep Out" signs in the middle and all around?

I still think that Israel, because of its military superiority over the Palestinians, will one day leave the West Bank and live more or less in peace. But even if and when this conflict ends, or at least winds down happily for Israel, I don't see a happy anything in store for the Palestinians.

They're unlucky. History found them in the wrong place at the wrong time.

*Larry Derfner is a writer and commentator with the Jerusalem Post.*

# Stepping out of the shadows

At first glance, any book with the title *Man in the Shadows* would seem to prime its readers for an adventure into territories unknown and tales not yet told. Name as its author a former director of the Mossad and the volume becomes even more enticing.

*Lawrence Hart in Hamilton*

However, for anyone who has met Efraim Halevy or heard him speak – a privilege I enjoyed earlier this year, well before his book was published – it would come as no surprise that *Man in the Shadows* (St. Martin's Press, 2006) unfolds without pretence or fanfare. Self assured, dignified, and articulate, Halevy comes across as one who adroitly avoids hyperbole, melodrama and sensationalism, thus dispelling any possible expectation that his book might turn out to be titillating, controversial or in any way critical of the intelligence community.

Illustrated with many of his personal experiences, *Man in the Shadows* provides a first hand, thoughtful and objective account of recent Israeli history, focusing primarily on events between 1990 and 2003. These integral 13 years, in Halevy's estimation, "have changed the face of the world and have catapulted us into a new and frightening era."

In his opening chapter, he reflects on the unprecedented events of Sept. 11, 2001, which he remembers as a day that consumed him with "a feeling of almost total helplessness." Fittingly, however, the book draws to a close with the author expressing not helplessness, but a complex appraisal of what needs to be done to thwart "an enemy that has strategic planetary goals and clearly defined strategies designed to reach those goals."

Halevy has no doubt that the free world is currently engaged in "World War III," with the Islamic terrorist movement as its ruthless adversary.

As deputy director, and later director, of the Mossad, Halevy worked closely with, and was confidant to, a succession of Israeli prime ministers. What comes across as most fascinating within the context of these relationships is not so much the expected collaboration between senior politicians and the Mossad leadership on security matters, but the less well-known function of the intelligence community in brokering pacts between nations. This is nowhere better demonstrated than in the very substantial role that Halevy himself is known to have played in forging the historic peace agreement between Jordan and Israel.

Other insights into the diverse involvements of the Mossad chief permeate the text from cover to cover, providing a perspective that goes well beyond the mundane and delves into the often delicate interface between diplomacy, described by Halevy as "the art of the possible," and intelligence, which he calls "the craft of the impossible." The conclusion is that both have become increasingly important in today's sophisticated and dangerous world.

# Israel's familiar dilemma

The continuing rocket fire from Gaza into southern Israeli towns, as well as the recent Palestinian incursion and kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, confront our country with an all-too-familiar dilemma: what measures are we to adopt in trying to protect our population from enemies with much lower standards of conduct while not, in the process, sacrificing our souls?

*Ross Culiner in Jerusalem*

For even in our present difficulties, our civilians regularly subjected to unprovoked assault, we must never fail to keep our hearts as well as our heads. As more and more voices call for revenge and retribution, it's vital that we continue to factor into our military thinking ongoing evaluations of the moral price the Jewish state can afford to pay when defending itself.

There is certainly no justification, after our complete withdrawal from Gaza, for the Palestinian aggression, some of which is endorsed, if not sponsored, by the elected Hamas government itself. That does not mean, however, that an unlimited retaliatory response is warranted. It goes without saying that from a strictly military standpoint, the challenge is relatively minor. With our overwhelming firepower we could quickly turn the Gaza Strip into a living hell, something that would silence the guns and rocket launchers for the foreseeable future. But should we?

The temptation to do so exists. We all feel outraged and betrayed. And when my niece's school took a direct hit from a Qassam rocket yesterday, my own initial impulse was to support unleashing all hellfire against the perpetrators.

But we must constantly remind ourselves, especially in times of crisis, that we want to remain a civilized society. And as a consequence severe limitations are placed on our available modes of response in situations not strictly defined as ones of "life and death". Compassion must figure into our every calculation, even when this erects nearly insurmountable hurdles for the Israel Defence Forces.

Our present failure to thwart the missile attacks illustrates the point well. We are battling unbridled aggression with one hand tied behind our backs to avoid causing unnecessary and widespread harm to innocent Palestinian bystanders. Most effective, no doubt, would be to strike massively at targets wherever they are, crowded urban centres not excepted. This would certainly bring tremendous local pressure to bear on the terrorists in their midst. But we cannot, in good conscience, do such a thing, which is why we simply have no choice but to muster all the persistence and ingenuity that we Israelis are famous for in seeking alternative solutions to our woes.

The daily scenes on our TV screens of terrified and teary-eyed parents clutching their children close to their breasts as the rockets thud in the background constitute a heart-wrenching and infuriating spectacle. The desperate appeals to politicians to take the requisite steps to end their torment is perfectly understandable. But it does not follow that our government ought to adopt a policy of brutal and indiscriminate retaliation, which though militarily expedient, would be morally unacceptable. We must resist, at all costs, stooping to the tactics of our adversaries. For not to resist would sound the death knell of the kind of Israel we want.

Even if Israel's actions were not subject to the continuous and close scrutiny of the international community – the recent Gaza beach family tragedy being one prominent example – prudence and the respect for all human life, Palestinian included, must always remain the cornerstone of our ethos. There are times when we must bite our tongues, stay our trigger fingers and pay a dear price for it. In so doing, however, we are saving our souls. Alas, character is tested in extreme adversity, under stress, not when it is convenient to behave nicely.

However awful things now appear, and must undoubtedly be, for the residents of Sderot, let us nevertheless remember that not a single resident has lost his or her life, in spite of everything, since the Israeli pull-out from Gaza 10 months ago. This is no bloodbath. There are critical periods when we Israelis must show fortitude and courage, and be willing, to some extent, to endanger our own blood in order to keep it clean and know with full confidence that we are good.

*Culiner@netvision.net.il*

# Palestinians choose war - again

The hopes for a Palestinian transformation following the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in August 2005 have been blasted to bits once again.

The opportunity that opened up after the removal of civilians, checkpoints and army bases was never explored. In the 10 months between the Israel Defence Forces' exit and its return last month, the missile attacks and terror efforts never really ended. And the anarchy of Palestinian society in Gaza only got worse under the Hamas-led pseudo-government.

*Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem*

The arguments in favour of the Gaza pullout remain valid – primarily in terms of demographics and public relations. By withdrawing its presence from Gaza completely, the Israeli government expected that the "international community" would declare the occupation, and the responsibility for the welfare of the population, to be over. But the dangers of this move, particularly in terms of the security costs, were underestimated by then-prime minister Ariel Sharon and the government.

The post-disengagement security model was based on the assumption, or naïve hope, that Palestinian security forces, Egyptian border troops and monitors from the "international community" would provide the substitutes for an Israeli military presence. But the warheads of the Qassams and the anti-tank missiles fired in the recent attack were brought in under their noses – or perhaps their feet.

The main element in this plan was the expectation that the Palestinians would change course. U.S. President George W. Bush called on the Palestinians "to fight terrorism, dismantle terrorist organizations, and prevent the areas from which Israel has withdrawn from posing a threat that would have to be addressed by any other means." The Europeans (and some Canadian officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade) talked about helping moderate and pragmatic Palestinians build a new relationship with Israel.

But these hopes went nowhere. As the Israelis left, the Palestinians extended the terrorist infrastructure into abandoned greenhouses, schools and houses. A few months later, Hamas took over, pledging to eradicate Israel and escalating the attacks. And the diplomatic gains did not materialize Israel is still blamed for the plight of Gazans.

At the same time, responsibility for the 13-kilometre long Philadelphi Corridor was turned over to Egypt, under the eye of the U.S.-led Multinational Force and Observers. The Egyptians were supposed to stop the Palestinians from digging tunnels for use in smuggling explosives, terrorists and anti-tank and even anti-aircraft missiles.

Shortly after this agreement, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice brokered a separate security arrangement covering the Rafiah crossing. Last Nov. 15, Rice knocked heads together, and Sharon agreed to allow Palestinian control of this border zone, accompanied by a European Union monitoring mission to insure implementation of the prohibition on the entry of weapons and terrorists. This effort was also a response to the pressures on the United States from Javier Solana, the European Union's high representative for the common foreign and security policy, and James Wolfensohn, who was the international Quartet's special envoy in Gaza.

But these were empty words, and after paying a high price, Israel has rediscovered the fundamental need for direct control over its frontiers. After relying on Egypt and Europe, it has no choice but to resume direct control over Gaza's borders. The lessons of the failed disengagement will also be applied elsewhere, and, in addition to maintaining full security control to the east of the separation barrier, Israel will need to maintain tight control over the Jordan Valley.

The bottom line is that the only condition under which Israel can transfer security responsibility, in any sector, is after the Palestinians have finally ended their war.

Until then, short cuts to security and meaningless "international guarantees" will lead to even more violence and death – for both Israelis and Palestinians.

The Kirshner File

# Israel's incursion into Gaza was inevitable

Israel's limited but expanding ground and air offensive in the Gaza Strip, which may yet escalate into a full-blown invasion with all its ramifications, was inevitable.

The incursion, the first major one since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza last summer, was launched on June 27 after the armed wing of Hamas, in league with two other Palestinian groups, attacked a military outpost near Gaza, killed two Israeli soldiers and kidnapped a third, Gilad Shalit, who remains missing.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

The kidnapping, the first incident of its kind in 12 years, was only one of the reasons why Israel stormed into Gaza. Beyond freeing Shalit, Israel wants to end the reign of terror caused by the firing of Qassam rockets into its towns and settlements adjacent to Gaza and to weaken the Hamas government, which is committed to Israel's destruction.

Since Israel's pullout from Gaza 10 months ago, the border area has slipped into a state of turbulence. Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees, two of the most radical organizations in the Palestinian camp, have fired scores of Qassams at Sderot and neighbouring kibbutzim, exacting several deaths, as well as property damage.

Last week, as Israeli armour pushed deeper into northern Gaza after invading southern Gaza, Hamas operatives fired a Qassam into the empty parking lot of a high school in Ashkelon – the largest Israeli city in the vicinity in what Prime Minister Ehud Olmert described as "an escalation of unprecedented gravity." The rocket was launched from the ruins of an abandoned Israeli settlement.

Palestinian gunners have previously targeted the outskirts of Ashkelon, hitting a beer factory and a cemetery, as well as strategic sites such as a power plant and an oil pipeline. But the strike inside Ashkelon, which underscored the inability or the unwillingness of the Palestinian Authority to prevent attacks of this magnitude, was on an altogether different scale.

If the Palestinians can hit Ashkelon once, they can hit it again, as they did after the initial strike. And if Qassams can reach Ashkelon, a distance of about 12 kilometres from the launch site, Israel has a huge problem on its hands. If Palestinians can smuggle Qassams into the West Bank, or manufacture rockets there, they can threaten Israel's coastal plain, including Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion Airport.

Palestinians have already tried to smuggle Qassam components into the West Bank, but their efforts have been foiled. If they succeed in firing Qassams from the West Bank, the consequences would be calamitous in terms of Israel's fierce reaction. In the meantime, Palestinian technicians are working day and night to increase the range and effectiveness of the Qassam, and the day may yet come when it will be more than simply a crude projectile.

Israel hoped that its departure from Gaza would concentrate Palestinian minds on internal affairs and encourage Hamas – which defeated Fatah in last January's legislative election in the Palestinian autonomous areas – to continue observing the 18 month-old ceasefire, such as it was. But this was not to be. Islamic Jihad and like-minded groups, which never accepted the truce, have fired more than 600 Qassams at Israel since last September, when the Israeli army pulled out of Gaza. Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, has condemned the Qassam firings, but to no avail.

In the face of these attacks, and attempted border infiltrations by heavily armed gunmen, Israel took calibrated steps to warn the new Hamas government – which refuses to recognize the Jewish state, renounce violence or agree to observe previous agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority – that the status quo would not be tolerated.

On April 13, just days before an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber killed nine Israeli civilians in a Tel Aviv suicide bombing, the deadliest since 2004, Israeli troops crossed into Gaza for the first time since last summer's disengagement to examine the spot where two armed Palestinians trying to sneak into Israel had been killed. The depth of Israel's penetration was only about 100 metres, but the message was clear.

On May 23, Israel arrested a senior Hamas leader in Ramallah accused of having planned assaults that resulted in the deaths of 78 Israelis. And less than a week later, Israel ambushed and killed three Islamic Jihad members in Gaza preparing to fire a Qassam.

All the while, Israel fired thousands of artillery rounds at potential Qassam launching sites. In a few cases, Arab civilians were accidentally killed by stray shells – fuelling yet more anger and bitterness among the Palestinians, and prompting Hamas to cancel the tattered ceasefire on June 10.

Apart from these strictly military measures, Israeli generals ratcheted up the rhetoric by threatening to invade Gaza, while Defence Minister Amir Peretz warned that Israel's patience was wearing thin. But as late as May, the chief of staff, Gen. Dan Halutz, suggested that an invasion would be "futile" and embroil Israel in a Lebanon-like quagmire. What he may have meant is that previous Israeli raids to shut down the Qassams failed.

In an effort to control terrorism, Israel also periodically closed border crossings, which enable Palestinian workers to commute to jobs and permit the flow of vital necessities, from food to medical supplies, into Gaza. But in closing these crossings, Israel inadvertently worsened Gaza's miserable economic situation and exacerbated the growing humanitarian crisis there.

**Prime Minister Ehud Olmert confers with Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Halutz.**

Prior to sending troops and tanks into Gaza, Israel claimed that Hamas was directly responsible for firing Qassams at Sderot and for suppling Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees with such rockets.

**Khaled Mashal**

These suspicions were fed by the comments of two top-ranking Hamas officials. Saeed Seyam, the Palestinian interior minister, said that he would not order the arrest of militants attacking Israel. And in the wake of the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv in April, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri declared, "The resistance is a legal and natural reaction to… Israeli crimes, and the Palestinian people have a right to defend themselves."

These provocative statements were somewhat tempered by Ismail Haniya, the Hamas prime minister, who called for an end to "a whirlpool of blood," and by Ahmed Yusef, Haniya's political advisor, who asserted that attacks against Israel do not serve Hamas' fundamental interests.

Israel, which has boycotted the Hamas government and has successfully urged countries like United States and Canada to follow its lead, does not distinguish between such nuances in Hamas' policy. As far as Israel is concerned, Hamas is dedicated to its destruction and replacement by an Islamic state in all of historic Palestine.

In line with this view, Israel has arrested about one third of the Hamas cabinet, bombed Haniya's office and the ministry of interior, and destroyed Gaza's sole power plant.

Israel has also rejected the so-called Prisoner's Document, which is supported by Fatah Abbas' party – and, most recently, by Hamas as well. Drafted by prominent Palestinians in Israeli jails, it espouses a two-state solution within the context of a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the right of Palestinians to resist Israel's occupation and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

Israel, too, is skeptical of Hamas' offer of an extended ceasefire.

The proposal was last conveyed by Haniya in May, when he said, "If Israel withdraws to the 1967 borders, peace will prevail and we will implement a *hudna* for many years. Our government is prepared to maintain a long-term ceasefire with Israel." Haniya's aide, Yusef, made a similar offer 11 days before Shalit's disappearance, suggesting that Hamas was ready for a 50-year truce.

In a broader vein, Moussa Abu Marzouk, the deputy head of Hamas' political bureau in Damascus, has said that Hamas would consider a 2002 Arab League two-state peace plan if Israel accepts it first. But Israel opposes it.

At the end of the day, Hamas has not changed its stripes.

Marzouk has said that Palestinian recognition of Israel, taken during the first phase of the now-defunct Oslo process, was a mistake and "must be corrected." Marzouk's boss, Khaled Mashal, the object of an Israeli assassination attempt in 1997, has said, "Hamas will not recognize Israel. We will not give legitimacy to occupation." In keeping with Hamas' charter, Mahmoud Zahar, the Hamas foreign minister, recently told a Chinese news agency that "there is no place for Israel on this land."

Comments such as these explain why Israel's current offensive in Gaza – not the first nor the last – is not just about a 19-year-old captured soldier, but far more about the intentions of a hostile Palestinian government that will not leave Israel in peace.


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# Torah is an instruction book for life, Prager says

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

If Judaism can't thrive in total freedom, it doesn't deserve to survive, according to author and radio personality Dennis Prager.

Speaking at a tribute to the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Prager, a self-described non-denominational Jew, said that rational, intellectual reasons must exist for identifying as Jewish.

"If we need anti-Semites to keep us Jewish, we [Jews] are not worthy of surviving," the Los Angeles-based Prager told the full house at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on June 26. "I don't want to rely on Arafat or on Nazis to stay Jewish."

Though not wishing to proselytize, Prager said he believes the Torah's innate wisdom is relevant to all peoples.

"It is inconceivable that the Torah has only something to say to the Jews. It's like saying that vitamin C is only good for Presbyterians," he said, eliciting a laugh from the 970 people in attendance.

"The Torah is too profound to only be learnable from by a Jew," he continued. "Only Jews are obligated to follow its laws, of course that's true. But its insights, its values and its wisdom are either universally applicable, or they are not applicable to Jews."

Dennis Prager

Raised in an Orthodox home in Brooklyn, Prager said he resented the fact his yeshiva world lacked "an ability to take the non-Jew and the non-Orthodox Jew seriously. It seemed the only people to be taken seriously thought and talked and observed like they did."

The occasion of Prager's lecture was the June 29 yahrzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He lauded Chabad's choice to "just say no: No, we are not going to judge Jews by how many hours they keep between milk and meat – in fact, if they keep any at all. [Chabad] has achieved something remarkable here: they don't measure Jews by their observance."

He said he disagrees with Orthodox Jews who say discussing Jewish values with the rest of the world is futile.

If the focus is only on Jews who have left Judaism, "you'll never find them," he cautioned. "We [Jews] have to announce to the world what we stand for. Then, Jews will find us.

"The moment you say only Jews can prosper from what Judaism has to say, you are in effect saying to most alienated Jews that Judaism is ethnicity, not wisdom. But it is wisdom."

Addressing the title of his talk, "Why be Jewish," Prager said the answer can be found by examining what he called Judaism's "trinity": "It's God, Torah and Israel. Those are the three dimensions of Judaism. You can't have two. That is what Judaism consists of, along with chosenness."

Regarding God, Prager said he would despair if he lost his faith. "The reason is simple. The world is too awful. I have asked on my radio show: 'If you don't believe in God and you are sensitive to human suffering, please call me and tell me how you don't go crazy.'"

Prager said his phone has yet to ring.

"I get many calls from atheists, but I never got a call to answer that," he said. "It is not possible to be sensitive to human suffering, not believe in God and not go a little nuts."

He added that what keeps him sane is the belief that there is a good God ultimately governing the universe. "Can I account for every instance of unjust suffering? Of course I can't."

It's unreasonable to think that God would meddle in every injustice, Prager said. "If God interfered every time, we would be robots."

Prager explained the Torah's relevance using a modern analogy: "One day, I realized why I never learned to program my VCR, which I had owned for years. It was because I never read the instruction book.

"Then it dawned on me: If I need an instruction book for something trivial like my VCR, I need one for how to live life. It is dangerous to believe we're naturally good – if we are, then we don't need an instruction book. The Torah is so relevant. How do I know what position to take on any given subject? By asking my heart? I don't trust my heart."

Prager said he believes the Torah is a divine book, a confession that he called "a big deal, coming from a Jew who can't call himself Orthodox."

If men had written the Torah, he said, Jews would have come out looking much better.

"The Christians of the New Testament are terrific. The Muslims of the Koran are terrific. The Jews of the Jewish Bible stink. Why on earth would people portray themselves so negatively? That's the greatest single argument for the divinity of the Bible."

Ultimately, Prager maintains that there are intellectual reasons for being Jewish, and that "if you showed the Jews the relevance of Judaism, they wouldn't leave."

If you examine Judaism rationally, he said, "I have no doubt that you'll say that the Torah is the way to live."


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Jewish Life

Guest Voice

By SHIMON SAMUELS

# The new NGO campaign against Israel

May saw three gatherings in Europe where anti-Semites could party.

In Paris, at the 23rd annual Assembly of Muslims in France, held May 5 to 8, the good name of French Islam was abused by the marketing, in French and Arabic, of variants on the *Protocols of Zion*. The gathering analyzed a multitude of Jewish crimes, such as the *naqba*, the "disaster" of Israel's creation, which figured in the keynote speech on "The Tragedy of Palestine" by Mufti Tayssir Tamimi, president of the Palestinian Supreme Sharia Court.

In Athens, the fourth European Social Forum (ESF), held May 4 to 7, illustrated once again how "Palestine" has taken over much of the agenda of the anti-globalization movement. While officially rejecting anti-Semitism and decrying Holocaust denial, the cornerstone of every debate and discussion was undoing the "original sin" of Israel's creation in 1948.

The response was a new slogan for the NGO campaign that now plans to become a co-ordinated international solidarity movement: BDS, an acronym for boycott, divestment, sanctions.

A handout defined boycotts as the refusal by individuals, civil society and business to buy or sell Israeli products; divestment was defined as the withdrawal of investments from companies directly or indirectly involved with Israel; and sanctions were defined as governmental restrictions on travel, communication, trade, finance, arms sales, etc. Discussion focused on harnessing the momentum of boycotts, in which a critical mass rejects, for example, Israeli fruit sales, so that companies and, perhaps later, governments will follow.

The boycotts were presented as worthwhile irrespective of their economic impact, for even if they are reversed by "Zionist pressure," their short-term effectiveness is in garnering media publicity. "Divestment, as by churches, should not be measured by the amount of funds divested alone, but by its repercussions on concepts and attitudes," the handout said.

In Athens, proposals were mooted for such things as grassroots provocations –such as filling supermarket carts with Israeli produce, crashing the cashiers, burning the products in the street – and a pan-European itinerant caravan to promote BDS. Other ideas included study tours to Palestinian refugee camps and olive-picking vacations for European youth, to more diffuse ideas on "combating the Apartheid Wall," "pushing the right of return," "freeing political prisoners," and promoting "the one-state solution."

In late May, the parade moved on to Geneva for the "International Conference for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel: Enforce International Law." The carnival atmosphere in Athens had quickly degenerated into accolades for Hamas' election ("Hamas and Hezbollah will destroy Israel," one London Islamist said happily). But the Geneva agenda was more focused. Participants each brought a pet target to attack or promote, such as EU-Israel scientific co-operation programs; evangelical Zionist movements; arresting Israeli reserve officers visiting or studying in Europe; and encouraging Israelis to refuse military service.

So where was the anti-Semitism?

In Athens, for instance, members of the Greek neo-Nazi group Golden Dawn infiltrated the forum and proudly distributed their magazine devoted to the glorious partnership between Arabs and Nazis under Hitler and their common agenda today. At the same time, a World Social Forum banner announced: "Nazis, Yankees, Jews – No more Chosen Peoples!"

Later, in Geneva, more than 180 NGOs quibbled over "BDS" campaigns and planned a climactic global mobilization for May 2008 to mark Israel's 60th anniversary as "the Year of the *naqba*." The Paris assembly's keynote speaker, Mufti Tayssir Tamimi, dropped in to bless the campaigners.

The NGO campaigns that favour "BDS" – from the BRICUP (British Committee for the Universities of Palestine) academic boycott to a divestment drive by the World Council of Churches – and the other 170 Geneva plotters, are, at best, in contravention of European Union laws on freedom of commerce, and they might arguably be contributing to a blueprint for the ultimate solution: the end of the Jewish state.

Hitler, too, called Jews "our misfortune," or *ungluck* in German. Now the catchword is *naqba*.

The prelude to the Holocaust was the slogan *Kaufen nicht bei Juden* ("Buy not from the Jews"). Today, it is "BDS."

In Athens, a misguided, but pleasant young Belgian Jew spoke of how he planned to provoke passersby by building a wall out of Jaffa-orange boxes – complete with checkpoints and friends in Israel Defence Forces uniforms – across a Brussels thoroughfare.

Two young Palestinians in the audience were overheard discussing the speaker in animated Arabic.

One asked, "Why is this Jew talking this way?"

His companion responded, "He is a good Jew who believes in our struggle."

The first responded, "*Yitbach al-Yahud*" ("Slaughter the Jews"), and they both had a good chuckle.

Quite a party!

*Shimon Samuels is the Simon Wiesenthal Center's director of international relations.*

JEWISH EDUCATION The Next Generation

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

# Some books of summer

Though school's out, reading should never stop, so here's my annual summer book review.

I began Alan Morinis' *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* with relatively few expectations, thinking it might be a pleasant account of his spiritual journey. But as the book progressed, I found myself increasingly drawn into Morinis' world of mussar and the practical exercises that each person can do to enhance the quality of everyday life. His quest is proof that Jewish ethical teaching has much to offer any spiritual seeker.

A similar sensibility infuses Yair Caspi's *Lidrush Elokim* (*To Search out God*), which I mentioned recently in another column. Caspi opens the book with a description of how his life was changed by a regular Saturday night chavurah at the home of famed Israeli philosopher Yeshayahu Leibowitz, from which Caspi emerged, in his words, "an altogether different man."

Caspi investigates the possibility of viewing Judaism as a spiritual system that can elevate one's soul and repair the world. This book has touched a chord among many secular Israelis who would ordinarily never identify themselves as seeking out the divine. However, it has not been translated from its original Hebrew into English.

The MeOtzar Harav series has been systematically publishing the writings of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik. One of the finest in the series was printed last year under the title *The Emergence of Ethical Man*. The book is an intense analysis of the place of humanity in the order of things, with discussions of man as part of nature and the relationship between the ethical and the natural.

Jaroslav Pelikan is one the finest religious historians alive, and his thoroughly enjoyable *Whose Bible is It?* gives the reader a whirlwind tour of just how varied the historical interpretation of Scripture has been. Tracing the development of both the Jewish and Christian Bibles, Pelikan examines how books become part of religious canons and why the Bible remains the most influential literary product in human experience.

In *Off the Derekh*, Faranak Margolese provides a fairly frank account of why some Orthodox Jews rebel against religion and leave the fold of observance. The book is strong in evoking the emotional turmoil and alienation that such people suffer, and it also traces the roots of how they come to feel that there is no place for them within the world of tradition. But the author seems to pull her punches somewhat and is reticent to directly target the real systemic issues within Orthodox communities that can be directly responsible for the phenomenon being described.

And for those who like their books banned, there is the second edition of Rabbi Nathan Kamenetsky's lengthy *The Making of a Godol*. With laborious footnotes and excursuses, this work plumbs into the history of the yeshiva world at the turn of the 20th century by focusing on certain revered figures within that now vanished reality. Banned not once but twice, the book is not available in mainstream bookstores, but it can still be obtained through a bookseller in Monsey, N.Y.

Jewish Life

# An introduction to Spinoza's ideas

***Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity* by Rebecca Goldstein, Random House.**

**Books**
***Bernard Baskin***

Baruch, later Benedict, de Spinoza (1632-1677) was born in Amsterdam to a family of Marranos who had fled from the Inquisition in Portugal.

In his early 20s, Baruch began to voice opinions that were considered heretical. His dissident views and utterances on religion awakened the suspicions of both the ruling Calvinists and members of the Jewish community. He refused to remain silent and in 1656, aged 23, he was dramatically excommunicated from family, friends and community.

For the rest of his brief life he lived as a Dutch citizen and philosopher, earning his living by grinding and polishing lenses.

It has often been pointed out, in view of Christian opposition to Spinoza's opinions, that the Jewish community had little option. At one point, he was even offered a modest annuity if he would consent to maintain at least an external loyalty to his faith.

In *Betraying Spinoza*, Rebecca Goldstein, a novelist and professor of philosophy, sets out to rediscover the flesh and blood personality often hidden under his abstruse philosophy, and also how his Jewish heritage influenced his thinking.

In a major work, simply entitled *Ethics*, which is rigorously organized in geometric form like *Euclid's Elements*, Spinoza maintained that everything that exists is part of a single substance of the deity who, in fact, is identical with nature. In this pantheistic outlook, God is impersonal, not subject to human prayer, and freedom of will for the individual is an illusion.

Human beings are subject to ever-changing combinations of desire, pleasure and pain, and concerned with self-interest. In order to overcome this "human bondage," "we should learn to moderate our desires, live according to reason and ultimately aspire to a kind of intellectual love of God. This acceptance of the universe as it is will create an inner peace of mind, or 'blessedness.'"

Spinoza doesn't reject the body or the delights of the world. "It is the part of a wise man, I say, to refresh and restore himself in moderation with pleasant food and drink, with scents, with the beauty of green plants, with decoration, music, sports, the theatre, and other things of this kind, which anyone can use without injury to another. For the human body is composed of a great many parts of different natures, which constantly require new and varied nourishment. And we should strive to be cheerful."

The author writes that in many ways Spinoza's ideas are painfully relevant to the "mess of our times." He was a firm advocate of free speech and rejected the stranglehold of religion on the state. He believed in the unimpeded progress of science and strongly opposed denial of its findings.

He is widely acknowledged as the political theorist who first set out the general principles for a secular democratic society.

Rabbi Louis Jacobs writes, "From time to time, attempts have been made to reclaim Spinoza for Judaism. If this means that Spinoza was a Jew and an admirable person who did not deserve to have been placed under the ban, many Jews would go along with it. But if it means that Spinoza's philosophy is compatible with Judaism, Spinoza himself would have rejected totally any such claim."

In our time, Spinoza is generally seen by Jews as extraneous to the faith, even if they feel proud of his influence on world philosophy.

This brief engaging book is a rich, illuminating study of a brilliant, many-sided personality and a helpful introduction to some of Spinoza's basic metaphysical and ethical ideas. Of Spinoza, Bertrand Russell wrote, "He is the noblest and most lovable of the great philosophers… ethically he is supreme."

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# Tfillin lore and links, Pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Although it is usually known by its Hebrew name, you will also see tfillin referred to as "phylacteries." That term seems to derive from the Greek phylacterion meaning safeguard or amulet. I came upon quite a lively discussion of the word's origins at yourdictionary.com, where one person named Flaminius makes this point: "'Phylacteries' is the only word I know so far of an exclusively Judaic item introduced to English in disguise of Greek language. Jews call it tfillin, an Aramaic word, perhaps related to Hebrew tfillah. In Biblical Hebrew, it is called *totafot*, for which no solid etymology has been established." **[http://tinyurl.com/7joar]**

The best way to learn how to don tfillin is by personal demonstration. However, if you'd like to brush up on the sometimes intricate placement of the boxes and binding of the straps, you can find step-by-step instructions on the web. The Davening.net site has illustrations to keep you on track. **[www.davening.net/tefillin.html]**

Those, of course, are the basics. If you want to delve into the intricacies of the commandments – and you have a good understanding of Hebrew – then check out the detailed laws at easyrashi.com. Rabbi Aryeh Schechter is a Brooklyn, New York-based sofer, or scribe, who has put together the most comprehensive tfillin resource on the web that I've come across. You are greeted by a page with five animated photos, so that you can see a "beating heart" inside the chest in order to give you an idea of the proper placement of the tfillin. **[http://easyrashi.com/TEFILLIN/TEFILIN123.htm]**

While there, you can download a comprehensive PowerPoint demonstration on tfillin. There are more than 50 pages of information from *Shulchan Aruch HaRav* that deal with issues such as what to do if you only have one box, replacement of defective parts and the proper decorum while wearing tfillin. (Technical note: I found that the Hebrew on this site displayed backward while in Internet Explorer. It displayed perfectly in Firefox. **[www.mozilla.com/firefox/]**)

Since proper placement of the tfillin is critical, it is not uncommon to see men carry small pocket mirrors to monitor how the box is resting on their heads. The author of one website bemoans the modern ubiquity of mirrors and harkens back to simpler times. "Without the mirror, the only way to fulfil the mitzvah of tfillin correctly is through *areivus*, each person in the minyan taking responsibility for each other's tfillin. Tfillin actually underscored the unity of the minyan, and the brotherhood of all Jews… Now that we have mirrors, all we can see is ourselves." **[http://tinyurl.com/nsl7q]**

In Deuteronomy, the Torah doesn't actually give a reason for putting on tfillin. In Tfillin and its Significance, you will find the thoughts of great thinkers including 19th-century Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch. He wrote: "A truth, in order to produce results, must be impressed upon the mind and heart repeatedly and emphatically. Merely to acknowledge the essential principles of righteousness and love is not sufficient to actually build up such a life… In addition thereto, symbolic words and actions are necessary so that they may become indelibly stamped upon the soul, and thus preserved for yourself and for others." **[http://tinyurl.com/sy9pa]**

The late Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan wrote in 1986, "When a man wears tfillin, he binds himself to the very highest spiritual level. He achieves a closeness to God that even the deepest meditation could not accomplish… even the physical act in itself can bring a man to the loftiest heights." **[http://tinyurl.com/ozde4]**

Steven Schram would certainly agree. Writing in the Journal of Chinese Medicine, Schram is the author of Tfillin: An Ancient Acupuncture Point Prescription for Mental Clarity. Using detailed descriptions and illustrations, Schram compares the placement of tfillin to the corresponding acupuncture pressure points. **[http://handyworks.com/public/tefillin.pdf]**

His conclusion: "Regardless of the belief system behind the procedure, it seems clear that putting on tfillin is a unique way of stimulating a very precise set of acupuncture points that appears designed to clear the mind and harmonize the spirit."

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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# Former showbiz bigwig now wears one

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

"This was how important I used to be," said former NBC producer Molly Resnick, holding up photographs of herself embracing Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Sophia Loren and Henry Winkler, better known as the Fonz from *Happy Days*.

Resnick was referring to a journey that has taken her from a childhood as a Bulgarian-born secular Israeli to a job as host and producer of an influential TV talk show to her current lifestyle as an Orthodox Jew.

It all started when she "left the land of milk and honey for the land of gold and money," Resnick told the audience at the Judith Dan Memorial Lecture on "From Hollywood to Holy Wood" at Toronto's Village Shul last week.

Shortly after coming to the United States from Israel in 1972, Resnick landed a dream job as a producer and host at NBC's New York-based "*Five Minutes With...*"

"Anybody who was anybody wanted to be on my show," she said. "I used to pinch myself. Moshe Dayan and Abba Eban were in my office. This was the most amazing life dream that you could imagine."

She was poised to "conquer the world," Resnick said, but two incidents led her to question whether the path she was on was the right one for her.

The first incident was a brush with John Travolta. He was scheduled to appear on her show to promote *Saturday Night Fever*, which would become a big hit in the 1970s, and Resnick had prepared an introduction stating that not all movie critics were fond of Travolta's performance.

"Travolta's agent read the introduction I had written and said, 'If you say these things, we're not letting him on the show.'

"I said, 'The door is open.'

"As they were filing out, I asked John, 'Don't you have something to say on the subject?' He shrugged. Here was the megastar and he couldn't make a decision about a meagre interview. He was just a puppet on a string, part of a media apparatus. This made me wonder if this was what life was all about," she said.

The second incident came on the heels of the 1975 United Nations resolution declaring that Zionism equals racism.

"I got a call from the head of the Anti-Defamation League asking me to run an interview to refute that Zionism is racism. I thought it was a great idea. My first instinct was to call the PLO to have a 'balanced interview.' It was forbidden for Israelis to contact the PLO, but I also had American citizenship.

"So I called them and said I was with NBC," she said.

When Resnick told the PLO representative she was originally from Tel Aviv, "he knew I was an idiot. He said, 'You're from Tel Aviv and you want me to say Zionism is racism?'"

After having a PLO member question her attachment to her own nation, Resnick became uncertain about the life she was leading and decided to take a leave of absence.

In her subsequent travels, she met a Lubavitch family in Brazil. She connected with their daughter and became so impressed with her lifestyle and outlook on life that Resnick decided to become observant.

"I thought to myself, 'What am I going to tell NBC?' God is almost like a four-letter word in Hollywood."

Meanwhile, Resnick said, NBC was preparing to offer her "the job of the millennium. NBC got the contract to cover the 1980 Moscow Olympics, and I was [asked] to run a human interest unit in Moscow, covering stories about individual contestants out of Moscow.

"I told that VP that I couldn't accept the job because I observe the Sabbath. " The VP said, 'Someone as smart as you is going for institutional religion?'"

Resnick didn't take the job. As she walked out of his office, she said she felt as though she had experienced her own Akedah (the biblical sacrifice of Isaac).

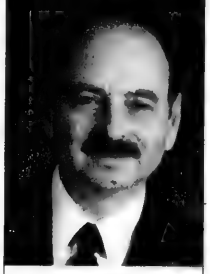
"My Israeli friends were very supportive," Resnick joked. "They said I should just cut my arm off."

But Resnick had the last laugh: The United States ended up boycotting the Moscow Olympics. And NBC didn't cover them.

"In Judaism, you are supposed to view life as though you are both dust of the earth [and yet] the entire world was created for you alone.

"I really believe that they cancelled the Olympics because of moi," she smiled.

APPOINTMENT



Dr. Jack N. Lightstone

Brock University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jack Lightstone as its President and Vice-Chancellor, effective July 1, 2006.

Dr. Lightstone was previously at Concordia University in Montreal. During his 30-year career at Concordia, he acquired extensive academic and administrative experience as Provost and Vice-Rector (Vice-President), from 1995 to 2004, and Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Research) from 1989 to 1992.

A longtime Professor of Religion at Concordia, Dr Lightstone is an expert on ancient and contemporary North American Judaism. He remains an active scholar funded by external peer-reviewed grants.

Dr. Lightstone graduated with a BA from Carleton University in 1972, and went on to complete an MA (1974) and PhD (1977) at Brown University in Rhode Island. He was a Visiting Research Graduate Fellow at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1974-75.

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# ש'שאר ע'נינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**יונה ונער**

אחת לכמה שנים, מזה שנות דור, מפנק אותנו מאיר שלו ברומן חדש, שלוקח מאות אלפי ישראלים למסע קסום. ואחרי "רומן רוסי", "עשו" ודומיהם, הגיע "יונה ונער", ונדמה לי שהוא גורם התרגשות אפילו יותר מקודמיו.

זהו סיפור אהבה מופלא ונוגע ללב בין שני צעירים בשנות טרם מדינה. שניהם עוסקים באימון יוני דואר עבור ההגנה-הוא בקיבוץ בעמק הירדן והיא בגן החיות של תל אביב.

לצד סיפורם של שניים אלה-מסופר במקביל סיפור אהבה של מספר הספר עם ידידת נעורים. וסופם של שני הסיפורים האלה להיפגש בדרך מופלאה ונוגעת ללב שרק מאיר שלו מסוגל לה. לפני שבועיים טסתי הלוך וחזור לשבדיה תוך ארבעה ימים, ובטיסות הללו נמעתי את "יונה ונער". ומפעם לפעם היה לי נדמה שהנוסע במושב הסמוך משתומם על האיש הזה שקורא ספר בשפה משונה, ואחת לכמה שעות מזיל דמעה. שיהיה.

מאיר שלו כותב בסגנון ה "ריאליזם הפנטסטי", בדומה לחתן פרס נובל, המקסיקני מרקז. הכל נראה ריאלי, אך מפעם לפעם שוזרים פרטים דמיוניים שאינם נזרעים כהוא זה מן האמיתות של הסיפור.

קט מהר ותקראו לאט, כדי שהקסם לא יעבור לכם מהר מידי.

עשר בסולם קורן.

**מכתב לאמא**

אמא נכנסת לחדר של הבת שלה ורואה מכתב סגור שמיועד לה. עם תחושה לא טובה היא פותחת את המכתב וקוראת:

"אמא יקרה, אני מצטערת להודיע לך על זה בצורה כואת, אבל עזבתי את הבית והצטרפתי לחבר שלי ואנחנו עוברים לגור ביחד. אני בהריון ומארק אמר לי שנחיה מאוד שמחים בקהילה ביער לא רחוק מההורים שלו. הוא רוצה הרבה ילדים וזה אחד מהחלומות שלי.

למדתי שמריחואנה לא מזיקה ואנחנו נגדל ליד הבקתה גם בשבילנו וגם עבור החברים שלו והם יתנו לנו את הקוקאין שאנחנו צריכים.

ביניים אנחנו מתפללים שימצאו תרופה לאיידס של מארק. אל תדאגי אמא, אני בת חמש עשרה ויודעת לדאוג לעצמי.

באהבה, נדיה.

נב.

אמא, כל זה לא נכון, אני אצל דיקלה הילדה של השכנים. רק רציתי להראות לך שיש דברים יותר גרועים בחיים מהתעודה שלי שנמצאת במגרה של השולחן... אני אוהבת אותך!

תנקשרי להודיע מתי יהיה בטוח לחזור הביתה...

**גביע העולם**

אחת לארבע שנים נכנסת טורונטו לתזזית כדורגל, כשכולם נאים להראות מאיפה הם באו, וראיתי מכוניות לא רק עם דגלי ברזיל ואיטליה, אלא גם דגלי יפאן, שבדיה ונאנה. מעניין שלא ראיתי דגלים של המדינה שיש לה הכי הרבה מאנשי טורונטו-אנגליה כמובן. אולי זה מיצג את היחסים רחב, ואי הצורך שלהם להתבלט, או אולי גם ה מוג הקר שלהם. כי אחרי הכל קנדה היא חברה מרכזית בחבר העמים הבריטי.

וכמאפיין אוהדי כדורגל בכל העולם-גם בטורונטו הצליחו כמה אוהדים לחטוף סכין בבטן ממישהוא ששתה כוסית אחת יותר מידי ב"איטליה הקטנה". אבל שישאר בינינו.

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# Grant awarded to document Ont. Jewish history

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

The Ontario Jewish Archives is getting set to launch an 18-month project to document the histories of 11 Jewish communities in small Ontario towns.

"The Ontario Small Jewish Communities Project is all about trying to document the history of small Jewish communities across the province from Cornwall to Thunder Bay," said Ellen Scheinberg, the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) director.

The OJA was recently awarded $117,000 by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, and will partner with the Ontario Historical Society and the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario.

Scheinberg said it has been about 30 years since the OJA received a grant.

"Nothing really has been done since then because it's really expensive and time-consuming, so we thought this would be a good time to try to create a new initiative. Thankfully, we got the Trillium grant," she said.

"The timing is really good because a lot of these communities are at a point where they have very few members left. I think it would be terrific to have something on the web to highlight the unique history of each town."

The towns that are included in the project are Cornwall, Kingston, Belleville, Kitchener/Waterloo, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Peterborough, North Bay, Owen Sound, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Scheinberg added that while many of the Jewish families who helped build these communities had opened up shops and businesses, they left once there was a decline in the local economy and their children reached university age, but many families stayed.

"We want to show people that Jews don't just live in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg," she said.

OJA chair Brooky Robins grew up in North Bay, so she understands the importance of documenting the Jewish histories of small towns.

"When you grow up in a community in a small town, you feel like you're a child of that community, like you belong to that community," Robins said.

The grant enables the OJA to hire an oral historian for 25 weeks, to interview about six people from each town, and to bring in a researcher/writer for about a year, to track down historical documents and photographs.

"In the past they would train 10 or 20 volunteers and that is really amazing to have people contribute their time, but sometimes the interviews aren't alike at all," Scheinberg said, adding that having only one researcher and writer will add to the continuity of the project.

"Research like this has never been done before," Robins said. "I think everyone will be proud of the way this project is being done."

"I've spoken to a web designer and what we decided is that we'll have a map of Ontario and then you can click on the cities or the 11 towns. You'll just be drawn into the history and images of the town, from the first Jews to today. Each one will kind of be separate, but very accessible. Hopefully, we'll draw in a lot of young viewers who might find it fun and interactive," Scheinberg said.

She added that those who know about the project are excited and eager to begin the process.

"I think a lot of people can't afford to do this themselves, and they really feel like they have a rich history and they'd love to do it themselves, but they can't. We're hoping to include them as partners, so that they'll be involved and they can participate on that level."

Robins is confident that the project will create a sense of pride in the Jewish communities that played such an important role in Canadian history.

"I think [the website] will give them a background and history of the roots of Canadian Jewry. It'll help give them a sense of where they came from and give them memories," Robins said.

"While now, 40 or 50 per cent of Canada's Jews live in Toronto, in the last century and the century before that, in the late 19th, the Jews arrived and many of them headed to smaller communities where there was less competition. To look at Ontario's Jewish history, you really have to look beyond Toronto for the early years and to look at the diversity," Scheinberg said.

The project will begin this summer and the website will be launched in the winter of 2008.

If anyone from Cornwall, Kingston, Belleville, Kitchener/Waterloo, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Peterborough, North Bay, Owen Sound, Sudbury or Thunder Bay, particularly those residing elsewhere now, has documentation, photography, film or artifacts, please e-mail Ellen Scheinberg at EScheinberg@ujafed.org.

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# Editorials give context that news coverage lacks

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

It's no surprise that Israel's military operation in Gaza, aimed at freeing kidnapped Israel Defence Forces Cpl. Gilad Shalit, is attracting intense media attention. What is striking is the contrast between daily news reports focusing on the hardships encountered by Palestinian civilians and editorials that put the operation into perspective by exploring the broader context.

The *New York Times* June 29 editorial "Hamas Provokes a Fight" was blunt: "The Palestinians who futilely threw up sand berms on Gaza's main roads to deflect Israeli troop movements were building their defences in the wrong direction. The responsibility for this latest escalation rests squarely with Hamas, whose military wing tunneled into Israel on Sunday [June 25], killed two Israeli soldiers and kidnapped another. This was a followup to a declaration earlier [in June] by Hamas' political leadership that the group's 16-month intermittent ceasefire would no longer be observed.

"Under the circumstances an Israeli military response was inevitable."

While the *Times* urged Israel to show restraint, it left no doubt that Hamas' "reckless" provocations necessitated Israel's military response.

The *National Post*'s June 29 editorial "Israel has a right to defend itself" reminded readers of Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza: "The Jewish state did not relinquish control over Gaza 10 months ago only so it could have the fun of reoccupying it now. This military operation is an effort, simply, by Israel to defend itself…

"If the Hamas-led government of the Palestinian Authority is going to shirk its domestic responsibilities to maintain civil order, and its international responsibilities to respect neighbouring countries, then Israel will have to act as it has, and fulfill those responsibilities on their behalf."

The June 30 *Globe and Mail* editorial "No simple cycle" broadened the context, explaining that Israel has to contend with the persistent firing of Qassam rockets into its southern communities – assaults that are ignored, and even encouraged, by Hamas.

The *Globe* wrote: "Israel's anger is quite understandable. The Jewish state finds itself facing a Palestinian government that condones suicide bombings against Israeli civilians. Despite international entreaties, Hamas has refused to renounce violence or recognize existing peace agreements with Israel. Indeed, its military wing recently ended a truce that it had observed since February 2005. Hamas said it did so because of Israeli attacks on Palestinian targets, but those attacks came only because Palestinians were firing rockets into Israel. This is not just tit for tat, nor is it a 'cycle of violence.'"

The *Globe* argued that the violence would stop "if Hamas and other militant groups put aside the gun."

Like the *Times*, the *Globe* urged Israel to practice military restraint, criticizing specific actions such as the destruction of a power station in Gaza as "ill-considered."

Which brings us to the daily news reports focusing on Israel's military operations and the subsequent hardships to Palestinian civilians, such as destroyed bridges, a lack of electricity, and frightening sonic booms. Once again, the story is all too often about the Israeli Goliath versus the helpless Palestinian victims. Numerous Palestinians are interviewed while few Israeli voices are heard, and the context found in the editorials is lacking.

For example, Margaret Evans generally files evenhanded reports for CBC Radio from Israel. But during the present crisis, she has focused mainly on Palestinian suffering in Gaza, interviewing a critical United Nations official one day and the mayor of Gaza City the next, with hardly a reference to Israel's side of the story.

On July 5, Evans reported that a rocket was fired on the Israeli port city of Ashkelon, but she didn't mention the fact that this marked a significant escalation in the conflict. Instead, the bulk of her report was a human interest story about Palestinians and the World Cup: "The threat of nightly Israeli air strikes is not enough to keep people indoors. Many were determined to watch the World Cup game between Italy and Germany. But even here soccer is political. Many Palestinians back Italy because of the Italian Soccer Federation's decision to dedicate their World Cup win to the Palestinian people way back in 1982."

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

# Weisz is number 2 in Hamilton

By HOLLY GINSLER
*Special to The CJN*

**HAMILTON** — A contest was recently held here to find the "Greatest Hamiltonian of All Time."

The contest was part of the *Hamilton Spectator*'s memory project, which celebrates the 160th anniversaries of both the newspaper and the City of Hamilton. The newspaper offered readers a list of candidates to vote for, some living, some deceased. Former Ontario lieutenant-governor Lincoln Alexander won the competition, and Arthur Weisz, a Hungarian Jew who survived the Holocaust and has lived in Hamilton for 54 years, came a close second.

"I felt surprised and proud," Weisz said of the honour. "I would never have believed that this could happen. Many people know me in Hamilton… I've been in real estate for 52 years and I've met a lot of people. The result is that many believe that what I'm doing is right, and they voted for me."

He is also known for his charity work. His favourite charity is Shalom Village, which provides services for older adults, including long-term care and assisted living apartments. In 2004, Arthur and Margaret Weisz established a bursary for students enrolled in McMaster who demonstrated financial need.

Weisz is a family man, and Effort Trust is a family business. His son, son-in-law and grandson all work in the company. He has been married to Margaret for over 60 years and has a son, Tom, and a daughter, Janet. He has grandchildren and great-grandchildren.


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# *Finding your passion and your purpose*

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin Librach

Imagine springing out of bed each morning knowing you are doing exactly what you love to do, are passionate about, and can't wait to start doing. The most joyful people are often those who have a purpose or a mission that motivates, inspires and drives them forward.

According to Jack Canfield in *The Success Principles; How to Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be*, purpose comes from "doing what you what you were born to do. It comes from following your heart and trusting your joy as a guide. Enthusiasm and passion come as a result of caring about what you do."

As we all know, passion makes your day go by quickly. But the greatest key to passion is usually having it connected to your sense of purpose. Passion is your heart's desire, the thing that makes you get up in the morning or the activity that gives you joy. It could be baking bread, climbing mountains, singing, dancing, writing music, golfing, playing sports, or travelling the world. So the activity that inspires you is your passion.

But your purpose is the reason you find joy in your passion. It's the "why" behind the passion. You may find joy in baking bread because it makes people feel good or reminds you of the connection you had with your grandmother. If your passion is singing in front of an audience, then your purpose might be to entertain children and make them feel special.

When we love what do so much that we would practically do it for free, that's often a clue that the work we're doing is deeply fulfilling. When we are fulfilled in our life and our work, we tend to be hugely successful at it. According to Malcolm S. Forbes, the publisher of *Forbes* magazine, "Success follows doing what you want to do. There is no other way to be successful. The biggest mistake people make in life is not trying to make a living at doing what they most enjoy doing."

Everything makes sense when we've found our purpose, everything comes together, and usually, when we are purposeful, we are happier and at peace.

As Dr. Wayne Dyer says, "If you want to find your true purpose in life, know this for certain: Your purpose will only be found in service to others, and in being connected to something far greater than your mind, body or ego."

What is interesting, however, is that finding your passion and your purpose is not always simple. It helps to brainstorm with a friend, coach or someone you trust. Sometimes it helps to write things out, and in the book *Journaling for Joy*, Joyce Chapman has some great tips on how to start figuring out your sense of purpose.

Remember that each of us has unique gifts, talents and capabilities. What are your unique gifts that make you stand out from the rest? What are you passionate about? What do you love to do?

It often helps to look back at the experiences in your life that gave you a feeling of being incredibly happy and alive. What were they? Write them down and watch for patterns to emerge.

A great exercise to tap into your purpose is to do a visualization where you remember a time in your life when you were at your best, in your element. What were you doing? What was happening? Who were you with? What was the impact on the people watching you? What was the impact on you?

One of the best techniques comes from the book *Vivation* by Jim Leonard and Phil Laut. It is so simple, that you almost don't believe it will work, but it does, every time. They suggest asking yourself three questions: What do you like about yourself? How do you like to spend your time? What is your idea of a perfect world?

Your purpose is what links these three things together. You can then use your favourite characteristics, values, abilities and attributes in activities you like to manifest your vision of a perfect world.

As H.I. Khan says, "However unhappy a person may be, the moment he knows the purpose of his life, a switch is turned and the light is on. If he has to strive after that purpose all his life, he does not mind, so long as he knows what that purpose is."

*Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler Trained Coach. You can contact her at her website: www.findingyourbliss.com or write to her at judyelle@ican.net.*

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# Seniors group marks 36 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

In an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie, some 200 men and women of the Association of Jewish Seniors (AJS) met on a beautiful morning at the Earl Bales Community Centre last month for the group's annual meeting.

AJS – an umbrella group of individuals, seniors centres, organizations and clubs – is celebrating 36 years of making the community more aware of issues facing older people and of advocating on their behalf.

The group holds monthly educational and social gatherings at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue and a second Passover seder at the Bernard Betel Centre, as well as other holiday events.

President Ben Goldmintz opened the recent annual meeting – titled, "To Our Good Health" – with a warm welcome to members and guests.

The event, which concluded with a lunch sponsored by Kensington Place Retirement Residence, was interspersed with comedy quips from Reta Duenisch-Turner, an AJS member who has performed at Yuk Yuk's and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. She proudly told *The CJN*: "I will be 80 next month."

Executive member Esther Pohn also got everyone moving with some stretch exercises, and Leah & Leon provided lively musical entertainment.

Evelyn Shulman, an AJS vice-president, spoke about the group's outstanding volunteers, and Goldmintz was presented with the Sam Shapiro Award "for his outstanding commitment and volunteer services."

The late Sam Shapiro was a very active member of AJS. His wife Libby presented the award to Goldmintz with words of gratitude.

Throughout the morning, vice-president Ray Sadowski and Sid Gladstone, the AJS' communications and media representative, gave numerous door prizes. The highlight of the day was a talk by *CJN* columnist and registered dietitian/nutritionist Lisa Weinberg titled "The Oy of Eating."

Weinberg spoke about trends and hot issues, including the need to understand food labels and nutritional balance, as well as what foods to eat each day and how to shop at the grocery store.

Weinberg also provided a list of suggested foods, as well as ones that should be included in a daily diet.

"And you should drink at least four cups of water daily," she said.

The AJS is funded through Circle of Care and donations. Membership is open to any seniors group or individual.

For more information or to register, call co-ordinator Tammy Parker at 416-635-2860, ext. 458, or e-mail ajs@circleofcare.com.

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Feature

# Guardian Angels hit the streets of Toronto

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

After donning their trademark red berets and matching satin jackets, members of the first Canadian chapter of the Guardian Angels, an anti-crime group, will be on the streets of Toronto today.

Last week, roughly 2,000 Torontonians became Guardian Angels, graduating and attending a ceremony held at the William Den-

**Founder and President Curtis Sliwa, left, with Canadian National Director Lou Hoffer.**

nison Seniors' Residence at Dundas and Sherbourne streets in downtown Toronto, Lou Hoffer, the Guardian Angels Canada national director, said.

Curtis Sliwa, the founder and president of Guardian Angels, attended the graduation ceremony, as well as the press conference that preceded it.

Hoffer, a former Toronto Police officer and a ba'al tshuvah, described how he first became involved with the 27-year-old organization, and his efforts to build a Canadian chapter.

"About two years ago, I reached out to Curtis Sliwa and the Guardian Angels because of a rash of anti-Semitic incidents in North York and York Region – Pride of Israel [synagogue] was vandalized, 13 houses were defaced with swastikas, a couple [Jewish] cemeteries had tombstones knocked over and had swastikas painted on them – so being a former Toronto Police officer, I reached out. It's an organization I had followed for over 20 years," he said.

He said that although nothing materialized then, he wasn't discouraged. He got in touch with Sliwa again, when there was a dramatic rise in gun violence in Toronto.

"About eight or nine months ago, because of the rash of gun violence, we reconnected and fully formulated the idea of bringing the Guardian Angels to Toronto and lo and behold, it took off from there," he said, adding that things progressed so quickly that he became the head of the entire Canadian operations.

Although Toronto has the only fully active chapter in Canada, others have already begun to organize in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

Hoffer said that next month, he'll embark on a three-week cross-Canada tour to recruit volunteers and spread awareness about the organization.

While Hoffer said that the response from the community has been very positive, Toronto Mayor David Miller and Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair are less than enthusiastic about the American group branching into Canada.

Opponents of the Guardian Angels accuse the volunteers, who are provided with CPR, first aid and self-defence training, of being vigilantes who threaten to cause more crime than to prevent it by provoking dangerous situations and making citizens' arrests.

But Hoffer said the organization has worked hard over the years to make the streets safe through education, crime prevention programs, and by providing extra sets of eyes and ears.

"The Guardian Angels are really a non-violent organization, a community organization that is a proactive presence. They stand back and observe, yet they are on the street and a visual deterrent," Hoffer said.

"We do not want to do police work, we leave policing to the police. The community is all for us," he continued. "They're aware of who we are and what we do. I'm hoping that once we go on the streets, enough people will send word to the Toronto Police and city hall."

Hoffer said he recently returned from a trip to New York City for training, and met with the New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, who was amazed when he heard that the Toronto mayor and police chief declined to meet with him on numerous occasions.

"[He] can't understand because [the New York police] see this organization do amazing things, help to reduce crime in New York, and they think, how can the city shun us? How do you say no to help?" Hoffer said.

He said that Guardian Angels, which relies on the donations of private donors since it is not funded by the government, empowers communities in hopes of "making a moral difference.

"We are in moral decay and the police can't do it alone. I'm biased, I used to be a police officer. I think our cops are tops, but no city in the world has the budget to put a cop on every corner," Hoffer said.

"We have to lead by example, we cannot leave the situation the way it is to our politicians and to the police. We have to stand up… If that is not in line with Judaism, I don't know what is."

"It is all about helping your fellow man, and making a difference… That is what Judaism is all about. It's about being a good neighbour."

For more information about Guardian Angels, visit www.guardianangelscanada.org.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to

**The Wargon and Tonelli families extend heartfelt congratulations to Sholom Wargon and Erminia Tonelli on their 10th wedding anniversary.**

**Mazel Tov and many happy returns to Sasha Chapin on his 18th birthday, from his loving family and many friends.**

**Talia, daughter of Pia Brown & Marty Herman, married Dave, son of Arlene & Sam Charazenko, on March 19. Grandparents are Lou & Donia Brown and Min Herman.**

**Hailey, Amanda, Stacey & Mark welcome Rylee to the Bergman family. Grandparents, Stanley & Devah Wine, Harvey & Maxine Bergman, and great-grandmother Claire Finkelstein.**

**Mazel tov Shira and Sol on your engagement. Excited families are Allan & Debra Aginsky and Phillip & Barbara Lev.**

**Happy first birthday to the best boy, Adam Gilad Sandberg. Love, Mommy, Daddy, and the Golberg and Sandberg mishpachahs. We love you.**

## *SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!*

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4.**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. There is no issue July 27. The July 20 What's New will include events occuring July 20 to Aug. 3. Monday, June 17, is the deadline for the Aug. 3 issue and Monday, July 24, is the deadline for the Aug. 10 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, July 13

**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Family Fun Summer Festival, with activities from 5:30-7 p.m. including a jumping castle, games, parachutes, hockey activities and crafts, followed by a concert by The Ballet Creole Drummatix at the Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Free. 416-395-7873.

## Saturday, July 15

**PARSHAH DISCUSSION**

**Morley Goldberg** will discuss the weekly portion, Pinchas, at 9:30 a.m. Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433.

**HALTON-PEEL SHUL**

Join B'Nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue, for its monthly Shabbat service at 10 a.m. followed by kiddush and lively conversation. For location and information e-mail bnaishalom2004@ yahoo.ca, or call **Judi** at 905-469-4344.

## Monday, July 17

**MEMORY AND AGING**

**Dr. Nicole D. Anderson**, assistant professor of psychiatry and psychology at the University of Toronto, will present "Memory and Aging" at the Wellness Library at Baycrest Hospital, 2-3:30 p.m. Learn about normal memory loss and specific techniques for remembering day-to-day things. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374, to register.

## Tuesday, July 18

**GARAGE SALE**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, holds a garage sale every Tuesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through the summer, with a selection of new and gently used clothing and shoes for the whole family, books, toys, games and housewares. 4700 Bathurst St. Proceeds support the programs and services of NCJW, including women's shelters, breakfast clubs and seniors enrichment programs. 416-633-5100.

**CONCERT BAND**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Tuesday Night Live, a series of concerts every Tuesday until Aug. 29 at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Tonight, North York Concert Band. 7:30 p.m. 416-395-7873.

## Other News

**SUMMER SPEED DATING**

Aish Toronto will hold two Summer Speed Dating evenings, a quick way for singles to meet each other in one-on-one conversations of seven minutes each. Tuesday, July 25, women 32-38 and men 33-40. Tuesday, Aug. 29, women 22-28, men 24-32. Registration required. Call **Aliza** at 905-764-1818, ext. 316, or visit speeddating.com.

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

JACS Toronto, an organization dedicated to encouraging and assisting alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and their families and friends to explore recovery in a nurturing Jewish environment, is holding a Women's Spiritual Retreat: "I Love Myself Because..." Sept. 15-17 in Collingwood. For information, call 416-410-5227 or visit www.jacstoronto.org.

**WOMAN'S MIKVAH**

The newly renovated women's mikvah at Beth Joseph Lubavitch, 44 Edinburgh Ave., is now open for Friday nights and holidays, by appointment only. Call 905-886-3419.

**Continued on page 23**

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**Continued from page 22**

**INFO ON JEWISH TORONTO**

Do you want to rent your basement apartment? Looking for a singles party? What about daycare services? Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto, UJA Federation, can be your Jewish 411. Call 416-635-5600.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St., #325, www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafes: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in 2 locations, BJCC and Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue.

JIAS Toronto offers programs for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext. 28.

**AMPUTEE SUPPORT**

Chazak V'Ematz is an outreach support group to help Jewish amputees adust to life. Call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service, 4600 Bathurst St. Information or registration, 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. How and when to tell the children, as well as ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs, will be discussed. Tuesday, July 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at The Promenade Mall, Suite 313. To register, call **Shawna**, ext. 215.

## FOR SENIORS

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, July 16, 23; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 9; Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Aug. 29; Mah Jong, Mondays, 12:30-3 p.m. and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Come out for the Sunday fitness classes. Pilates, 9-10 a.m. Stretch and Strengthen, 10-11 a.m.

Boost Your Memory – enjoy trivia, games and riddles every Thursday at 11 a.m. Free.

Lecture on "Some Lesser Known Heroines in Jewish History," Tuesday, July 18 and 25, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Spend Thursday, July 20, at the Betel Centre with Stories from the Heart at noon and Fun With Yiddish at 1 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Israeli Etrog Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

Trip to Casino Niagara and Fuego Spanish dancing, Wednesday, Aug. 2. Members $45, non-members $55, includes $15 of play at casino.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

"Secrets to Youthful Aging," weekly lecture series with **Phil Fields**, Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. through Monday, Aug. 28.

Book and Munch Club meets weekly with a discussion relating to short stories. The stories are read aloud by group members and then a discussion follows. 12-1:15 p.m., in the Volunteer Members' Lounge, bring your lunch. Call **Monica,** ext. 2273, for information.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Swimming lessons and family swims throughout the summer. For information, call ext. 530 or e-mail aquatics@mnjcc.org.

Good Age Club for Seniors meets every Thursday 1-3 p.m. For information, call ext. 129 or e-mail shawndac@mnjcc.org.

Mini-Me Camp, half-day camp for 3-5-year-olds. Call ext. 320 or e-mail christinam@mnjcc.org.

Downtown Summer Choral Institute, a week-long choral "camp" for adults, July 24-28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily or after work 4:30-6 p.m. Workshops, lectures and ensemble vocal experiences for community singers, including African drumming, ear training, conducting, Jewish music, vocal production, movement for singers, vocal health, jazz, a cappella, joint choir, small ensembles. Suitable for many levels of singer. $350, 7-workshop pass $100, 3-workshop pass $40. For information and registration, call ext. 277 or e-mail samc@mnjcc.org.

Downtown Suzuki Day Camp Plus, July 31-Aug. 4, semi-private and group lessons each day, plus choir, fiddling, African drumming, ear training, swimming and crafts. $325. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult, or a buddy from Suzuki will be arranged for $125.

***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

Bunch Rocks, a family concert, on Sunday, Aug. 20, at the Al Green Theatre. For information, visit www.bunchfamily.ca or e-mail info@bunchfamily.ca.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Inquire about openings for "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail." Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

Space available for September 2006 morning school Tic Tac Two program, junior kindergarten, full-day daycare for toddlers, and senior kindergarten. Programs include music, fun centre gym, Hebrew, discovery museum and weekly gym program. For information, call ext. 248 or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers, with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

## Volunteers Needed

**ESCORT DRIVER**

Circle of Care is looking for volunteers to drive isolated seniors to medical appointments and back home again. Mileage and parking costs are paid. If you have approximately 2 hours per month to help, call 416-635-2860, ext 413.

**LIMMUD FESTIVAL**

Limmud Festival of Jewish Learning, for Jews from every denomination, is looking for volunteers to organize the festival, which will take place in November. To volunteer, call 416-787-8819 or e-mail margles@ican.net. For infomation on the event, visit www.limmud.ca.

**GALA FOR HEAD AND NECK CENTRE: The Sonshine family joined the celebration at the first annual Da Vinci Gala held recently in support of the Joseph and Mildred Sonshine Family Centre for Head and Neck Diseases at Mount Sinai Hospital. More than 450 guests attended the gala, co-chaired by Mendel M. Green, Paul Manna and Robert Mandel, celebrating the Sonshine family's donation that helped create the new state-of-the-art facility for the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer. [Luca Viorel photo]**

**CHABAD GOLF TOURNAMENT: Wilfred Krasin, gabbai at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, is seen hugging the golf trophy at the recent 10th annual golf tournament at Sleepy Hollow country club. More than $100,000 was raised to help causes serving the Jewish community of northeast Toronto.**

# Memorial held for 24-year-old cancer victim

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

About 200 people gathered to pay their last respects late last month to Barak Ben-Nathan, a 24-year-old man who died June 24 after a year-long battle with testicular cancer.

In an Internet blog called Barak's Health, created to inform family and friends about his condition, Ben-Nathan – who was buried June 28 in South Africa, where his parents, Rami and Hanna Ben-Nathan, live – explained how he first discovered he had the disease.

"This whole ordeal began last year in 2005, when I was in Israel with my family, around April. I began to feel some stomach and lower back pains, which were quickly shrugged off as being a result of the crappy mattress that I was sleeping on," Ben-Nathan wrote.

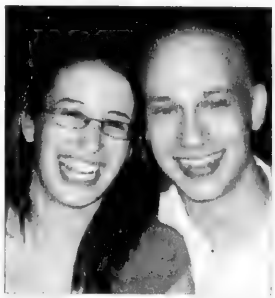
The symptoms continued when Ben-Nathan, a York University student, returned to Toronto.

"The stomach pains persisted, so I went to my local doctor at [York], who prescribed me some antacids… The abdominal pain persisted, and I also began to feel a sharp pain stemming from my left testicle. I returned to the same doctor, who then booked me an ultrasound at a local clinic… At the ultrasound, I was told that I had a four-centimetre mass in my stomach."

The night before a scheduled CT scan, his girlfriend, Samantha Fried, rushed Ben-Nathan to the hospital because he was in extreme pain. He was diagnosed with testicular cancer, and two days later, his left testicle was removed.

He explained that by the time he was diagnosed, the tumour had metastasized in the lymph nodes in his stomach. His doctors considered a stem-cell transplant, but Ben-Nathan would first have to undergo painful chemotherapy for a year in the hope it would make the tumours inactive long enough to do the transplant.

**Continued on page 26**



**Samantha Fried and Barak Ben-Nathan**

**To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling**

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

**To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date**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986 Wilson Ave.
Shaarei Tefillah Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**NANCY GORD** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, July 23rd at 2:00 p.m.**

**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St. 3km north of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Community Section EEE


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**416-630-5316**


The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**SAIDIE BERGER** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, July 16th, 1:30 p.m.**

**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Labour Zionist Alliance Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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## Steeles Memorial Chapel

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| Gold, Fela (Fay) | June 19/06 | 29 Marwill St |
| Shlafshtein, Roza | June 20/06 | 6040 Bathurst St |
| Tatransky, Martha | June 20/06 | 20 Greenwin Village Rd |
| Lubin, Bessie | June 20/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Abracen, Mortimer | June 22/06 | 34 Carscadden Dr |
| Soroka, Millie Sima | June 22/06 | 1121 Steeles Ave. W |
| Shiner, Anne | June 23/06 | 3560 Bathurst St |
| Vickery, James Edwin | June 23/06 | 62 Venice Cres |
| Burman, Sarah | June 23/06 | Private |
| Sherman, Sol | June 24/06 | Private |
| Ben-Nathan, Barak | June 24/06 | 35 Bales Ave |
| Vortsman, Mariya | June 26/06 | Private |
| Stein, Dr. Mark Morris | June 25/06 | Private |
| Savion, Moshe | June 26/06 | 262 Ridley Blvd |
| Levine, Billy | June 27/06 | 56 Lisa Cres |
| Sober, Mark David | June 27/06 | 120 Shelborne Ave |
| Epstein, Rita | June 27/06 | 55 Ameer Ave |
| Rosenfield, Belle | June 28/06 | 175 Caribou R |

## BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Morris Korman | Jun 24/06 | 58 Sea Island Path |
| Solly Levstein | Jun 24/06 | 6 Forest Laneway |
| Ann Drevnig | Jun 25/06 | 1201 Steeles Ave. West |
| Simon Arbesman | Jun 26/06 | 131 Torresdale Avenue |
| Sidney Kagan | Jun 28/06 | 3800 Younge Street |
| Glenna Brandwein | Jun 27/06 | 10 Delisle Avenue |
| Mary (Mania) Spellman | Jun 29/06 | 58 Purdon Street |
| Samuel Birenbaum | Jun 30/06 | 59A Oriole Road |


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| Maax Zone R | | Whirlpool | $1999 |
| Maax Living Aeroeffect | | Tub | $1649 |
| Regal I | 60" x 32" | Whirlpool | $769 |
| Regal II | 66" x 34" | Whirlpool | $949 |
| Neptune Zen | 60" x 32" | Whirlpool | $1489 |

## Toilets

Toto Aquia 2 Pc. Elongated
**$499**

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|---|---|
| American Standard Champion 1 Pc. Elongated | $459 |
| Kohler Cimarron 1 Pc. | $449 |
| Kohler Santa Rosa 1 Pc. | $399 |
| Duravit Tribeca 1 Pc. | $499 |
| Duravit Metro 1 Pc. | $699 |
| Toto Supreme Elongated 1 Pc. | $449 |

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| Cabano Tech 3 Pc. Deck Set | Chrome | $389 |
| Selection 25 "K" Collection Single Hole | Chrome | $209 |
| Selection 25 "Amy" Collection Widespread | Chrome<br>Brushed Nickel/White | $199<br>$239 |
| Contessor Thermostatic System with Slidebar | | $399 |
| Hansgrohe Thermobalance I System | Chrome | $449 |
| TechnoSystem 3 | Chrome<br>Brushed Nickel | $799<br>$1099 |
| Rubinet H20 Widespread | Chrome<br>Satin Brass | $369<br>$519 |
| Genesis Widespread | Chrome<br>Brushed Nickel | $229<br>$319 |
| Aquabrass "Love Me" Single Hole | Chrome | $559 |

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| Roblux Rondelle Wallmount Sink | $999 |
| Clivia Wallhung Console | $1089 |
| Neptune Zen Basin 19R | $299 |
| Muskoka 30" Vanity | $899 |

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|---|---|
| American Standard 'Standard' Suite | $849 |
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| American Standard Antiquity Suite | $549 |
| Toto Promenade Suite | $749 |
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| Supreme U1-3/4 Undermount Sink | | $559 |
| Suter D8U-10 Undermount | | $599 |
| Franke RGX160 | | $619 |
| Oliveri 70U Undermount Sink | | $349 |
| Oliveri 873U 32-1/2" x 20-1/2" includes cutting board and colander | | $559 |
| Blanco Precision U1-3/4 Undermount 33" x 20" | | $1499 |
| Alta Pullout Spray | Chrome | $329 |
| Alta Mini Cold Water | Chrome | $139 |
| Rubinet Romanesque with pullout spray | Chrome<br>Satin Nickel | $289<br>$379 |
| Rubinet Hexis Bridge with pullout spray | Chrome | $529 |
| LaTorre Tech Kitchen | Chrome | $799 |
| Grohe Ladylux Cafe Pullout Spray | Chrome | $439 |
| Grohe Europlus II Pullout Spray | Chrome | $399 |

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10 20

On Campus

# 'His passion for music translated into how he lived his life'

**Continued from page 24**

Although early on it seemed that the tumours were responding well to the chemotherapy, they never stayed inactive long enough for Ben-Nathan to receive the stem-cell treatment.

At the June 28 memorial service, held at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, Ben-Nathan's best friends, Dori Borshiov and Arryn Greenspan spoke not about the tragedy, but about how Ben-Nathan dealt with it in such a courageous way.

"He exemplified character traits that not only inspired me, but also those he surrounded himself with to always live life to the fullest," Greenspan said.

"On the day that Barak found out there was no more the doctors could do for him, he got up and went to a concert with another great friend of ours. His perseverance and love for life never diminished throughout even the most difficult times," he added.

Borshiov said that Ben-Nathan, who was originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, but was living in Toronto on a student visa, used himself as an example of why people should learn to live in the moment and cherish loving relationships.

"He inspired people to call home, to spend time with their grandparents. A friend of his took it upon himself to visit sick people in the hospital," Borshiov said. "Barak led by example. He wouldn't try to draw a lot of attention to himself, he would just do it."

Despite the obstacles brought on by the disease, Ben-Nathan, who was passionate about music, still managed to graduate with a bachelor of fine arts, with honours, from York University.

"His passion for music translated into how he lived his life," Borshiov said.

To remember that passion, Borshiov and Greenspan suggested that people donate to the Rubin Conservatory of Music in Haifa.

"This is an organization that offers comprehensive musical education to children in Haifa aged four to 18 from all social, economic, and religious backgrounds. We know that both music and Israel were both very dear to Barak's heart, and this would be a great way to honour his legacy," Greenspan said.

Borshiov also mentioned that he and Greenspan are organizing a class about "Why bad things happen to good people?" in an attempt to help people cope with Ben-Nathan's death.

Before stepping down from the podium, Borshiov pleaded with the gathering to get checked for cancer by their doctors, because early detection dramatically increases a person's chances of survival.

For more information about Ben-Nathan's fight against cancer, visit his blog at www.myhealth.blog.com.

## SENIOR HONOURED

**Efraim Lechtman, centre, was one of 159 seniors honoured across Canada recently as part of Chartwell Seniors Housing's National Appreciation of Seniors Day. A resident of Constantia Retirement Residence in Thornhill, Lechtman's extensive volunteer work has included delivering meals on wheels for Baycrest for 10 years and helping to drive fellow seniors to medical appointments. For this volunteerism, renowned photographer Yuri Dojc, right, presented Lechtman with a signed copy of his newest book of photography, *Reflections*. With them is Constantia's general manager, Harry Rosenberg.**

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# International

*Israel & the Jewish World*

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Analysis

## As Israel fights, Europe starts to squirm

By HERB KEINON
*Jerusalem Post*

While Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told the cabinet Sunday that Israel has maintained "a level of understanding and support" abroad for its military actions, the words "disproportionate use of force" and "collective punishment" are increasingly seeping into foreign statements on the situation.

For instance, in a July 7 telephone conversation between Livni and Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, the Finn – according to European sources – expressed "concern at the new loss of lives caused by the disproportionate use of force by the Israel Defence Forces."

According to the sources, Tuomioja "also reiterated the EU position that the abducted Israeli soldier [Cpl. Gilad Shalit] should be unconditionally released, but his abduction did not authorize collective punishment against the entire population of Gaza." Finland currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

During the conversation, according to sources, Tuomioja stressed the importance of opening up border crossings in order to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered. He also said that the "Israeli operation has prompted strong reactions with many countries outside the EU, mentioning especially the Swiss call on Israel to uphold international humanitarian law."

One Foreign Ministry official, however, denied the conversation with the Finnish Foreign Minister signified a change in Europe's attitude toward the Israeli action. He said Livni's comment at the cabinet meeting that there is support and understanding for the action doesn't mean there is no criticism.

The official said that, for the most part, the West is calling for the release of Shalit, acceptance of Israel's right to defend itself, action against terrorism and its infrastructure, and refusal to negotiate with Hamas.

Everything is relative, the official said. "Remember, the IDF is acting in a predominantly civilian area." He said that while Israel is hearing expressions of concern and requests for Israel to show caution, few are questioning Israel's right to take action.

By and large, Livni told the cabinet, as long as the IDF's actions on the ground are perceived abroad as aimed at achieving the stated goals of freeing Shalit, stopping Qassam rocket fire on Israel and changing the rules of the game vis-a-vis Hamas, "it is reasonable to believe that the current level of support would be maintained."

She said she is concerned about a growing tendency toward what she termed "moral equivalency" regarding the crisis, meaning that there is a perception that both sides are responsible for the current crisis, and therefore both sides must come up with solutions.

## IDF stay in Gaza may be months

**Continued from page 1**

in the cabinet suggested a compromise, a kind of retroactive prisoner swap, could still be in the works.

"The release of the kidnapped soldier will be a must. The moment that Qassam rocket fire also stops, we will enter a period of quiet, at the end of which it will be possible to release prisoners as a goodwill gesture," Israel's internal security minister, Avi Dichter, said at a conference in Tel Aviv. "This is something that Israel has done in the past and that can serve it in the future as well."

The remarks were relayed internationally, prompting Dichter to say he had been misunderstood. But the Palestinians, under pressure to see Israeli forces out of Gaza, were nonetheless encouraged. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said he felt a prisoner swap could still be achieved.

In any event, Israel appears to be prepared to keep its forces in Gaza – especially as cross-border rocket fire has continued in defiance of the crackdown. Three people in the Israeli border town of Sderot were wounded by a salvo on their homes Sunday, one of them moderately.

"We are prepared to continue the operation another month, two months and if need be even more," said Maj. Gen. Yoav Gallant, chief of Israel's Southern Command. "When the Palestinians do their overall reckoning in another month or two, and count the hundreds of dead terrorists and the infrastructure that has been damaged, I expect that they will think twice before the next kidnapping attempt."

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# Jewish astronaut remembers Ilan Ramon

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Garrett Reisman, a 38-year-old Jewish mechanical engineer due to fly in a U.S. space shuttle to the International Space Station in 15 months, has invited Rona Ramon – widow of Israel astronaut Col. Ilan Roman – to give him sentimental objects connected to her husband to take on his mission.

Reisman, born in New Jersey and now being trained as a mission specialist in Houston, told the *Jerusalem Post* in an interview that he underwent astronaut training along with Ramon and became friendly with him.

Since the explosion of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's ill-fated Columbia shuttle with Ramon and six other astronauts aboard, Reisman has been assigned to keep in touch with the Ramon family. When Rona invited him to attend last week's ceremony naming Rehovot's Kaplan Medical Center's new emergency medicine department in Ilan's memory, Reisman immediately agreed to come.

As members of the Ramon family, including Ilan's father, hospital director-general Yosef Bar-El and department director Dr. Yael Dinai looked on, the astronaut's widow and Reisman unveiled a sculpture of stone, inset with a metal model of the Columbia.

"Several Jews have already gone to space with NASA astronauts, so I will not be the first, but I remember Ilan saying he looked out at Jerusalem, and I will do the same. It will be a special moment for me," he said.

Garrett Reisman

The $8 million (US) emergency department will serve 500,000 area residents who are ill or are victims of road accidents or terror. "It was fantastic to meet all the professionals and see the state-of-the-art facility," Reisman said.

It was the third visit to Israel for Reisman, who has been in astronaut training in Houston since 1998. He spent time here in 1985 with his family when he was a high school student on vacation; the second occasion was to accompany Rona Ramon to her husband's funeral.

"It was so incredibly tragic. Ilan had a great sense of humour and worked very hard to represent not only Israel but every Jew in the world," Reisman said. Given the options of collecting debris from the shuttle that fell to earth, assisting in the technical aspects or giving emotional support to the families, Reisman chose to help with the Ramon family.

"I got to know them even better than I knew Ilan. Rona is active and the kids are doing very well. It was difficult for them to decide when to return home, but she made the right decision," he said.

Reisman's current visit to Israel was via Moscow, where he underwent training with Russian cosmonauts who will work with him on the space station. "The Russians are very proud of their accomplishments in space, which include everything but landing on the moon." Even today, you see street vendors selling T-shirts with the image of Yuri Gargarin, the Russian cosmonaut who was the first man to go to space," he said.

"I grew up during the Cold War, so now it's almost unthinkable that I'm a part of a mission of co-operations with Russians, along with Canadians, Europeans and Japanese."

He said that as a Jew, he has never felt discriminated against growing up in the United States or working for NASA or co-operating with Russian scientists (and speaking their language), but while in Moscow, he did notice some anti-Semitic graffiti and hear some unpleasant remarks from people who did not know he is Jewish.

Reisman, who can read some Hebrew but has forgotten most of the language he knew when he had his bar mitzvah, recalled that he has been interested in space since he was a kid assembling model planes and rockets and watching movies about Mercury, Gemini and Apollo flights, but he never took it seriously as a future career.

At the University of Pennsylvania, he studied economics and mechanical engineering and then learned to fly. After doing his doctorate in mechanical engineering at the California Institute of Technology and getting a pilot's licence, he thought that his experience was not so different from missions specialists. He applied along with 2,000 others and was accepted to a class of 31 that included six foreigners.

Although there is no NASA plan yet for another Israeli astronaut and none currently training in Houston, Reisman hopes that at least the Israel Space Agency – which he said has superb technical abilities – will be able to co-operate on the International Space Station project.

As for the danger of space flights – demonstrated by the Challenger disaster, in January 1986, and the Columbia disaster, in February 2003 – Reisman said he has "no illusions about absolute safety. We have psychologists to help us cope with living in isolation from our families for six months on the space station but not with fear about the launch or re-entry.

"But pilots of high-performance aircraft and scuba divers are not strangers to risk. And we are trained so well, that the actual launch feels like a simulation. Even though you're scared, you have a strong instinct to do your job."

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# Controversial rabbi was father of British Masorti movement

By PAUL SHAVIV
*Special to The CJN*

Obituary

The passing of Rabbi Louis Jacobs on July 1, just a few days before his 86th birthday, deprives the British Jewish community of the most knowledgeable, most versatile and most controversial scholar it has ever produced.

Rabbi Jacobs was born in 1920 to a working-class, not particularly observant family in Manchester, England. As a teenager, he was the outstanding student at the Manchester yeshiva. He later became one of the early fellows of the Gateshead Kollel, and in the late 1940s, he came to London as the assistant rabbi at Rabbi Eli Munk's strictly Orthodox Golders Green Beth Hamedrash. He also enrolled at University College London, where exposure to critical scholarship and the wider academic world irrevocably changed his intellectual belief, although not his faith.

In 1957, by now rabbi of the fashionable New West End United Synagogue in London, Rabbi Jacobs published the book *We Have Reason to Believe*, which proposed that Jews could accept modern biblical scholarship but still regard traditional Jewish law as authoritative. In Anglo-Jewry at the time, it was unexceptional.

What followed was a British harbinger of changes in Orthodoxy that have characterized Jewish life ever since.

Denouncing Rabbi Jacobs' views as heresy, the then-chief rabbi of England, Israel Brodie, excluded him first from Jews' College and then from his pulpit in London. This caused a major public scandal, and the consequences of the "Jacobs Affair" still resonate in the British Jewish community.

Rabbi Jacobs' supporters resigned en masse from the United Synagogue and founded an independent congregation, the New London Synagogue.

In the decades that followed, Rabbi Jacobs published a staggering array of both scholarly and popular works on Judaism. His knowledge covered medieval philosophy, theology, Talmudic studies, responsa literature, Kabbalah, mysticism and Chassidism.

Few scholars worldwide equalled his range of scholarly activity, and even his detractors could never criticize his knowledge or scholarship. He was a visiting fellow at Harvard Divinity School, and in 1985, when the American Lubavitch Chassidim sued a nephew of the Schneersohn family over ownership of the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe's valuable library, Rabbi Jacobs was the expert witness retained by Chabad as the world expert on chassidic doctrine. (He found it piquant that the judge in the case had been married to the daughter of renowned Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr.)

Rabbi Jacobs never sought controversy. In his personal life, he was a gentleman shy, reserved and unfailingly gracious to all. He remained civil, polite and dignified throughout his life, suffering major and minor insults – continuing up to very recent times – with reserve.

His New London Synagogue generated the British Masorti movement, which sits awkwardly somewhere between the North American Conservative movement and traditional Orthodoxy. Yet Rabbi Jacobs distanced himself from the British Masorti movement, uncomfortable with its halachically radical tendencies. He still believed in an observant, traditional halachic Judaism that incorporated the implications of modern thought and scholarship. But it proved to be a refined, somewhat cerebral position that could only ever appeal to a small circle.

In 2005, readers of the *London Jewish Chronicle* voted him the most distinguished Jew in Anglo-Jewry's 350-year recent history. It was a fitting tribute. Many who did not agree with his theological position retained a lingering feeling of solidarity and sympathy – not to say guilt – for the treatment he had received. As a gesture of final reconciliation, the current chief rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, attended his funeral.

*Paul Shaviv, writing here in his personal capacity, is director of education at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.*

Israel & the Jewish World

# Adjusting to modern life a challenge

**Continued from page 1**

He knows their lives are about to change – drastically.

For the Falash Mora, some of whom have been waiting six, eight or even 12 years to depart, the flight aboard the Ethiopian Airlines jets is one of their first experiences of modern life. Only a week or so before, many had been living in not much more than dirt-floor shacks in a compound in Gonder, where conditions are, to put it charitably, primitive.

As part of their orientation to life in Israel, they had been instructed in the use of indoor toilets and the women (mostly) were shown for the first time how to safely use a gas-fired cooker.

In Gonder, a one-hour flight north of Addis that is the historic centre for Jewish life in Ethiopia, conditions have remained backward by western standards. A tour of the Falash Mora compound revealed women spinning cotton in the manner of biblical matriarchs and men making tallitot with hand-powered looms and working metal as ancient blacksmiths might have done. For those who had work as day labourers outside the compound, a wage of 10 birr per day, or a little more than $1 (US), is all they could expect.

For Falash Mora seeking to emigrate to Israel, adjusting to modern life will prove to be a formidable challenge, particularly for the older generation. Ori Konforti, consul with the Israeli embassy in Addis and the man in charge of the Ethiopian aliyah, said more than 75 per cent of the Falash Mora are illiterate. One estimate puts the cost to the Israeli government of integrating Falash Mora at $100,000 each.

Because the Falash Mora are considered Christians, they are not eligible to immigrate under Israel's Law of Return. Instead, they are being admitted under family reunification criteria and all must be sponsored by relatives already in Israel, Konforti said.

The vetting process is painstaking, with potential immigrants interviewed in Ethiopia by Amharic-speaking interrogators. Their testimony and any evidence they present is evaluated in Ethiopia and sent to Israel, where their relatives are also questioned and the stories cross-checked. If their stories match, approval is granted.

Konforti divides the Falash Mora into three groups. The first, about 1,600 strong, have already received approval to immigrate and they are being brought to Israel at the rate of 300 per month. (Two weeks ago, the Israeli government turned down a proposal to double that pace.)

A second group of 10,000 to 11,000 are on "the list" of persons being checked by Israel's Ministry of the Interior. Konforti believes "the vast majority will be approved."

The third group is not so lucky. "There are thousands of people living near the [Israeli] embassy or close to our office in Gonder," Konforti said. "They are dreaming that some day, some aircraft will take them to the Promised Land." However, he expects few will meet Israeli immigration criteria.

* * *

Previous Ethiopian migration to Israel occurred in two waves. Operation Moses (1984-85) and Operation Solomon (1991) brought to Israel the Beta Israel, the black Jews of Ethiopia known pejoratively by their neighbours as Falashas (strangers or outsiders). Their current population in Israel is a little more than 100,000.

In recent years, political pressure mounted on the Israeli government to reunify Beta Israel with their Christian relatives still in Ethiopia. The Falash Mora are believed to have converted to Christianity to avoid discrimination or to own land. Though ineligible to make aliyah under Israel's Law of Return, since 1999 about 3,600 a year have been brought to Israel. One report suggested that in addition to the thousands in Gonder and Addis hoping for aliyah, there could be thousands more with Jewish ties living in the northern Ethiopian highlands. Konforti said many Ethiopians who have no ties to Israel but who are eager to improve their lives are hoping to make aliyah.

Many in Israel "say it's an unending process that will be almost impossible to cut in the future," Konforti stated.

In January 2005, then-Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon "made a military [like] decision… to end the situation in a systematic way, to help people in the pipeline." The plan was to bring just under 20,000 Falash Mora to Israel by the end of 2008.

Sharon relied on a ruling by Chief Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, who had decided in 1973 that the Beta Israel were indeed Jews. Rabbi Yosef declared that the Falash Mora had converted out of fear and persecution and should also be considered Jews.

A U.S. NGO, the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ), has lobbied for Falash Mora immigration. The NGO has been barred by the Ethiopian government from operating in the country, but through an affiliate it operates the Gonder compound pending a Jewish Agency takeover. It offers a feeding program (2,900 children receive two meals a day), health care and helps prepare Falash Mora for life in Israel.

In North America, the United Jewish Communities (UJC) pledged last year to raise $100 million (US) over three years for Falash Mora immigration, though that campaign might be in jeopardy because of the refusal of the Israeli government to increase the monthly rate of aliyah.

Konforti believes NACOEJ "from an Israeli perspective were a kind of pain in the ass. They created for us an unending situation."

Getu Zemene, spokesperson for the Falash Mora in Gonder, argues that of those waiting to emigrate, "most have a father or mother or close relatives in Israel."

Moreover, most would never have converted to Christianity if Ethiopians had treated them equally. Zemene, who has been waiting eight years to move to Israel, said the Falash Mora at the Gonder compound moved there from seven nearby villages. They sold all they had in the hopes of being selected to make aliyah. They would be without hope if denied the opportunity to move to Israel.

"Life is terrible here in Gonder," he said. Few have work and many rely on remittances from relatives in Israel to make ends meet.

"People here consider themselves Jewish," he said, though he acknowledged that before they moved to Gonder, "they were practising Christianity."

In Gonder, however, they have embraced Judaism and as if to illustrate that fact to visiting North Americans, hundreds of men, wearing tallitot and tfillin, and women participated in a morning service. To an outsider, they appear more pious and observant than most Israelis.

"From the beginning they are Jewish people," Zemene proclaimed.

Falash Mora men at morning prayer in Gonder. [Paul Lungen photo]


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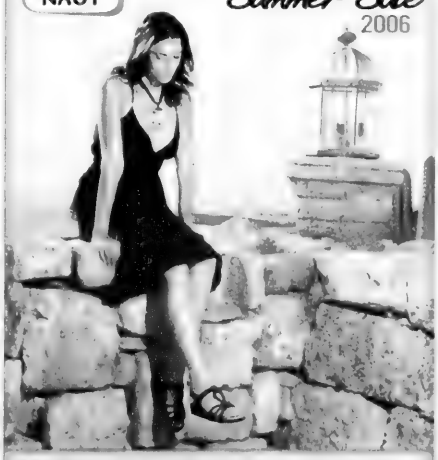

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Books & Authors

# 'Funny-sad' stories explore dark side of human relationships

***Lines of Truth and Conversation* by Joan Alexander, Porcupine's Quill Press.**

**By BILL GLADSTONE**
*Special to The CJN*

Producing an acclaimed first collection of short stories was a "snap" for Joan Alexander, a Toronto writer whose book, *Lines of Truth and Conversation*, merited inclusion in the *Globe and Mail*'s list of the 100 best books of 2005.

Joan Alexander

*Snap* is the title of perhaps the collection's most charming tale, about an eight-year-old girl's search for emotional stability and a sympathetic friend after her father's remarriage in Chicago in 1962. (The girl's mother had dropped out of the picture because she "drank too much, forged cheques and ran around with men.")

"Snap" is the sound the girl's little patent-leather purse makes as she opens it to rearrange her things – "a tissue, a comb and a bow for my hair" – during the marriage ceremony in a rabbi's study. When she is done laying each item in turn on her lap, she replaces them in her purse, which she closes with another annoying "snap."

"When the ceremony was over, and everyone had told me how bothersome the snapping sound had been and what a nuisance I was, my brother and I were taken home to Jill's apartment," the narrator relates in the first paragraph. What follows is a gem of a tale describing the girl's emotional roller-coaster ride as she adjusts to a difficult stepmother and her family's new life in Jill's apartment on Chicago's south side.

Ultimately, her father's second marriage proves a flop, as do the various friendships the narrator attempts to forge with her stepsister, neighbours, a black maid and others. But through her tribulations, she realizes a deeper purpose: the need to be a writer. Imbedded into the story is a mirror through which the narrator reflects on her childhood and the formation of her own identity. Whether intentional or not, the story has all the hallmarks of a literary self-portrait of the artist at a young age.

Canadian writer Mavis Gallant also found much to admire in *Snap*, and nominated it for inclusion in *Best New American Voices* when it first appeared in the journal *The New Quarterly*.

Alexander sent the story to John Metcalf, the celebrated editor at Porcupine's Quill Press, three years ago. "He read *Snap* in July 2003 and he said, 'Send me your work,'" she recalled. She began sending him other stories she'd been writing since the late '90s – 10 in all, including the long piece *Five Months*, which, at 60 published pages, qualifies as a novella. The plan at first was to publish the novella separately, but ultimately all the pieces were presented in a single collection.

*Five Months* chronicles the last months in the life of a family patriarch and the family's various insensitivities and squabbles over material possessions that arise before and after his death. While some characters come across as compassionate and caring, and others as calculating and cold, Alexander said she attempted to present everybody in a sympathetic light.

"Everybody cared about the old man in their own way," she said. "I wasn't trying to create a dark figure." Then she declared with a smile: "That's the kind of writer I am – everybody gets equal opportunity."

Her sly, wry sense of humour is just as evident in conversation as it is in her prose. Her stories, which often seem to explore the dark side of human relationships, have been called "funny-sad." She seems pleased that I get the comic edge to her writing because, she says, not all readers do. She said she thinks of herself as "funny-sad" but added that no one else in her family does. (However, she herself sometimes doesn't seem to realize when she's being funny, as when she tells this interviewer, apparently in all seriousness, "It's kind of you to write down what I'm saying!")

Alexander was born in Chicago in 1954, graduated in English from the University of Illinois, and in 1979 married a Canadian, with whom she has two sons aged 22 and 20; she and her family live in the Eglinton-Bathurst neighbourhood of Toronto. "I just got my citizenship this year, and I'm happy and proud about that," she said. For many years she volunteered with the annual Jewish Book Fair and taught part time at the Jewish community school at Bloor and Spadina. She began to concentrate on writing fiction about 1998.

When she's writing a story, she has no idea of where it will go and only hopes that a structure will eventually emerge. "Like Jackson Pollock, I'm just getting down the drips," she said, likening the process to what an abstract expressionist painter like Pollock does to capture the spontaneous act of creation on canvas.

However her own particular talent may be judged, talent is only part of the equation for most writers, she said. "You get the gift and as everybody says, the rest is perspiration. That's true with everything: sports, being a gardener, literally with everything. It's just the work. People ask, do I believe that writing can be taught? Not really. But I believe you can work with what you have and make it better."

The morning the *Globe* included her in the top 100, Alexander couldn't bring herself to read the paper, but she kept busy fielding telephone calls from all over. "It was a good day," she said. "I never had a morning like that. It was out of the ordinary for me. It was nice."

A mature stylist, she has presented us with a charming story collection and the prospect of an equally promising work to follow. She is currently putting the finishing touches on a debut novel about a Jewish family in Toronto about 2003, just as the war in Iraq is building up. "The novel is almost there," she said, "but I've been saying it's almost there for about six months now."

*Lines of Truth and Conversation*, at 192 pages, is available in bookstores. The novel, hopefully, will be coming soon.

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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## PINCHAS ZUKERMAN RENEWS CONTRACT WITH NAC ORCHESTRA

**Pinchas Zukerman** will remain the music director of the Ottawa-based National Arts Centre Orchestra for at least five more years, the NAC's board has announced.

On the recommendation of its president and CEO **Peter Herrndorf**, the NAC extended Zukerman's contract until at least 2011. Herrndorf said the NAC would certainly continue to benefit from "his leadership on the podium, his extraordinary musical artistry as soloist, his profound commitment to music education and his commitment to annual touring with our orchestra."

Since arriving at the national institution in 1999, Zukerman "has set an incredible pace of conducting, playing concertos and chamber music, teaching, planning seasons, touring, making recordings and expanding our program repertoire," said Christopher Deacon, the orchestra's managing director.

Pinchas Zukerman

Under Zukerman, the orchestra has attracted major recording and media projects, and made tours of various regions of Canada, Europe, the Middle East, United States and Mexico. Tours of China and Japan are pending in 2007.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, Zukerman began musical training with his father, first on recorder, then clarinet, and ultimately violin and viola. At age eight he began studying at the Israel Conservatory and the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. He came to America to study at Juilliard in 1962 and won a major international competition in 1967, launching his solo career. He is the fifth conductor to lead the NAC Orchestra, which was founded in 1969.

* * *

**Buchbinder Keeps Busy: The David Buchbinder Sextet** performs at the Elora General Store at the Elora Festival, Saturday, July 29, 9:30 p.m. $15. www.elorafestival.com. The sextet also plays at the Beaches International Jazz Festival, Sunday, July 30, 12:30 p.m. Free. www.beachesjazz.com. And in September, Buchbinder teams with Cuban pianist-composer **Hilario Duran** to explore Afro-Cuban-klezmer fusion sounds at the Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture. www.ashkenazfestival.com

* * *

**Names in the News**

• Toronto photographer **Beverley Abramson** has just produced *Off We Go!*, a children's book (ages three to five) highlighting the many energetic ways – spinning, whirling, running, jumping – that children move. Abramson knows a lot about the subject, as she regularly hops, skips, and jumps with her five granddaughters and a grandson. The publisher is Tundra Books.

• An article about Canadian Jewish poets by Israeli literary critic **Rafi Weichert** appeared recently in the Hebrew Internet journal **Mekor Reshon**. Weichert expounded on the likes of **A. M. Klein**, **Irving Layton** and **Leonard Cohen** as he attempted to wean his readership from their usual focus on Jewish-American writers. Interestingly, he described Ottawa poet-professor **Seymour Mayne** as the most "Israeli" of the internationally known Diaspora writers.

• Oscar-winning actor **Richard Dreyfuss** appeared on a London stage in June, playing the title role in *Freud*, a play by his friend **Harvey White**, a New York psychiatrist. The 59-year-old Brooklyn-born star told the *Jewish Chronicle* that few people believe him when he says that he's retired from film work; his role in the recent *Poseidon* was "for the money," he said. Dreyfuss has been living in London for several years with his third wife, Russian-born **Svetlana Erokhin**.

* * *

**At the Galleries**

• A collection of acrylic on canvas originals by **Liora Rosenman** capture nature in its abstract form with interplay of colors and shapes. At the Blue Dot Gallery, Distillery District, 55 Mill St., until July 26. www.thebluedotgallery.com

• Paintings by Toronto artist **Paul Peregal** are on view, along with those by **David Gnass** and **Philip Winestone**, in an exhibition about jazz at the Mittica Gallery, 903 Queen St. W. "His images are painted with thick black strokes that melt and enliven the profusion of vibrant colour creating a kind of pulsating stained glass." 416-703-3800

# Film about Holocaust education now out on DVD

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
*Special to The CJN*

The film *Paper Clips* is finally available on DVD.

The documentary was released by an American company called Hart Sharp Video, and I'm not sure if it's easily available in Canada, although amazon.ca carries it and some video stores can obtain it, although they may have to bring it in from the United States.

The story behind *Paper Clips* is well known. A middle school in Whitwell, Tenn., was looking for a program to teach students about diversity and other cultures. The town was made up almost exclusively of white, Christian people, with very few African Americans and no Jews.

When David Smith, the school's assistant principal, returned from a conference, he suggested that the children do a project about the Holocaust, and from that sprang a program that energized an entire community and became a beacon for many others to follow.

The idea – to collect one paper clip for each of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust – captured the interest of the students, who did research related to the Holocaust themselves, and it caught the imagination of many outside the town, including Elliot Berlin and Joe Fab, who decided to make a film about the project.

The film has played theatrically in many major Canadian cities, and it's been screened by community and religious groups to thousands of people. The Toronto Jewish Film Festival showed the film to more than 1,500 students during the past winter, and it held four screenings at the festival in May. All the screenings were free and included a talk afterward by a Holocaust survivor.

The film seems to have hit a nerve in the community, and its release on DVD promises that many more people will have an opportunity to see it.

The DVD has about one hour of bonus material, including one feature called "Sabbath Lesson at Ground Zero." In April 2002, several students from Whitwell, along with the school's principal, Linda Hooper, and teacher Sandra Roberts, were invited to speak at a Jewish temple in the New York area. They also ate Sabbath dinner at a member's home, and they met some Jewish teenagers and toured Manhattan, including Ground Zero, where the World Trade Center once stood. It was a moving experience for all, including those watching the DVD.

The extras include an expanded version of the dedication of the memorial built in front of the school, as well as a number of extended scenes and interviews with Holocaust survivors.

The bonus features deepen and enrich the experience of watching the film.

**Larry Anklewicz at the paper clip memorial in Whitwell, Tenn.**

After seeing the film and meeting David Smith, I visited Whitwell last December on the way back from Florida. I spent about 40 minutes viewing a cattle car that houses the memorial and the 11 million paper clips that the students eventually collected (representing all the victims of the Nazis, Jews and others). I was also fortunate to spend time with Hooper and others at the school. More people should take the time to visit the memorial, which is an easy 40-minute drive off Highway I-75.

A second documentary recently released on DVD, *Sister Rose's Passion*, was screened by the Toronto Jewish Film Festival in 2005 and tells the story of a remarkable woman.

Sister Rose was an 85-year-old nun and a professor at Seaton Hall University in New Jersey. She was a leader in trying to mend relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community. She took on the church establishment, and her PhD dissertation was instrumental in getting the Church to officially announce that the Jews should not be blamed for killing Jesus.

Sister Rose was also a leader in making Holocaust studies part of school curricula in New Jersey and elsewhere in the United States, and she never stopped working for better relations between Catholics and Jews.

The DVD has a number of powerful bonus features, including a discussion between Sister Rose and other nuns about Catholic-Jewish relations; a clip of the film receiving an award at the Tribeca Film Festival; and an interview with director Oren Jacoby on the *Charlie Rose Show*.

Sister Rose died recently, but this DVD will help keep her memory alive and hopefully further her work.

And for readers who have been waiting to hear about *Gloomy Sunday*, I can now report that it's scheduled to be released on DVD on Sept. 12.

# Fast-paced film is a portrait of a terrrorist

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

*The War Within* is extremely timely, dealing with the red-hot subject of terrorism since the catastrophic events of Sept. 11, 2001, in the United States.

Now playing in Toronto, Joseph Castelo's feature film underscores the fact that the movie industry is now ready to embrace this sensitive topic wholeheartedly and unreservedly after having stayed clear of it.

*The War Within* is set mainly in and around Manhattan, where the World Trade Towers fell in a cloud of thick dust and grit after being struck by commercial airliners commandeered by 19 Muslim terrorists.

The chief protagonist, Hassan (Ayad Ahktar), is a Pakistani engineer and member of a terrorist cell that has been broken up by the police.

He and his fellow plotters had planned to blow up Grand Central Station. The police arrest all of the conspirators but Hassan and Khalid (Charles Daniel Sandoval), the charismatic ringleader.

Hassan, an Islamic fundamentalist, escapes the dragnet, finding refugee with Sayeed (Firdous Bamji), his unsuspecting, somewhat secular childhood friend who lives with his family in a New Jersey cookie-cutter suburb.

*The War Within* actually begins in Paris' Latin Quarter three years earlier. Hassan, then a student, is hustled into a car, drugged and flown to Karachi, Pakistan, suspected of being a terrorist. His abductors are Western intelligence agents.

It is a taut opening, and fortunately, Castelo is able to sustain the fast pace.

In essence a portrait of a terrorist, the film takes us into Hassan's mind as he prepares himself for the attack. Only later does a viewer learn why Hassan has become an Islamic radical and turned against the United States.

Anything but frightened of his impending mission, Hassan is glad he can be of service to Allah. "This is god's work," he says. Like a Palestinian suicide bomber, he believes that life after death will be far better. Call it, if you will, the culture of death.

But with each passing day he spends with Sayeed and his family, Hassan is increasingly torn between his jihadist impulses and still unfulfilled mission and his fond feelings for them.

Castelo skilfully captures these deep-seated emotions, and his cast is up to the task of articulating them

*The War Within*, which unfolds in English and Urdu, takes its title from a revealing scene at a Muslim holiday barbecue.

A Pakistani man has only words of praise for the United States, where he has achieved a measure of prosperity. But his friend, an anti-American, denounces his adopted country as a voracious colonial power that oppresses Muslims.

Castelo, in this pivotal segment, touches on an important point: the majority of Muslims oppose terrorism and are law-abiding citizens, but a seething minority has embarked on the path of extremism.

Fine, suspenseful and very topical, *The War Within* is a microcosm of the tensions that roil Islam in this era of Muslim rage and rampant terrorism.

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Arts & Travel

# Choreographer inspired by strong women in her life

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

Female aggression isn't the most popular topic in the mainstream media. Besides watching Rachel get mad at Ross on *Friends*, feminine emotions on TV are often limited to catfights, or crying. One Toronto choreographer, though, is putting aggressive women front and centre in a new, original production.

"I was watching a movie, *The Upside of Anger*, the other day, and in the making of it, they said it was so hard for them to get the movie done because people who went said they don't want to watch a film about angry women," says Kathleen Rea, the creator of *IRE*, one of three pieces being performed as part of her Vivid dance series.

"I was choreographing my piece at the time and I was like, 'yeah, that's so true.' But we do have anger, we do have aggression… it's definitely part of our lives."

**Bess Callard, left, with Anna Finkle in IRE.** [Greg Schilhab photo]

Rea has been working on the piece for more than a year now, which she says was inspired by all the strong women in her life, especially her late grandmother.

"My grandmother survived the Second World War in Estonia and Germany. They beat down the door and grabbed her husband out of bed and she never saw him again." Her grandmother was pregnant at the time and went into labour on the train to her parents' house.

"They couldn't stop the train, so they slowed down and had her step out. She had the baby in a field. She was someone who was very fiery, and a bit crazy because of all the experiences she went through, but she had such a huge heart and a lot of the pieces are inspired by her."

*IRE* focuses on the lives of six women ranging in age from early 20s to late 40s. Each character deals with different types of aggression, both positive and negative, such as the frustration that comes with having kids or going through immigration.

"Johanna Bergfeldt, [one of the dancers], was going through the immigration process last year and we choreographed a piece for her about her frustration with all the paperwork," says Rea.

"The audience won't know that, though, because I placed it in a piece where the crowd will see a woman who's just really frustrated and pissed off about life."

Including the dancers' personal experiences into the production was important for Rea. She says the more input her cast has, the more sincere the dance becomes.

"There's a naturalness to it," she says. "It's almost like letting the audience have a view of an intimate part of a woman's life in family and relationships. The more my hands are off, the more it's really opening a window [for the audience] to see in."

Rea's dancers are appreciative of her hands-off approach. Anna Finkel, the youngest dancer in the play at 22, was able to incorporate her own experiences in her role, which allowed her to really connect with her performance.

"It feels very real," she says. "I feel like I'm expressing how I actually feel about something that's quite deep and comes from quite a deep place."

What's also unique about this production is the performers' diverse age range and experiences. Finkel graduated from the School of Toronto Dance Theatre in 2005, while Karen Kacja is an experienced, well-known dancer.

"Dance is such a youth-oriented profession, so it's a rare thing to use such an age range," says Rea. "But it really lets me show different points in a woman's life, as women have different experiences."

The age disparity also allowed Finkel to get up close and personal with talented professionals.

"It was a little intimidating for sure, especially because I was straight out of school, but it's a very supportive environment and a great group. There was a lot of observing on my side, watching how the older dancers took in information from Kathleen [Rea] and how different the environment was from school," says Finkel.

By now she's well acquainted with her dance mates and she's eager to see how the audience will react to six strong women showing their edgier sides.

"I'm not sure how the audience will react," she says. "For me, I know that in each section I'm in a completely different emotional state, so I can image that when it all comes to putting it together in a really, full-energy kind of way, that it will be an intense emotional rollercoaster for me, and I presume, the audience as well."

*IRE runs from July 12 to 15 at 8:30 pm at Toronto's Winchester Street Theatre. Tickets are $16 in advance or $20 cash only at the door. Students, seniors, $14. Advance tickets are being sold through the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts box office, 416-366-7723.*


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**BAYCREST SENIORS RESIDENCE**
$275,000. Rarely available penthouse suite. 2 bdrms. 2 baths. Eat-in kitchen w/pantry. High ceilings. Locker. Parking. Building features 24 hr. conc. Party rm. Fitness centre. Rooftop garden. Situated near all amenities. ***Ron Chichora**

• • •

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* Sales Person **Broker

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# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

**Forest Hill**
Real Estate Inc. Brokerage

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|---|---|---|
| Forest Hill Village | Central | Bayview |

### CENTRAL PROPERTIES

**226 COLDSTREAM AVENUE! 5+1BR 6BTH!**
$2,279K! W/Avenue Rd! Amazing New Res On Breathtaking 47x 201'! Gorg'us Ingrnd Pool! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**1ST AD! 154 CHARLTON BLVD! $1,099,000!**
Yonge N/Finch! Spectacular 5+2 Br, 5Bth On Incredible 50x191'! Mins To Subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**ELEGANT VICTORIAN DUPLEX – PRIME ANNEX $979,000**
Main Residence (3 Bdrm), Rear Residence (2 Bdrm), Loft Ceilings, Renovated, Double Garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**REDUCED! UPPER VILLAGE HOME**
50 x 125.58 ft, Centre Hall Plan, 3Bdrms, 3 Baths, Finished Basement, Garage, Eat-in Kitchen. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875
SOLD

**$635,000. DET PRIVATE DRIVE 3BDRM 3BTH**
Finished lower level, fireplace, hardwood, private back yard, Olga Guvenal* 416-226-1987

**THORNHILL WOODS GORGEOUS! $555,000**
Approx 2500 sq ft + Finished Basement, 4 Bdrm + Loft w/Ensuite – South Lot – School + Park. Howard Lende* 416-488-2875

**CHRISTIE/ST. CLAIR – JUST RENOVATED**
3 Self contained Units, Bamboo Flooring, Halogen Pot Lights, New Kit's, New Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**IMMACULATE HOME ON GREAT LOT!**
3Bdrms, 2Bths, Reno'd Kitchen, Main Floor Family Room, w/o from LR, Garage, Steps to all. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

**ARMOUR HEIGHTS-LIVE, RENO OR BUILD NEW**
3bdrm/2 storey. Finished basement, hardwood floors, attach garage. $535,000. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987
SOLD

### NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

**2952 BAYVIEW AVENUE! FAB 43X118**
$539,900! N/Sheppard! Prime Bldg Lot Facing The Park! Much New Dev't In Area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**58 KINGSBRIDGE CIRCLE! END UNIT!**
$499,900! Wilshire/Westmount! Lux 2822'! 4Br, 3Bth! Mn Fam+2 Pce! This Won't Last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**BATHURST+CENTRE – ROSEDALE NORTH**
$339,000. 3 bedroom on quiet Crescent, huge family room. Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

### CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

**TOWNHOMES OF HOGGS HOLLOW $719,900**
1790 sq ft, Premium South Facing Courtyard Unit, Loaded with Upgrades, 3Bdrms, 3Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**1 REAN DR UNIT 2705 $599,000**
180' South West views, 2 bedroom+den, 3 bath, 2 parking. Fabulous building & amenities. Patricia Altman* 416-226-1987

**REDUCED! – HEART OF FOREST HILL**
2Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2 Parking Spaces, Fab Views, Approx 1500 Sq Ft, New Parquet Floors Thruout. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**STUNNING RENO – 2BR, 2BTH DESIGNER CUSTOM KIT**
Designer Custom Kitchen & Baths, Granite Counters, Spacious Dr + LR with w/o to Private Balcony. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875
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**247 HILLHURST BLVD! MAIN FLOOR!**
$319K! E/Bathurst! Rare Find! 3+1Br, 2Bth Ste! Strge+Grge! Feels Like A Home! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**ORIOLE/KILBARRY CO-OP APT. $218,000**
Charming 2Bedroom, 1 Bath, Eat-In Kitchen, Hardwood floors thru. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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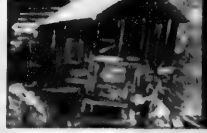

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## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

**LAKE SIMCOE • COTTAGES TO CASTLES**
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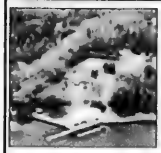


**LAKE SIMCOE COMPOUND - ROCHES PT.**
$2,999,000. Gold coast of Lake! Gated 5 acre, 350' lakefront, 6,500', 11 year old, gorgeous. ESTATE design & material unmatched!! Gatehouse, 8 car garage, 50'x90' landmark boathouse with guest quarters & sunsets.

**LK SIMCOE (Big Bay Pt.) 6.63 ac. ESTATE COMPOUND FEELS LIKE MUSKOKA!! $2M. (50 min. to Toronto)**
Love the cottage/Muskoka feel with its trees, stone walkways & paths to the 3 res. & fin'd lake front. Beautiful open plan main res., high ceilings, wood flrs., skylights, Post & Beam Fam. Rm., lux Master w/lux ens., a nice 2nd modern 2 bedroom bath & sun room res.....& a sweet 3rd 1 bedroom & bath cabin.

**LAKE SIMCOE ESTATE $1,749,000**
6,500', granite, hardwood, 9' ceilings, 8 bedrooms, 3 fireplaces, boathouse, 3 car garage, wooded enclave.

**LAKE SIMCOE FAMILY CAMPGROUND**
Alfred St.-Belle Ewart – (walk to synagogue). Private hedged level lot 72' x 348', (2) separate homes + newer boat house, main home in mint condition, 6 bedrooms, wood floors, gorgeous sun room/family room 27' x 10' off large LR with FP – Newer dream cottage, wood floors, main floor laundry, 2 baths, 3-4 bedrooms. $1,199,000.

**NEW LAKE SIMCOE coming up**
Just south of Big Bay Point, Gorgeous Lot - Words Can't Explain The Amenities Here & Privacy. $969,000.

**LAKE SIMCOE (Belle Ewart) walk to Synagogue-$479,000**
Newly renovated to perfection - it's a sweetheart with every amenity. Hardwood floor, Cathederal ceiling, luxury master & ensuite, big deck, new dock, 35 minutes to Toronto.

**LAKE SIMCOE - (STRATHALLAN WOODS) $550,000**
2 lots, 1 waterfront approx. 100'x400', gorgeous Building Lot + lot with 2,000' cottage, not water but abuts water Lot.

**LAKE SIMCOE - BIG BAY POINT**
Gorgeous, 2.49 acres. Estate building Lot, $499,000. Area of large Estates

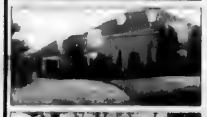
**ALL THE ABOVE COTTAGES & CASTLES ARE APPROX. 40 MINS. FROM TORONTO, LAKE SIMCOE/KEMPENFELT BAY ARE AMAZING BEAUTIFUL BODIES OF WATER AND RIGHT AT TORONTO'S DOOR STEP!**

**PATRICIA AVENUE. WOW! 3 YEARS NEW**
Elaborate ceiling mouldings and outstanding finishes. Beautiful 4 bedroom with 10' ceilings and hardwood floors on 2nd floor. Open concept granite floors and counters, s.s. appliances, skylights 20' entry, w/wrought iron railings, fin lower level. $879,000.

**BATHURST & MAJOR MACK. BEST BUY IN RICHMOND HILL.**
Now $539,000. New Kitchen, new ceramic baths, designer soft colours and décor. Over 3200 sq. ft., new finished lower level with 2nd kitchen, private yard. Move right in. Flexible closing.

**DON'T MISS THESE WOODLAND ACRES RESIDENCES ADJACENT "UPPER THORNHILL"**

**$1,250,000** – French Chateau on a hill, over one acre plus a pool, hardwood floors, master suite upstairs with lavish ensuite, fully fenced yard backs to conservation.



**$1,389,000** – Incredible value. Approx. 5000 sq. ft. on two floors plus walkout lower level. Seven baths. Large principal rooms, main floor library lots of table land for pool and court.

**$1,585,000** – Indoor Pool, 1 acre. Georgian estate on fabulous lot, huge walkout kitchen, four car garage, separate in-law apartment, finished lower level, fantastic family home.

**Dave Judson, Associate Broker**
**Anne Judson, Broker**
**Homelife/Homes Inc. Brokerage 416-730-0357**
**djudson@aci.on.ca**

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REALTY LIMITED BROKERAGE REALTOR
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## FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

Custom 3,700 sq. ft. + finished basement with its own kitchen. 5 + 1 bedrooms, 6 baths, main floor library and family room, both with custom built-in bookcases. Dream French country kitchen. palatial bathrooms, gleaming hardwood floors on both levels. Designer decor and luxurious upgrades throughout. Steps to Cortleigh Park! $1,595,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE**
**BRAND NEW** custom executive home, approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + finished basement, luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, gleaming hardwood floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $1,149,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000**
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER OF RECORD

## SOLD

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — ATTENTION BUILDERS!**
Large bungalow needing some TLC on 51.25 frontage in prime central location close to shops, schools, TTC. Separate entry to in-law suite. Renovate or build your dream home — **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**COLDSTREAM GEM – LUXURIOUS CUSTOM HOME**
Executive home in highly desirable location! Spacious 3,800 + sq. ft., 5 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite foyer, gleaming hrdwd. floors, main floor library + laundry room, close to TTC, subway, shops, schools. $1,199,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — EXCLUSIVE**
3 bedroom, 2 storey home on lot with 50 ft. frontage. Hardwood floors, renovated kitchen & bath. **ONLY $500,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**10 PRUE CONDO — SPACIOUS 1,700 SQ. FT. 2 BEDROOM REDUCED TO SELL NOW!** baths, large eat-in kitchen, sunken living room, ensuite laundry, security camera. **ONLY $439,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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- Bachelor, 1 and 2 bedroom
- Co-ownership suites
- Prestigious Forest Hill location
- Available for users or investors
- Realistically priced from $121,200.00

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**Roman Gofman, P.Eng., Sales Rep.**
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**Dufferin Hill**
**$449,900**

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**$1,195,000**
WOW ARE THE ONLY WORDS TO DESCRIBE THIS PROPERTY. 85 FEET OF WATERFRONT IN BARRIE. OVER 3200 SQ. FT HOME WITH AMAZING VIEWS OF THE CITY. MODERN DESIGN AND DECORATING. OPEN CONCEPT FOR GREAT ENTERTAINING, NUMEROUS WALKOUTS TO WATERFRONT AND TEIRED DECK WITH HOT TUB. WALKOUT FROM SPECTACULAR 2ND STOREY MASTER TO DECK OVERLOOKING THE BAY. LESS THAN 5 MINS FROM AM SHALOM. MICHAEL KEOGH SALES REP. RE/MAX CHAY REALTY INC. BROKERAGE. OFFICE 1-416-362-7100 DIRECT 705-790-0117. MLS# 0603474

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**905-764-7111**

**OLD FOREST HILL**
Elegance & grandeur. 5 bdrm, 3 baths, family room, 12' ceilings, lrge garden, w/o from kitchen, 2 car gar. See it–love it!

**NEW WESTMINSTER & CLARK**
Great 3 bdrm townhome, 3 baths, super location.

**CORNER UNIT**
131 Torresdale at Bathurst. Elegant 2 bedroom + den condo. Fully furnished. Great view. Bring your key & open the apt. Gorgeous.

**BATHURST & WILSON**
1 bdr+den condo, prkng, appl; ask $203,000 Immed poss.
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Thornhill beauty approx 4700 sq ft, 3 car garage, circular drive. Gourmet kit., 4 huge bdr, 7 washrms. Great layout, fab pool area, fin. basement, plus more!!
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Cell: 416-464-5261

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**416-633-7373**

**ALLEN ROAD/SHEPPARD**
Large bungalow, 3 bedroom, 3 baths, living & dining comb, fin basement, double garage + prkng, large lot, next to plaza, ideal for professional use, steps to all.

**SHEPPARD/WILMINGTON**
6 rooms, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, L-shaped living & dining, finished basement, garage, Don't Miss.

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**5 HOUSES FOR SALE**

**EGLINTON & AVENUE RD.**
Oversized Chaplin Estates duplex. Main flr 3 bdrm/2 bath, upper 4 bdrm/2 bath, bsmt reno'd bachelor & 1 bdrm apt. Good income. $935,000.

**KAREN G. ANTHONY,** B.A.
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## 15 HOUSESS FOR RENT

**Bathurst/Clark,** 3 bed., 3 bath., Avail. July 15th, on a private cul de sac. Newly renovated. Beautiful! Call 905-886-8841.

**Bathurst/Clark,** 3 bdrm., fin. bsmt., walking distance to Shul & school, avail. end of Aug. Call Leon 905-763-2219.

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**Avail. immediately,** 7460 Bathurst, 2nd flr., newly reno'd New appl., new carpet/floor, all amenities, prkg.+loc. Price $246,000. Call 416-706-7454.

**3000 Bathurst St.**
**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer, solarium, prkng. Shabbas elevator, near Shul, just reduced, must sell at under market price. $ 275,000. Zidner Realty
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## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**Neptune Dr.,** lge. furn., 2 br., 2 bath condo, 3rd flr., amenities. Walk to shul, TTC. Call 416-256-3031.

**Bathurst/Steeles "Courtlands",** lux. 1300', 2 bdrms., 1st flr., 2 baths, eat-in kit., solarium, sep. din. rm., lndry. rm., 5 appls., util./cable paid, 2 gar. spaces + locker. Call 905-731-1840.

**Bathurst/Finch,** 2 bed., 2 bath condo, incl. parking, avail. Immediately. Call 416-630-9449.

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**BATHURST & WILSON**
Great living at this immaculately maintained building. *Its nothing like you have seen before.* Large, bright and newly refurbished suites with oversized balconies, breathtaking views and shabbat elevator. Indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi. 1 & 2 bedrooms from only $950 Please Call
**416-931-2206**
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**Bright, newly reno'd,** 1 br. grd. flr. apt. in quiet, small bldg. across Earl Bales Park. Bathurst/Sheppard avail. for rent $850+ hydro. Call 416-635-5031.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**BATHURST-SHEPPARD**
***ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.***
Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.
Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, pool, ravine setting, 6 Apts. per flr.
**416-960-3238 - Bus.**
**416-821-0377 or 416-631-0388**

## 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Muskoka,** 3 bdrm. cottage, 3 season, Lake Mckay, child friendly sandy beach, in friendly Jewish community co-op. $125,000. Contact Sherry at 416-789-0206 or sherry.zweig@pearsoned.com

**Parry Sound area,** cottage/house, winterized, year round access, beautiful lakefront, 2 bdrm., 2 hrs. from T.O., 1/2 acre lot. $236K. Please call 416-616-5272.

**Lake Couchiching,** exec. cottage-home, 5 bdrms., 4 baths, 1 1/2 hrs. from GTA, immaculate condition, $699K. Please call 416-487-3999 or see: bytheowner.com - password: 38600.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Hollybrook Golf & Tennis Club,** KOSHER, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, grnd. flr., lake view, min. 3 mos. Call 416-787-7960 / 416-489-2464.

## 180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES

**New York City, beautiful 1 bdrm. apt.,** with terrace in prime upper East Side location, doorman bldg. w/private health club & pool, walking distance to shuls, kosher & non-kosher restaurants, parks & public transp., prefer someone who commutes reg. to New York. 1 wk. min. Please e-mail: mnycapt@verizon.net for details and costs.

## 190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

**Mt. Tremblant,** 5 bed., 2 bath. Sleeps up to 14. Pool, tennis, close to beach and village. Shuttle. Very lux. Reas. rates. Short term. 1-866-955-9961.

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Busy Jewish Day School office** is seeking a part-time office assistant. The successful candidate must possess a pleasant & convivial personality; the ability to multi-task and be highly organized. Please email your resume & references to: cgreenberg@eobeock.ca or fax to 416-787-9838.

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**Del's Cleaning Service,** we clean condos, offices, houses and renovation clean up, after party clean. 416-743-8155.

**Reliable cleaner and painters.** Reasonable rates. Call Jane at 647-281-JANE (5263).

**Exper. cleaning lady, seeks days work, Mon.-Fri. Please call Ellen at 416-695-2469.**

**Lady to care for elderly,** 5 days a week. L/O, days or nights. Refs. avail. Call 416-287-8761.

## 255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

**Caregiver required** to take care of 3 children, 11, 10 & 5. L/O, July 25-Aug. 28. Kosher home. Call 647-333-3977.

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## Israel & the Jewish World

**Israel Briefs**

***Woman to head seminary***

Einat Ramon, the first Israeli woman to be ordained a rabbi, has been named dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Israel. A graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, she becomes the first woman to head a Conservative/Masorti rabbinical school. She's also been an advocate for Masorti's struggle for recognition in Israel and for women's status in the movement.

***Civil marriage bill defeated***

The Knesset rejected a bill that would have allowed civil unions. The bill, proposed by MK Yuri Shtern of Yisrael Beiteinu, was defeated July 5 in a 63-13 vote. The bill would have let Israelis circumvent religious authorities by entering a "couple covenant." Some 300,000 immigrants are barred from marrying by Israel's rabbinical courts because they're not Jewish under Jewish law and thus can't have a Jewish wedding. Justice Minister Haim Ramon said he'll come up with a new proposal to address the problem.

***New missile being developed***

The Israeli Air Force plans to begin using a new missile in Gaza designed to better target terrorists and reduce civilians injuries in densely populated urban areas. A high-ranking officer involved in the missile's development told the *Jerusalem Post* that the new weapon will reduce the number of innocent Palestinian casualties. "We want to increase our accuracy in targeting those we are out to hit while at the same time ensuring the safety of those Palestinians not involved in terrorism," he said.

***Arab named envoy to Greece***

Ali Yihye was named Israel's ambassador to Greece last week. Yihye, the first-ever Israeli Arab ambassador, served in this capacity in Helsinki from 1995 to 1999.

*– from JTA and Jerusalem Post*

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# Ram becomes Israel's first Grand Slam winner

By MIRAY CHESKES-GRANOVSKY
*Special to The CJN*

**LONDON** — Israeli tennis star Andy Ram and his Russian partner, Vera Zvonareva, captured the mixed doubles title at Wimbledon, defeating Americans Bob Bryan and Venus Williams, 6-3, 6-2. Ram's historic victory marks the first senior Grand Slam title ever won by an Israeli.

With his trademark smile, Ram dominated the court and left his opponents struggling to find an effective strategy of play against him. With a spectacular mix of serves and net volleys, Ram and Zvonareva broke Williams' serve in the fourth game of the first set and then broke Bryan's serve twice in the second set.

Bryan, who had won the men's doubles title with twin brother Mike just an hour earlier, was the weaker link on his team. Ram and Zvonareva cinched the title with an ace by Zvonareva on championship point. The match was completed in only 55 minutes. The winners share a purse of about $186,000 (Cdn) for their title win.

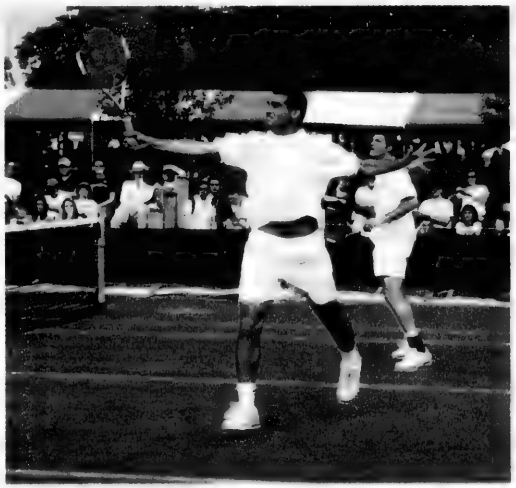
Ram and Zvonareva, seeded ninth at Wimbledon, won the title just hours after their triumph over third-seeded Zimbabwean siblings Wayne and Cara Black, 6-3, 7-6 (5). Ram and Zvonareva also quashed legendary tennis star Martina Navratilova's hopes for a win at her final Wimbledon appearance. The 49-year-old tennis great and partner Mark Knowles lost 7-5, 6-1 to Ram and Zvonareva in the third round.

It was Ram's second appearance in Wimbledon's mixed doubles finals. Ironically, in 2003 Ram and former partner Anastassia Rodionova lost to Navratilova and partner Leander Paes. Ram and Zvonareva are a recent mixed doubles pairing – they began playing together at this year's French Open, where they reached the semi-finals.

Prior to Wimbledon, the outlook appeared promising for other Israeli players. Shahar Peer, Israel's fast-rising women's singles star, was seeded 20th and had generated a lot of excitement with her solid game and recent displays of fortitude on the court. The BBC mentioned Peer as a longshot to win the tennis world's most prestigious event of the year.

Ram and Jonathan Erlich were seeded fifth in men's doubles after winning at the Red Letter Days Open in Nottingham, a tune-up event for Wimbledon at the end of June.

Sport's unpredictability reigned, however, and Peer's hopes at Wimbledon were dashed early. Feeling confident after a 6-2, 6-1 win over Yuliana Fedek of Ukraine, Peer lost to Shuai Peng of China in the second round. Peng, a powerful player ranked 46th coming into Wimbledon, played well and made very few errors in the first set.



**Andy Ram, left, and Jonathan Erlich at Wimbledon**
**[David Granovsky photo]**

Peer lost five straight points, giving Peng the lead and a first-set win of 6-4. At 4-4 in the second set, Peng stepped up her game. Peer slipped at the baseline, leaving the game to Peng at 6-5, and the set went into a tiebreaker. At 4-0 for Peng, Peer rallied back and brought the score to 5-4. Peng won the tie break, 7-5, with a final score of 7-6 for the set, ousting Peer from Wimbledon's singles play. The capacity crowd at Court 13 appreciated the close match and cheered enthusiastically for Peer as she exited the court.

After the match, Peer said she was really disappointed and hated to lose. "Next time it will be better. Losses are part of sport," Peer said. "It's hard to deal with disappointment. I take losses pretty hard."

Peer said she played her typical game and that it was just a good match. She hasn't played many matches on grass and said she finds it hard to mix her shots. She is also working hard on her serve, which she feels is much stronger.

She added that she's looking forward to her future in tennis and excited that Adam Peterson, Lindsay Davenport's former coach, has agreed to take her on.

"I can play on grass. For next year it will be better," Peer said.

To gain more experience on grass, she continued at Wimbledon in ladies' doubles and mixed doubles. She and Marion Bartoli of France were defeated in the second round by Virginia Ruano Pascual and Paola Suarez, 6-4, 6-1. In mixed doubles Peer and partner Kevin Ullyett of Zimbabwe were also eliminated in the second round, 6-3, 6-4, by Wesley Moodie and Vera Dushevina.

The 2003 Wimbledon semi-final appearance by Erlich and Ram was not to be repeated this year. They lost in the third round to the 11th seeded Czech team of Lukas Dlouhy and Pavel Vizner, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5). The loss came after a difficult second-round match with Americans Wayne Arthurs and Justin Gimelstob, in which the Israelis prevailed, 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (8-6).

The only other Israeli player at Wimbledon was Anna Smashnova, who was ranked 42nd coming into Wimbledon. She had the misfortune of facing fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova in the first round and was thrashed by her, 6-2, 6-0. Noam Okun, Amir Hadad, Dudi Sela and Tzipi Obziler failed in their respective attempts to qualify for Wimbledon.

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## Slugger gets U.S. stamp of approval

**NEW YORK** — Jewish baseball star Hank Greenberg is among four former sluggers who will be depicted on a series of U.S. stamps.

The 39-cent stamps of Greenberg, Roy Campanella, Mel Ott and Mickey Mantle will be unveiled July 15 at Yankee Stadium. Greenberg, who is in baseball's Hall of Fame, was the first modern Jewish baseball hero in the 1930s and 1940s.

He was twice named MVP during his career, which was mainly spent with the Detroit Tigers.

# Itching to get engaged?

Why do people get engaged?

I'd like to think it's because they love each other so much that they can't imagine living with anyone else. But as I turn away from the soap opera fantasy world of the *Bold and the Beautiful* and look at the people I know who are trampling over themselves to get to the chupah, I have to wonder whether the reason is as romantic as the idea.

Sandie Benitah
20Something

My boss, for instance, told me that he got married for "tax purposes."

"What?" he asked innocently as I walked out of his office, open-mouthed and appalled at his indifference toward the sanctity of lifelong commitment.

"It was cheaper for the both of us!" he yelled after me.

For people who are in their 20s, I suspect the reasoning is a little different, though just as dishearteningly unromantic. And I am the first to admit my guilt.

It's hard not to want to get engaged. There's a big party in your honour, you get to buy a new dress, and, hey, I could definitely use some new appliances in my rinky-dink apartment – and that's just for the engagement party!

Also, it seems like the logical next step, doesn't it? My boyfriend and I have been together for quite a while now, and I often wonder, "What now?"

But lately I've found that I'm looking so much at the future that I never stop to look at the here and now.

My current relationship is going great and I have nothing to complain about, but is that it? Gosh, I think I want to get engaged because I'm bored.

What's happened to me?

Of all my friends, I was the first to caution the girls against getting hitched early. I thought I'd want to enjoy singledom until the very last moment, or at least until I got a peek of my first grey hair.

To be honest, it wasn't even so much the partying that I savoured. I have divorced parents, and nothing is more important to me than making sure that when it comes to tying the knot, it's for life. Because of that, I was always adamant that I would never commit until I was 100 per cent sure.

But now, just about a year after I wrote a column in *The CJN* mocking all my engaged friends, here I am thinking that getting engaged might not be so bad after all.

And so, I popped the question to my boyfriend.

"Do you think people get engaged because they can't live without each other or because it's just the right time in their life?" I asked. "Do you think you just get engaged to the person you're with at the moment you're ready to be engaged, or do you think who you're with determines when you're ready?"

Always the diplomat, he said, "A combination of both."

It was a completely unromantic answer, but I knew it was the truth.

Getting engaged has become so routine, so expected, that it's more like upgrading to DVD from VHS than an exclamation of undying love.

I no longer long to be engaged, not because I'm not in love – because I am. But if I'm going to get engaged, I want it to be completely inconvenient for me to do so. I don't want to do it because it's the right time, and I don't just want it to be the traditional next step in a relationship.

I want to do it for no other reason than for what an engagement is meant to be a declaration of love and commitment, not only in the best of times, but most importantly in the worst of times.

And for that, I don't mind waiting forever.

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2 tblsp olive oil
2 lg onions, cut into 1/8"inch slices
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1/8 tsp ground black pepper
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1 1/2 tblsp apple cider vinegar or white vinegar

Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onions, salt and pepper; cook until onions begin to brown, stirring frequently, about 8 mins. Add broth, BBQ sauce and vinegar. Reduce heat to medium; simmer until sauce thickens, stirring occasionally, about 15 mins. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Cover; chill. Rewarm before serving.)

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## About Life

**Dear Ella,**

Now that school is over, our problems are just beginning. We have a 17-year-old teenage boy who thinks he knows it all.

Josh is bright, handsome, popular and lazy. He gets by doing as little as possible. I know this is partially our fault. We never forced him to work through his teenage years or have any household responsibilities. We always felt his studies came first and that he deserved a break when he had any time off. We provide him with whatever he wants. He has a stereo, the latest fashions and a car at his disposal. He comes and goes as he pleases, and on weekends he can easily sleep till 3 p.m. Not only does he not appreciate any of this, he expects it. I don't know what to do to make him understand that working through the summer would be a huge benefit to him.

**What Have We Done?**
**Dear What Have We Done?**

You have instilled these habits in Josh over his lifetime. It's not surprising that he feels entitled to all these things, since he knows no differently.

You can't quickly undo a lifetime of lessons, but you have to start now. I know that everything you did and still do for him is because you love him so much. However, sometimes love means you have to be tough. Sometimes love does not come with immediate gratification. Just because you lay down rules and expectations does not mean that you don't love him. Yes, it's harder to enforce rules that he prefers not to follow, but that's your job as parents.

As long as Josh lives under your roof, you have the right to expect and demand that he contribute to the household. He needs responsibilities and to see what the real world is like.

He will learn how to behave in a working environment when he is not the centre of the universe. He'll need to deal with customers, co-workers and bosses. He will learn how good it feels to do something on his own and be compensated for it.

As the saying goes, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." Your job is to teach Josh to fish and your reward will come way down the line when he is a successful, well-rounded adult you can be proud of.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN, *email ebk@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posted by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

# Saving a life

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Judaism holds that if you save a life, it's as if you've saved the entire world.

One interpretation of this talmudic idea is that since one life has been saved, millions of the survivor's progeny can be born in the future.

URBAN WRITER

Have you ever saved a life? Recently, I asked this question of some students at the Toronto Heschel School. Two of them had saved a little brother or sister, and a few others had been saved by a sibling – domestic rescues.

I once saved the life of a Mexican man who was drowning in the Pacific Ocean. Having done so, I've always felt like a member of a special group, because the act of returning a breath to this person felt like sharing an event with God.

One day in 1988, I was in Mazatlan, Mexico. A soft wind blowing through my balcony doors and the sound of ocean waves woke me up at 7 a.m. I jumped out of bed, pulled on my clothes, grabbed my backpack and ambled down to the boardwalk.

As I arrived at a natural viewing area with massive boulders and rocks, I looked out at the water and noticed a man wading into it. Soon, I could see him bobbing up and down and waving to me. I waved back, thinking, "What a friendly country."

Then he stopped bobbing and waving. He was drowning. For the next three or four seconds, I considered the danger facing me. After some debate, I convinced myself that I needed to jump into the ocean to save this man's life (simply because the moment called for it). I tore off my shirt, threw down my backpack and dove into the chilly Pacific.

It wasn't long before I reached the distressed man. Despite the fact it had been two decades since I learned lifesaving techniques at Camp Gan Yisrael, I remembered how to stabilize a swimmer and then flip him over so I could reach around his chest and swim to shore with him.

By the time I was at arm's length from the man, it was obvious that he was unconscious and that I would need to pull his head out of the water. I did so, going through the proper lifesaving procedures. Then I swam to dry land and hoisted the heavyset man up onto the jagged rocks.

I hugged him to keep him warm and administered first aid. This man whom I did not know began to spit up blood and regain consciousness. His eyes conveyed a feeling of utter terror, likely because he knew he had just tasted death. He couldn't speak English, and as much as I tried to understand his explanation as to what had just happened to him, his Spanish was Greek to me.

I picked up my shirt and backpack and walked the stranger to a nearby army clinic. Then I shook his hand and wished him well in my broken Spanish. I returned to my hotel, shocked. I wrote in my journal, "What does one do for the rest of the day after saving a man's life first thing in the morning." It was 8 a.m.

Imagine: I will never see this man again and likely would not recognize him if I passed him on the street. Yet our connection, in some ways, is different from those I have with everyone else I know. I saved Mr. Mazatlan's life, and because of him, I have experienced something I could never pretend to know otherwise. It was thoroughly otherworldly – a type of birthing.

If you've had your own experience saving a life, e-mail me. I'd love to hear from other members of our unique club.

*Avrum@veahavta.org. Sudan?*

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## This Week

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# *Israel at war on two fronts*

By DAVID HOROVITZ
*Jerusalem Post*

There can be no illusions: Israel is at war.

A tactical failure by the Israel Defence Forces on the Gaza border last month prompted a drastic escalation on that front. Last Wednesday's still graver tactical blow in the north by Hezbollah has now led to a confrontation affecting immense numbers of civilians on either side of the Lebanese border, with the potential to affect other nations as well.

### *Federations establish emergency funds*

*Please see page 25*

There are those who have branded this latest conflict a continuation of Israel's War of Independence, and there is no little truth in the assertion. On both of the fronts on which Israel has been drawn into heavy fighting, its enemies can make no legitimate claim to be pursuing a territorial dispute: as of last summer, Israel relinquished its hold on the Gaza Strip; in Lebanon, it pulled back to the UN-certified international border six years ago.

Except that, in both cases, the Jewish state's assailants are indeed pursuing a territorial ambition – to unseat Israel from its own sovereign lands.

Israel has watched Hezbollah build up its offensive capability in the years since the security zone was dismantled – watched it, ever bolder, establishing its positions up against the border fence and saw it developing its missile capability – and chose not to act. That stance was misinterpreted as weakness.

Wednesday morning's cross-border attack, complete with the barrage of shelling and rocket fire that served as cover, highlighted the IDF's intolerable absence of room for manoeuvring in such circumstances. And an Israeli government with a defence minister who had genuinely hoped to oversee a return to the peace path was obligated to militarily "change the rules of the game."

**Analysis**

Hezbollah is a wily and well-prepared enemy, all too demonstrably capable of wreaking a degree of havoc in northern Israel and beyond.

**Israeli forces, right, mobilized last week on the border with Lebanon after Hezbollah fighters crossed into Israel and killed eight soldiers and kidnapped two others. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert called the attack "an act of war" and held the government of Lebanon responsible. He instructed the army to retrieve the missing soldiers and secure Israel against further Hezbollah attacks, such as rocket barrages on the northern coastal town of Nahariya, above.** *[Isranet photos]*

The goal of dismantling its offensive capacity will not be easily achieved. Last Thursday's air onslaught certainly affected Lebanon's civilian infrastructure, but it is less clear how deeply Hezbollah was harmed.

Still, in contrast to the asymmetrical struggles against terror cells and Qassam rocket crews, the IDF has now been unleashed in a context in which it can expect to use more of its strengths. And woe betide a nation under attack inside its sovereign borders if it does not decisively prevail.

## *Note to readers*

**Due to pre-arranged summer schedule commitments, this issue of *The CJN* went to press on Friday, July 14. Extensive coverage of the unfolding crises on Israel's borders will appear in our next issue.**

**Mattot - Masei**
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*Greater Toronto Area*

**The CJN's offices are closed this week. Our next issue is Aug. 3.**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### $2 Million To Haifa U

**TORONTO** — Canadian businessman Michael Dan has donated $2 million to doctoral students at the University of Haifa in honour of his recent marriage. Dan created the Amira Dan Doctoral Fund in in the name of his new bride, a doctoral student at Toronto's York University.

#### Condolences Sent

**OTTAWA** — Canadian Jewish Congress has sent condolences to India's High Commissioner to Canada for the deaths in the July 11 terror attacks on Mumbai's commuter trains. CJC president Ed Morgan said that " the Jewish community of Canada grieves with our Indo-Canadian friends and neighbours here at home who have been touched by this terrible tragedy and we stand in solidarity with them against the scourge of international terrorism."

### WORLD

#### Victims Recalled

**LONDON** — An art exhibit is featuring the work of one of the Jewish victims of last year's London bombings. The exhibit of Miriam Hyman's work is on display at London's City Hall. Hyman, a photo editor and artist, was one of three Jews killed in the July 7, 2005, suicide bombings. Two other Jews, Anat Rosenberg and Susan Levy, also died in the bombings, which killed 52 people. An interfaith concert was held July 7 in Hyman's memory at the South London Liberal Synagogue, one of many ceremonies in the city for the victims.

#### Camp Breaks Ground

**PITTSBURGH** — The Reconstructionist movement has dedicated its first permanent summer camp site. Camp JRF was dedicated July 9 in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. It's open to boys and girls entering grades 3 to 12. It runs two sessions that combined last for 6½ weeks, and a 12-day mini-camp for kids entering grades 4 and 5.

#### Nazis Burn Book

**BERLIN** — Neo-Nazis burned a copy of *The Diary of Anne Frank* at a late-June summer solstice festival in Pretzien, in the former East Germany. Berlin's Anne Frank Centre and local religious and political groups have started educational programs in response. "I have never heard of anybody burning the diary," centre director Thomas Heppener said. "For us it's new that they take two symbols of the Nazi past, book burning and the diary, and bring them together." Three suspects have been arrested. Some 200 of Pretzien's 1,000 residents attended a meeting last week on the incident.

#### Jews Welcomed Back

**WASHINGTON** — Georgia's president welcomed the return of 700 Jewish families from Israel. Mikhail Saakashvili said 85,000 Georgians living abroad returned home in 2005, signaling an upturn in the former Soviet republic's economy and freedoms. Speaking July 5 at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., he said it was "good news" the returnees were ethnically diverse. He said an Israeli chief rabbi told him with regret about the Jews leaving Israel for Georgia. "Of course, Israel also doesn't want to lose population, and I fully understand and share that. But I was very, very pleased," Saakashvili said.

#### Call For Nominations

**NEW YORK** — Nominations for the 2007 Charles Bronfman Prize will be accepted from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, its funders announced last week. Created in 2004 by philanthropist Charles Bronfman's children to mark his 70th birthday, the $100,000 (US) award "celebrates the vision and talent of an individual or team" under age 50 "whose humanitarian work has contributed significantly to the betterment of the world," its website says. Nomination forms are available at thecharlesbronfmanprize.com.

#### White Supremacist Gets 9 Months in Jail

**OTTAWA** — A London, Ont., skinhead was sentenced to nine months in jail last week for posting racist Internet messages despite a Federal Court order not to do so.

The court found Tomasz Winnicki posted 30 hate screeds on U.S. neo-Nazi sites between October and April, claiming the Holocaust was a hoax and that non-whites are criminally minded and intellectually inferior, Sun Media reported. In 2003, Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman filed a complaint against Winnicki with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. It heard the case last August. In October, Winnicki was ordered not to post more messages until the tribunal ruled.

This past April, the tribunal ruled that Winnicki had violated the Canadian Human Rights Act for posting hate. He faces another contempt hearing next month for posting messages after the April decision. He's also scheduled to appear in court in Toronto on criminal charges after weapons were found in a car that was headed to a neo-Nazi rally.

#### Red Buttons Dies at 87

**LOS ANGELES** — Red Buttons, the Catskills cut-up who earned Oscar respect for his performance as a lovelorn serviceman, died July 13 at 87 of vascular disease at his Los Angeles home. Buttons, born Aaron Chwatt in New York, stood out with his bright red hair and diminutive stature. He once called himself "the only Yiddish leprechaun." Buttons graduated from the Catskills and burlesque circuit to Broadway when he was drafted in 1943. Hollywood noticed his 1944 performance in *Winged Victory*, a propaganda film, and he was signed by CBS in 1952 to compete with NBC's Milton Berle. He won best supporting actor in 1957's *Sayonara*, playing Sgt. Joe Kelly, who kills himself when U.S. forces in Japan force him to abandon his Japanese love.

#### Dreyfus Remembered

**PARIS** — France marked the 100th anniversary of the rehabilitation of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus. The July 12 ceremony was led by President Jacques Chirac at the École Militaire, where Dreyfus was stripped of his military honours in 1895. A high-ranking Jewish officer in the French army, Dreyfus was falsely accused of selling military secrets to Germany. His trial convinced journalist Theodor Herzl that Jews would never achieve equality in Europe and led him to start the Zionist movement.

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# Canadian Jews rally for Shalit's release

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — A hastily arranged rally brought close to 150 people to the Syrian embassy in Ottawa last week to plead for the release of abducted Israeli soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

The July 10 rally, sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC,) the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Montreal's Federation CJA was one of a number of similar protests being held the same day outside Syrian embassies around the world. Their goal was to exert pressure on the regime of President Bashar Assad to use its influence with Hamas leaders to release Shalit, 19, who was kidnapped June 25.

CJC national president Ed Morgan addressed the Ottawa crowd. "We are here to ask the Syrians to please use whatever influence that they have with the Hamas leadership… everybody in this region has a right to live in peace, free from the fear of being kidnapped," Morgan said. "It is the Syrians that hold the key to this… we all ask them to see to it that Cpl. Shalit is freed."

The protesters, peacefully assembled across the street from the Syrian embassy, held Israeli flags and signs urging the soldier's release. Led by Rabbi Reuven Bulka, they chanted "Free Gilad Shalit."

**Rabbi Reuven Bulka addresses some comments to the Syrian embassy. [Peter Waiser photo]**

"Our job today is to send a message," Rabbi Bulka said. "OK. Do you hear the message up there?" he asked, pointing his megaphone at the building that houses the Syrian embassy.

Bulka read a statement from Shalit's parents that was addressed to their son. It urged him to be strong and said that they love him and are waiting for him to return.

"We here in Canada will not rest until Gilad Shalit is released," Rabbi Bulka said. "We don't know where Gilad Shalit is, but we know who is responsible for where he is and we know who can get him out. We implore that Syria stop being a haven for 'terrorism international.'"

Rabbi Bulka then led protesters in reciting psalms and in singing *Am Yisrael Chai*.

In Toronto, a community-wide prayer vigil for Shalit's safe return was scheduled to be held Friday, July 14, at noon at the Consulate General of Israel, 180 Bloor St. W. The rally was being spearheaded by Jewish and Christian leaders in conjunction with the group Mothers for Missing MIAs.

The protest was scheduled to demand the safe return of Shalit and of all Israeli MIAs, and it will also honour the memory of murdered Israeli Lieut. Hanan Barak, Sgt. Pavel Slutsker and West Bank resident Eliyahu Asheri and call for an end to terrorism.

This event was to be co-sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada, the Canada Christian College, Friends of Eli Cohen, Mothers of Missing MIAs and Shaarei Tefillah Congregation.

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# An emergency is upon us

*From the editor's desk*

The events of the past three weeks have made it painfully clear that a new breed of enemy has arisen against the Jewish people and is now aligning itself in its various hostile configurations and flanks against the Jewish state.

Most diplomats, historians, politicians, scholars, and especially Israelis had always assumed that there would ultimately be a reasonable, mutually dignified resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in the same manner and according to the same laws of time and human nature by which most territorial conflicts have been resolved across the long span of history.

For they regarded the conflict as, essentially, a dispute over territory, which reasonable people, over time, could solve with reasonable solutions. The intransigent unwillingness of the Arab states for so many years to recognize Israel's right to exist as a sovereign Jewish state was generally viewed by most Israelis as a bargaining tactic, not as a deeply embedded article of faith. The fact that Egypt and Jordan, once unremittingly harsh foes of Israel, eventually signed peace treaties with the Jewish state, proved in the minds of the many hopeful seekers and dreamers of peace that more-or-less normal relations could exist between former warring foes.

Whether the conflict was ever only over territory alone is now an idle and irrelevant speculation. Because there is no doubt whatsoever that the conflict today is decidedly not about territory.

It is now about religion, specifically extremist Muslims' unwillingness to accept the presence of a sovereign Jewish state in their "Islamic" Middle East.

Today's front-line enemies and combatants against Israel are Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and, to some extent, Al Qaeda, whose operatives have tried to infiltrate the West Bank and Gaza. Each group believes, as a matter of religious doctrine, that the Jewish state must be wiped off the map. Unfortunately and very ominously, it is also a doctrinal principle zealously followed by the leaders of Iran.

As a dire result, the Islamist terrorist organizations have the backing of a patron state that encourages, funds and supports them in their malicious program of annihilation and extermination.

Yossi Klein Halevi has aptly referred to this new breed of enemy as genocidal Islamists.

Two weeks after Hamas attacked the Kerem Shalom outpost in the Negev from Gaza, killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping Gilad Shalit, Hezbollah attacked Israel's northern border from Lebanon, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping reservists Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

Israel was neither in Gaza nor Lebanon at the time. The attackers' objective, therefore, was not to rid Gaza or Lebanon of Jews, but rather to rid Israel of Jews.

One can negotiate a compromise over territory, but one cannot negotiate a compromise over one's very right to exist and to live.

As of this writing, katyusha rockets have struck all along the north of Israel, including for the first time in Haifa.

Israel will fight this new alignment of Islamic enemies as they have fought all their enemies in the past: with one overriding, single-minded purpose, namely, to protect Jewish life and soul.

The communiqué issued by the government of Israel after the emergency deliberation of the cabinet last Wednesday made reference to the new alignment of forces arrayed against it and to Israel's determination to fight them. The following is an excerpt.

"This action [the Hezbollah attack against Israel] along with the events of the past month, creates a new and complex reality that compels us to deal with it. Today's attack... is the product of those who perpetrate terrorism and those who give it shelter.

"[T]here is no doubt that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization operating inside Lebanon, initiated and perpetrated today's action. Israel will act against it in a manner required by its actions.

"Israel must respond with the necessary severity to this act of aggression and it will indeed do so. Israel will respond aggressively and harshly to those who carried out, and are responsible for, today's action, and will work to foil actions and efforts directed against it.

"The international community understands that every country, including Israel, must act aggressively against enemy targets such as Hezbollah.

"The new reality in which the State of Israel is operating requires special readiness especially in light of the possibility that the enemy will seek to attack the home front."

An emergency is now upon the Jewish people. We must gather our resolve and mobilize our courage and our energies – wherever we live – to join in defence of the right of Jews to have one very small sovereign Jewish state of our own on this vast and mostly beautiful earth.

— *MBD*

SeeJN

**YAD VASHEM HOSTS VISITORS:** Actor Jeff Goldblum, left, visited the new Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem last week, as did Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, right. The prime minister, second from right, is pictured in the Hall of Names with the chairman of the Yad Vashem directorate, Avner Shalev, left. [Israel Sun/ RNS photos]

# Rabbi seeks more interdenominational dialogue

## *'It's a little bit of a dance' that 'takes time to mature'*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, senior rabbi of the Conservative movement's Beth Tzedec Congregation, is a strong proponent of dialogue among his Orthodox and non-Orthodox colleagues.

Such dialogue, however, is a delicate issue. While Orthodoxy has moved to the right, many Conservative synagogues have veered left – opening the doors to increased ritual participation by women, for example – in the process widening the gap between traditional Conservative Judaism and the more liberal sector of the Orthodox community.

In a recent Beth Tzedec bulletin, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl wrote that he has been "disappointed by recent public expressions of disagreement between the Orthodox rabbinate and the Conservative/Reform rabbis of Toronto.

"Whether this takes the form of divergent views about the participation of female voices of song in the community Yom Hashoah commemoration, or by the unwillingness of some elements of the Orthodox community to enter Conservative synagogues, I feel that such confrontation weakens our community and diminishes our capacity to work together on the serious challenges we all face regarding the retention of young Jews and the creative revitalization of Jewish life and commitment," he wrote.

The rabbi also mentioned that he has taken part in private, small-scale dialogue projects and that he hoped to initiate private and public dialogues in the year ahead.

But it's a simpler matter for him than for his Orthodox counterparts.

"What's essential to understand is that for Orthodox rabbis it's very important that the dialogue go on in a quiet way, a non-public way," he told *The CJN*.

"Anything that grants the perception that multiple denominations are equally legitimate is problematic," said Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, secretary of the Va'ad Harabonim's beis din and spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah, a modern Orthodox congregation.

"That doesn't mean that Orthodox rabbis would look at non-Orthodox rabbis as being not sincere, not religious or not serving their communities. However, their approach to Judaism cannot be supported.

"It's a little bit of a dance... The sensitivity is the context... and the purpose."

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said there are "small things going on.

"In many ways it's still premature to talk about," he said. "Part of what's essential in any kind of dialogue to promote a deeper understanding is that it takes a long time to mature. It's not results oriented... The intent is more to understand each other."

The controversy over female singers at this year's community Yom Hashoah commemoration was not an isolated incident. The Toronto Board of Rabbis, whose members are mostly non-Orthodox rabbis, said it wouldn't participate in or endorse the Yom Hashoah event after organizers decided the full Renanim Youth Choir couldn't sing at the event because the group includes girls.

Kashrut has also been an issue. The Toronto-based Kashruth Council of Canada (COR) tightened its regulations recently, requiring kosher caterers and restaurant owners to have, and thus pay for, more hours of supervision and closer scrutiny of some vegetables by kashrut supervisors.

"In the traditional, but not Orthodox community, who want kosher, we have to be careful that we don't outprice kashrut," said Rabbi Philip Scheim of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

"The significant number of kosher consumers are moderate Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. "They want to keep kosher and are supportive of kashrut... At the same time, they're very concerned with what is perceived as excessive stringencies."

The "moderate elements of kashrut" must also be accommodated, he said.

Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb, immediate past president of the TBR, made a similar comment before Yom Hashoah when he stated that the commemoration did not reflect the community, because the mixed choir could not participate.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said some TBR members, as well as others, "might have wished that the results were different."

In many cases, he noted, "you don't just vote for a conclusion. You vote hoping that a clear position will move everybody toward compromise."

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem plan to bring together the parties involved – most notably, the TBR and Toronto's Va'ad Harabonim – later this summer to reach "some form of resolution if it is possible," said Louis Greenbaum, co-chair of the Yom Hashoah event.

TBR president Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich said the community has become increasingly polarized. "My hope is that we've kind of touched the precipice and we're pulling ourselves back."

Morris Zbar, a senior vice-president of the federation, said the organization is committed to a community event. "Hopefully we can work something out."

# Camp Robin Hood celebrates 60 years

**MARKHAM, Ont.** — Camp Robin Hood, the oldest privately established day camp in Canada, is celebrating its 60th anniversary by hosting a day of fun on Sunday, July 30.

To celebrate this milestone, Camp Robin Hood will open its doors between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to welcome current and past camp families, as well as staff alumni, for a day of camp fun. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in the kinds of activities that have made Robin Hood the summer camp destination for thousands of children since 1946.

In addition, guests will be entertained by the Duffel Bag Theatre Troupe, which will perform the play *Robin Hood*. Guests can bring a lunch or take part in a barbecue, with all proceeds going to Summer Dreams, a registered charitable foundation that helps underprivileged children attend summer camp who would not otherwise have the opportunity to do so.

Summer Dreams was formed in 1995 – in honour of Camp Robin Hood's 50th anniversary – by a group of past and present staff and campers, who wanted to offer others the same rich experience camp provided them. Since its inception, Summer Dreams has raised over $200,000, which has helped more than 300 children attend camps in Ontario.

Family owned and operated for the past 45 years, Camp Robin Hood, a member of Robin Hood Camps, is an accredited member of the Ontario Camping Association. On its 55 acres in Markham, Ont., it is dedicated to providing summer fun and lifelong memories for campers (ages three to 15) and their families, as well as its dedicated and highly professional staff.

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For more information, visit www.robinhoodcamps.ca.


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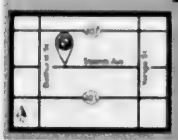

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# Israel chooses to live

The attack by Hezbollah across Israel's northern border last week was not a spontaneous, reflexive act of copycat terrorism that mimicked the Hamas attack two weeks earlier across Israel's southern border. It was a carefully planned, long-practiced complex operation. And it was undoubtedly executed with the full prior knowledge, if not actual direction by Hezbollah's masters in Iran and Syria.

Hezbollah has amassed some 10,000, mostly Iranian manufactured, rockets along the Lebanese border with Israel. They are being launched even now, against Safed, Nahariya and even Haifa. As of this writing two Israelis have been killed in those strikes and more than 100 injured. Hamas, of course, has been launching Qassam rockets into the Negev from the very first days after Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip.

In response to both attacks, Israel mobilized its defence forces on two fronts and is now fighting a war to seek and destroy the terrorists' rocket capabilities and to try to retrieve its kidnapped soldiers.

We note with appreciation and high commendation the morally correct expression of support offered by Prime Minister Stephen Harper for Israel's military response. "Israel has the right to defend itself. The onus is on the other side," Harper said. U.S. President George W. Bush also backed Israel's right to defend itself and denounced Hezbollah as "a group of terrorists who want to stop the advance of peace." The European Union, on the other hand, criticized Israel for using what it called "disproportionate" force.

The government and people of Lebanon have a choice. They can expel Hezbollah, Iran and Syria's terrorist proxies in the south and regain sovereign control over their own country, or, they can surrender their fate and their existence as a free, independent people to the extremist Iranian and Syrian regimes.

The Palestinian people have a choice, too. They can reject the virulent anti-Jewish ideology of Hamas, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and Islamic Jihad, or they can doom yet another generation of their children to a life of misery and unfulfilled national aspirations.

And the western governments also have a choice. They can fight the increasing menace of global jihadist terrorism, or they can close their eyes to it. They can coalesce behind the urgent common cause of stopping Iran's dangerous drive for a nuclear device, or they can hope, futilely, that the Iranian regime will not itself use the technology or distribute it to a willing cadre of terrorist organizations salivating at the chance to strike at western interests, the infidel, non-believers of the democratic world and the Zionist regime. But they must choose before it is too late. The enemies of freedom and of the West are marching.

Israel has already chosen. In accordance with the earliest teachings of the Torah, the Jewish state has chosen to live, to affirm its right to a sovereign existence along with all the other nations of the world. In the defence of one's existence against cruel and conscience-less enemies intent only on your annihilation, no force is "disproportionate."

## 25 years ago in The CJN

A ceasefire ended 16 days of shelling along the Israel-Lebanon border, but a radical PLO faction warned that it would continue military action. Israeli Maj.-Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal, commander of Israel's forces in the area, said he was concerned the PLO would use the ceasefire as an opportunity to re-arm.

Dry Bones
ISRAEL AT WAR ON TWO FRONTS
WAR ON THE BORDER WITH LEBANON?!
YES!
AND ALSO A WAR ON THE BORDER WITH GAZA?!
YES!
AND THE WEST BANK?!
STILL QUIET.
WE HAVEN'T PULLED BACK TO THE 1967 BORDER THERE YET.
© Dry Bones

*Editorial Advisory Board:* **Isaac Apter, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Adam Hummel, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Keith Landy, Andrea Most, Lou Ronson, Jacques Sayegh, Mike Shriqui, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Michael Stroh, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks**

## Church doesn't support 'Israel boycott'

With regard to the article "United Church supports Israel boycott," (*CJN*, July 6) the United Church does not support the "Israel boycott" as outlined by the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Ontario branch and Sid Ryan. The support came not from the Toronto Conference but rather from a committee of six or seven people. The Toronto Conference decision of three years ago, which only passed by a narrow margin, was to boycott five companies that were selling war materials being used in the West Bank and Gaza.

There are a great many of us within the United Church who are actively working to see fairness in the presentation of the issues surrounding a just peace in Israel and Palestine. We have over and over again affirmed the need for Israel to have safe and internationally recognized borders. We have rejected the idea of divestment because it is naive and simplistic and really accomplishes nothing. We disagree with the decision of the committee promoting the implementation of divestment, because it presents Israel as the cause of all the problems, which is completely untrue.

We pray that the ongoing cycle of violence and death will end and that both sides will commit to the finding of a just peace.

**Rev. Douglas McKenzie**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Jewish concern for human rights

While in absolute agreement with Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz ("Is it good for the Jews," *CJN*, July 6) that activist concern for human rights is also "good for the Jews," I deeply regret that he chose to associate the opposite, ethnocentric concept with the "era of Yiddish and chicken shmaltz." His rabbinical education should have made clear that it was precisely the Yiddish secular movements that pioneered global social concerns as part and parcel of modern Jewish culture – and still do. The leading philosopher of secular Jewishness, Khayim Zhitlovski, summed it all up in his famous aphorism: "*vos mer yid, alts mer mentsh; vos mer mentsh, alts mer yid*" ("The more Jewish one is, the more human; the more human one is, the more Jewish").

**Hershl Hartman**
**Los Angeles**

* * *

## 'Full picture' isn't unity

In her piece on parshat Balak, Rachael Turkienicz refers to the various views of the Israelites Bilaam the prophet has while standing atop a mountain, at the behest of King Balak ("A prayer for unity," *CJN*, July 6). Even though Balak's mission for Bilaam is to curse the Israelites, what issues from Bilaam is a blessing. Turkienicz, in her midrashic style, attributes this blessing to the fact that Bilaam finally has a full view rather than a partial view of the Israelites. "He could not help but bless" this so-called "beautiful portrayal of unity."

What Bilaam finally saw was the full picture. This does not necessarily connote unity. Turkienicz glosses her own view of the "full picture" by insisting that this is unity. Furthermore, this sentimentalization of the full picture becomes its own kind of tyranny, by insisting that, as Jews, we may engage in debate only from a platform of unity.

**Ronni Rosenberg**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Dismay at immigration seminar

I was dismayed to learn that a Toronto law firm held a seminar on the immigration of Israelis to Canada.

It is needless to say that Israel needs olim from overseas and not the facilitation of emigration of Israelis to Canada.

I hope that Jewish organizations will express their disapproval of this negative activity.

**Meir Romem**
**Jerusalem**

* * *

## Hilda Weil remembered

The community is saddened by the passing of the gifted educator Hilda Weil ("Longtime teacher was 'loving and caring,'" *CJN*, July 6). One of Weil's most ardent students was my late mother, Miriam Bohnen, who as a middle-aged homemaker undertook to master modern Hebrew. Attending Weil's classes at Keren Hatarbut was her greatest pleasure, so much so that she would attend morning, afternoon and evening classes for maximum exposure. I was a youngster at the time, but I vividly remember my mother's enthusiastic devotion to her favourite melamedet.

**Donnie Friedman**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Community's new and brave energy

I thank Avrum Rosensweig for speaking up so eloquently for thoughts that fire through me so many times ("Rediscovering the community's spirit," *CJN*, June 22). I almost thought I was alone in my longing for the days when my community was "brimming with controversy, creative growth and life." Even his article was begging for creative feedback. I'm looking forward to seeing and experiencing new and brave energy in our Jewish community.

**Malka Klein**
**Toronto**

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# Time for a ground offensive?

By ANSHEL PFEFFER
*Jerusalem Post*

In the summer of 1993, a joint force of Battalion 13 of the Golani Brigade, on Achzarit armoured fighting vehicles, and the Barak Armoured Brigade, using Merkava tanks, spent three intensive weeks preparing for a widespread operation in southern Lebanon.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) was carrying out Operation Accountability, a widespread offensive of artillery and airborne bombardment of Hezbollah bases. The second stage was going to be a major incursion by ground forces – outside the security zone into the thin strip of southern Lebanon occupied by Israel between its pullback from most of Lebanon in 1985 and its final departure in 2000.

The mission's objective was to do what airplanes and long-range shelling couldn't do totally wipe out the main Hezbollah training bases in towns like Jibshit.

In the end, to the disappointment of the highly motivated troops, then-prime minister and defence minister Yitzhak Rabin decided not to activate the ground forces, and the operation was aborted. The fear of high casualties and the desire not to have the Lebanese situation escalate out of control led Rabin to make the decision.

This has been Israel's prevailing strategy over the last two decades – to make do with long-range artillery fire and airborne firepower and not commit large ground forces outside Israel's regular defence borders, which included the security zone up to 2000 and the Gaza Strip until last year's withdrawal.

There were a number of considerations behind this strategy. The trauma of the "Lebanese quagmire" gripped Israeli politicians and generals for years after the 1982 Operation Peace in Galilee, which brought home the limits of Israel's power. It was the first war to be deeply disputed by Israeli society and led to a deep reluctance to embark on larger military adventures.

The intifadahs that began in 1987 and 2000 tied up most of the regular army, and any large-scale operations would have necessitated calling up large reserve forces and caused major damage to the economy. There was also a realization that while air bombings might bring bearable international condemnation, it would be nothing in comparison to the diplomatic pressure Israel would have to withstand if it invaded an Arab country again.

Another political consideration added over the last few years was the desire to deny Hezbollah any excuse to act. Israel's withdrawal from the security zone seemed to end the Shi'ite movement's raison d'être, and Shiekh Hassan Nasrallah has been trying desperately ever since to provoke a conflict that will enable him to avoid international and international pressure to become head of just another Lebanese political party.

IDF soldiers prepare for their orders along Israel's northern border. [Israel photo]

Last but not least, attacks from the air have been almost risk-free. Since Ron Arad's Phantom jet went down over Lebanon in 1986, Israel has not lost an aircrew member in a bombing mission. Land operations, as we saw tragically last week, are more likely to result in casualties. For all these reasons, Israel's reactions to Hezbollah provocations have always been relatively limited.

In 2000, then-prime minister and defence minister Ehud Barak refrained from launching a major ground operation when Hezbollah captured three soldiers in an attack similar to that made last Wednesday. And in 1991, on a wider scale, Yitzhak Shamir's government also rejected plans to send an airborne division to capture the H2 and H3 areas in western Iraq, relying instead on U.S. and allied air power to eliminate the Scud launchers firing at Israel.

Over the last few years, the IDF's infantry units, with proud histories of cross-border operations up to the 1980s, have been forced to concentrate solely on low-intensity warfare against Palestinian terrorists. The only major ground offensive of recent years was Operation Defensive Shield in 2002 against terror bases in the Palestinian cities of the West Bank, but even that was merely against enclaves within Israeli-controlled territory, not incursions deep into enemy territory.

Long-term military planning has been in accordance with this policy. There has been less reliance on reserve forces and large ground units, including a planned decommission of brigades, a reduction in the number of tanks and increased spending on the IDF's strategic arm, long-range bombers and submarines. Most reserve units have not trained properly for more than three years and many have not been called up for any kind of duty since the beginning of 2005.

Aside from a few longer-range operations, mainly by special forces, the role of IDF ground forces ever since the pullback to the security zone has essentially been a defensive one. Even over the last three weeks following Cpl. Gilad Shalit's capture by Hamas, most of the units massed around the Gaza Strip have gone only a few kilometers inside in relatively limited force, taken care to avoid built-up areas, and then left after a few days. The prevailing strategy has remained and the IDF has yet to commit a major ground force to combat.

All that may be changing now. Following Hezbollah's attack, Israel is facing two kidnapping situations and emboldened enemies on two fronts, while the situation in the West Bank, where the Paratroopers Brigade have been busy in a low-profile offensive for the last couple of months might also flare up.

The IDF command is pushing for a major offensive on both fronts that will drastically change the rules of play and will mean a widespread operation, including probably dozens of casualties, incurring the wrath of the international community and calling up thousands of reservists, a step that will have widespread implications for the army's long-term plans and the Israeli economy as a whole.

In addition, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has proposed a realignment plan. Many in the government and the IDF believe that such a step is now unavoidable, and that a sharp and painful lesson to Hamas, and especially Hezbollah, is long overdue.

Israel must regain its deterrence that has been severely eroded by the pullbacks from Lebanon and Gaza. Air strikes coupled with rhetoric are no longer enough.

Menachem Begin, together with his defence minister Ariel Sharon, was the last Israeli leader to send thousands of soldiers over Israel's border 24 years ago. The operation that received consensus at the outset turned into a bitter national dispute over the "war of choice," which landed Israel in the Lebanese quagmire.

So far, the retaliation to the Hezbollah attack has been relatively limited on the ground. Special forces backed by a small number of tanks does not a second war with Lebanon make.

Shiekh Hassan Nasrallah [RNS/Reuters photo]

It falls now to Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz to decide whether Israel will retake the upper hand by acting forcefully and smashing Hezbollah with the IDF's full might. They are both fully aware that it's much easier to go into Lebanon than to leave and that they might be playing into Nasrallah's hands. Either way, it's an almost impossible choice.

Opinions

# We must support families

I'm not a demographer and I don't usually pay attention to population statistics. Much to the dismay of my demographer friends, I'm bored by the Torah portions that list tribes by numbers. But when I was in Israel last May, I heard a number that made me pay attention.

*Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal*

One Israeli scholar declared that 75 per cent of all Jews under 15 live in Israel. I checked with those previously mentioned demographers and Israel studies specialists, and they agreed that the number was more likely 65 per cent. Coupled with other demographic facts, the statistics give us a picture of a growing and healthy population in Israel. On the other hand, it indicates that we in the Diaspora may not be so healthy.

The good news: Instead of a steady growth in Arab birthrates, Arab numbers have started to decline. Amazingly, Israeli Jewish birthrates have increased so much that Israel has the highest fertility rate of any industrialized nation.

In Israel, birthrates have increased for each sector of the population – not only among religious Jews but also in every other group, at every educational level and in every class.

It's amazing and totally unexpected: Israel is more than maintaining its own growth. It is a young country in every way, one that values children and acknowledges its dependence on its youth (regrettably, this has not reached political institutions).

The bad news: Jewish birthrates have dropped in every Diaspora country. What does this mean to us in the Diaspora? We used to think Israel depended on us making aliyah, but it now might be that if we want more grandchildren, we should encourage aliyah. It means that Diaspora communities are aging and not replenishing our numbers. It means we need to rethink our policies and future plans.

Can we actually encourage and affect birthrates? Perhaps.

There is a semi-serious joke making the rounds that claims the most effective method of birth control is the high cost of day school education. Listening to my children and their friends discuss their fiscal overload and future financial planning, I think the joke is on us. They've decided that they can't have more children because they can't afford tuition. Even here in Montreal, where we are blessed with government support, school fees are a drain and a factor in planning children.

We must lower the costs of Jewish education, not just for those receiving scholarships but for everyone. We need to signal to our young couples that we truly value children and that we as a community will help to educate them Jewishly. If we do not find a way universally to support and educate families with many children, we lose.

# Tasting medieval Jewish life in Venice

Let me state unequivocally that I do not criticize the deeply held faith of my Christian friends (yes, I do have them) who would not for a moment condone or defend the acts I am about to mention.

But after five weeks in Europe, east and west, I have a new appreciation of what it must have been like for Jews living in Christian states throughout the centuries, and the sights and sounds they experienced.

*Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver*

Every day they could encounter grand processions with venerated relics, splendid costumes and the chanting of hymns.

Their small synagogues could not compete with the majestic and looming cathedrals, with their ornate decorations, mosaics and paintings of hell and retribution, domes and carved interiors. The pomp, ritual and liturgy of the Catholic church was everywhere. More than ghetto restrictions, these would have been constant reminders of Jewish powerlessness.

We have returned from a unique holiday to Spain, Venice, Florence and Croatia. In this column, I will focus on Venice, which for centuries was known as the queen of the Adriatic.

Venice, as those of you who have been there know, is filled with boisterous Renaissance and Baroque art, much of it illustrating (at least nominally) scenes from the Christian scriptures, the lives of the saints, and stories by later church writers.

What struck us as we toured the galleries and admired St. Mark's square and the Ducal Palace was the number of items plundered from other places in the Venetian empire. The bronze horses over the doors to the cathedral, for example, were snatched from Constantinople when the Crusaders (hired by the Venetians) plundered that city. St. Mark's relics were also liberated from Turkish hands, supposedly smuggled out in a barrel of pork to avoid Muslim inspection.

In its art and texts, Venice does not shrink from acknowledging these thefts and others. The relics (and much else) were taken to Venice because they gave it access to the lucrative pilgrim trade, the forerunner of today's tourism in that thousands of devout pilgrims would endure horrific travel conditions to come venerate those relics. A fairly crass economic motive, one must say.

The pilgrimage as a way of connecting with a site embodying special sanctity is well-known to us from pictures of the Haj to Mecca. But for centuries, and to this day, many pious Christians have also gone to places fraught with sanctity – indeed, Israel itself advertises to, and profits from, Christian pilgrims. In fact, one of our tour guides in Croatia hastened to tell us that his mother had, the previous year, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a trip she had waited her whole life to take.

I have a problem, however, with the snatch of sanctity that Venice embodies. Pilgrimages as a way of connecting with the holy are fine, but the worship of bones and the trade in them is not. And don't that think we Jews don't do this. Think of the shrines to holy men and "saints" springing up in Israel and the territories.

The Venetian buildings that left lasting impressions, however, were the simpler, early churches whose facades reflected a quieter piety, in whose interiors one could sense the attempt to bridge the gap between the world of here and now, and the world above. Those who feel our synagogues, with their spare interiors and clean lines, are in need of more decoration, should reflect on why one enters a sanctuary. I prefer places where one enters a community of prayer, not a shrine.

Often there was an explicit message in the images we saw of the church's triumph over the synagogue. But I have to say that in our tour of the Venetian Ghetto synagogues, we never got the feeling that the guide (you have to have a guide to get in) thought of Jews as relics. Maybe it was the fact the men had kippot at the ready, or snatched one as soon as they entered, or maybe it was our decoding of the Hebrew inscriptions or the yeshiva bochers who came with us, but Jews and Judaism were treated with respect.

In any case, we came away with renewed appreciation of our own traditions. They are so right for us.

# Preserving our heritage

We keep scrapbooks, journals, photo albums and mementoes to help us record and remember our life-cycle events, vacations, family and friends. We treasure photographs – from old family portraits taken in formal studios before we were born to the newest pictures, produced digitally, which we receive along with e-mails.

*Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton*

Scrapbooks, journals, photo albums and mementoes help us preserve our memories and heritage and put our lives in an historical context. The scrapbooks of our civilizations are the museums and archives and similar places where we can observe, absorb and reflect on some aspect of our past. They also offer us a way to put our present and future in a historical context.

The Ottawa/Hull region alone has 29 museums including 12 national museums. But museums are not simply tourist attractions reserved for our nation's capital. Museums, archives and other collections across Canada celebrate the legacy of our history and the people who built our country. These museums and collections make information about ourselves accessible to all Canadians.

Some collections have a narrow focus. For example, the *Globe and Mail* recently published a story on the many specialized and unusual museums in Canada. These include a gopher museum, a potato museum and a Canadian clock museum, among others.

Museums are growing in number and in scope. For example, in Calgary, work is proceeding on the establishment of a new military museum that will merge the Naval Museum of Alberta and the Museum of the Regiments.

One of the most ambitious recent projects is the national human rights museum being established in Winnipeg. A dream of its principal advocate, the late Israel Asper, this museum project has been described as "one of the most transformational projects currently before our nation." This centre will promote both participation and action and will move Canada to the forefront in advancing the cause of human rights both nationally and internationally.

Why do we feel so strongly that museums are an important feature of the modern landscape? There are at least two reasons.

First, we rightfully appreciate the importance of history as a guide to and a measure of current and future direction. Museums achieve this through audio, visual and tactile displays.

Secondly, there is a fear we will miss opportunities to have a significant record of our past. Although there is more emphasis on historical studies at all levels of our education system than before and there is an ever-increasing amount of information on the Internet, we still need systematic collections and displays of the facts and artifacts of our history.

The Jewish community is, of course, particularly sensitive to the need to remember. We know how important it is to support Holocaust memorials and museums that keep alive the memories of our people's struggles and triumphs. Yad Vashem in Jerusalem is now expanding. Similar museums exist in Washington and Montreal. A quick Internet search reveals a page-long list of such memorials around the world.

Not everyone, however, shares our passion or even our sense of importance of Holocaust museums. For example, a French-born Montreal comedian, Dieudonne Mbala Mbala, recently stated that museums dedicated to the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust are tantamount to "memorial pornography." Fortunately, most persons do not share this perverse view.

For many years, the Canadian Jewish Congress has been an active player in the preservation of our heritage through the CJC National Archives and Reference Centre in Montreal. These archives contain records related to the CJC, records of related organizations and records of individuals, including arts and artifacts, photographs, sound recordings and film. Recently, the CJC archives established a database on Canadian Jewish casualties in the Canadian armed forces.

The growth of museums is no less than a recognition that our collective national history forms an integral part of our national identity. Accordingly, museums ought to be vigorously promoted so that the present and future generations will better appreciate how we define Canada and Canadians. Museums are a means of achieving a greater understanding of the Canadian experience through an appreciation of our antecedents and our roots.

The Kirshner File

# A cornucopia of books...

The Middle East, as usual, is in the news again. Israel is conducting a ground and air offensive in the Gaza Strip and battling Hamas. Iraq is embroiled in vicious sectarian violence. Syria is suppressing internal dissent and tightening its alliance with Iran. The following books will give you a broader, deeper appreciation of the context in which these events are unfolding.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Since its unexpected victory in last January's Palestinian parliamentary elections, Hamas – the Islamic Resistance Movement – has presented Israel with still more challenges and dilemmas. Matthew Levitt's timely book, ***Hamas: Politics, Charity, and Terrorism in the Service of Jihad*** (Yale University Press), charts the menacing connections between Hamas' charitable activities and its involvement in terrorism. Drawing on declassified reports from the Shin Bet, FBI, CIA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Canada's spy agency, Levitt persuasively argues that Hamas' political leadership, social services network and terrorist wing are completely integrated and function as a seamless unit. A lawyer and political scientist, he is deputy assistant secretary for intelligence and analysis at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

***Ahmad's War, Ahmad's Peace*** (Carroll & Graf), by American journalist Michael Goldfarb, traces his unusual and moving friendship with an Iraqi Kurdish newspaper publisher whose struggle against tyranny cost him his life. Ahmad Shawkat was subjected to imprisonment and torture when Saddam Hussein ruled Iraq, and in the post-Saddam era, he decried Islamic violence. This is a portrait of a courageous man who was not cowed by intimidation.

As Iraq struggles for normalcy amid an increasingly bloody insurgency spearheaded by Sunni Muslims and Islamic fundamentalists, the heretofore persecuted Shiites struggle to take their rightful place in Iraqi society. In ***Reaching for Power*** (Princeton University Press), Brandeis University historian Yitzhak Nakash speculates on the role the resurgent Shiites may play in the new Iraq and what influence they may wield in the Arab world, particularly Lebanon.

David W. Lesch, in ***The New Lion of Damascus: Bashar al-Assad and Modern Syria*** (Yale University Press), cogently examines the challenges that confront Syria's inexperienced president at home and abroad as globalization spreads, the United States tries to plant the seeds of democracy in the Middle East and Israel redefines its relationship with the Palestinians.

Hebrew University sociologist Baruch Kimmerling is a gadfly. In ***Politicide: The Real Legacy of Ariel Sharon*** (Verso) and ***The Invention and Decline of Israeliness*** (University of California Press), he claims that the former Israeli prime minister was committed to "politicide" – the destruction of the Palestinians' political identity – and that Israel is a very different country than its Zionist founders envisioned. You may disagree with Kimmerling's dissident views, but they merit some attention.

The burning issues of the Arab-Israeli dispute are grist for Israeli novelist Amos Oz's slim volume, ***How to Cure a Fanatic*** (Princeton University Press), which is never less than thought-provoking. Yakov M. Rabkin stirs debate in ***A Threat From Within: A Century of Jewish Opposition To Zionism*** (Fernwood Books). Taking his cue from Torah-based opposition to Zionism, Rabkin, a University of Montreal historian, raises pointed questions about whether Israel's interests coincide or conflict with those of Jews in the Diaspora.

Israeli Arabs are caught between two opposing forces, their citizenship as Israelis and their identity as Palestinian Arabs. In ***Coffins on our Shoulders: The Experiences of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel*** (University of California Press), Dan Rabinowitz and Khawla Abu-Baker address this unresolved problem in unorthodox fashion. And in ***The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*** (Bloomsbury), a poignant book that covers similar ground and is set mainly in the Israeli town of Ramla, Sandy Tolan builds his story around a Bulgarian Jewish woman and a Palestinian Arab whose family was displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Immigration is Israel's lifeblood. Through the stories of three American Jewish families, Liel Leibovitz, in ***Aliya*** (St. Martin's Press), chronicles the dreams, hopes and fears of new immigrants. And in ***An Anzac Zionist Hero: The Life of Lt.-Colonel Eliazar Margolin*** (Vallentine Mitchell), Rodney Gouttman introduces us to a Russian-born Australian figure who commanded the Jewish Legion in Palestine long before Israel's statehood. ***A Strange Death*** (Public Affairs), a novel based on a little-known period in early 20th century Zionist history, revolves around the fabled Aaronsohn spy ring in Zichron Yakov. Author Hillel Halkin conjures up an imaginative tale of Oriental intrigue.

David Biale's bold, interdisciplinary and erudite three-volume work, ***Cultures of the Jews*** (Schocken), takes us from the biblical era to the present, while ***Studies in Jewish Civilization*** (University of Nebraska Press), edited by Leonard Greenspoon, Ronald Simkins and Brian Horowitz, focuses on Jewish life in eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. ***Jews and Port Cities 1590-1900*** (Vallentine Mitchell), edited by David Cesarani and Gemma Romain, fleshes out a topic that has lain dormant for far too long. ***The Life of David*** (Schocken) by Robert Pinsky and ***Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity*** (Random House) by Rebecca Goldstein are models of biography. ***The Dead Sea Scrolls*** (Oxford University Press), by Timothy Lim, is a useful primer, while Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi's ***Haggadah and History*** (The Jewish Publication Society) is magisterial in scope.

Nitsa Ben-Ari, in ***Suppression of the Erotic in Modern Hebrew Literature*** (University of Toronto Press), argues that censorship impoverished the canon well into the 1970s. Etgar Keret, the Israeli novelist, is hardly constrained by such puritanism, judging by his satiric and erotic stories in ***The Nimrod Flip-Out*** (Chatto & Windus). The Israeli-born Canadian writer, Edeet Ravel, wrestles with matters of the heart in an intense novel, ***A Wall of Light*** (Random House), set in Tel Aviv. Wilham Weintraub is in top form in ***Crazy About Lili*** (Douglas Gibson Books), his picaresque novel about a young Jewish man in 1940s Montreal. Joseph Epstein weaves a mosaic of top-flight short stories in ***Fabulous Small Jews*** (Thomas Allen). ***Suite Francaise*** (Alfred Knopf), a taut novel in two parts by Holocaust victim Irene Nemirovsky, evokes the terror of the Nazi occupation.

Reiner Stach, in ***Kafka: The Decisive Years*** (Harcourt), evokes a rich period in the author's development. In ***Shining and Shadow: An Anthology of Early Yiddish Stories from the Lower East Side*** (Susquehanna University Press), Albert Waldinger showcases the stories of eight writers from Sholem Asch to Avrom Reisen. ***The Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature*** (Random House) and ***Contemporary Jewish Writing in Sweden: An Anthology*** (University of Nebraska Press), edited, respectively, by Ilan Stavans and Peter Stenberg, engage the imagination.

***A Concise History of the Third Reich*** (University of California Press, by Wolfgang Benz, is both succinct and comprehensive. Heather Pringle's ***The Master Plan: Himmler's Scholars and the Holocaust*** (Viking) is a fascinating account of a German research institute expressly established to validate cockeyed Nazi racial theories. Alan E. Steinweis' companion volume, ***Studying the Jew: Scholarly Antisemitism in Nazi Germany*** (Harvard University Press), skillfully investigates the careers of German scholars who fabricated an empirical basis for persecution and genocide. ***Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction*** (HarperCollins), by Martin Gilbert, deftly recreates the 1938 pogroms in Germany that marked a turning point in Nazi policy toward Jews. ***The Jews of Bohemia & Moravia*** (University of Nebraska Press), by Livia Rothkirchen, is a meticulous-researched work about the Nazi murder of Jews in Czech lands. ***Beyond Justice*** (Harvard University Press), by Rebecca Wittmann, expertly recounts a moment in Germany's confrontation with its past, the 1963 Frankfurt trial of former Auschwitz guards.

**In general...** ***Montreal Then and Now*** (Thunder Bay Press), by Alan Hustak and Johanne Norchet, is a first-rate architectural exposition of the city's landmarks through photographic juxtaposition. Overflowing with gentle and sardonic humour, ***The Complete Cartoons of The New Yorker*** (Black Dog & Leventhal) contains every cartoon, 68,647, published by that iconic magazine since 1925. What a treat! Braving a treacherous river and impenetrable jungles, and fending off hostile Indians, Theodore Roosevelt, the former president of the United States, completed an extraordinary expedition into the unexplored wilds of the Amazon basin in 1912. In ***The River of Doubt*** (Random House), Candice Millard brilliantly describes the trip.

If you're a curious traveller, you'll be drawn to Lonely Planet's ***Blue List*** and ***The Cities Book***, both distributed by Raincoast Books. The first lists things to do and see in countries from Argentina to Zambia, and the second captures the flavour of 200 cities. Lonely Planet's ***Middle East***, which includes Israel, and ***USA***, which is chock full of information, are excellent guides.

The myth, reality and juicy gossip of Los Angeles' film industry unfold in ***The 50 Most Unforgettable Actresses in the Studio Era*** (Raincoast) by Andrea Sarvady and ***Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary*** by Valeria Belletti (University of California Press).


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## YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

## יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון : אַלעק סילווער

### לאַסק און ראָוונע — אין אָנדענק פון צוויי שטעט

**אַ ניי בוך וועגן מענטשלעכע ליידן און נישט־געבראָכענעם גייסט פון צוויי חורבן־געראַטעוועטע און זייער צופעליקע טרעפונג מיט אַ האַלבן יאָרהונדערט שפּעטער, געשריבן פון הערמאַן טאַובע, וואַשינגטאָן**

רעצענזיע פון מישלין אמיד (אַרכיוואַרין אין „אַמעריקאַנער חורבן אָנדענק מוזיי" אין וואַשינגטאָן)

צוויי יידישע שטעטלעך: לאַסק (לאָדזשער געגנט, פּוילן) און ראָוונע (וואָלינער געגנט) האָבן ביידע גע־פירט אַ געזעלשאַפטלעך, קולטורעל, רעליגיעז יידיש לעבן ביז דעם אויסברוך פון דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה. אַרכיוון דערציילן וועגן שולן, ביבליאָטעקן, ישיבות, רבנים און געלערנטע, שרייבער און מאָלער, וועלכע האָבן דאָרט געלעבט און געשאַפן, טראָץ עקאָ־נאָמישע און פּאָליטישע באַגרענעצונגען, אַנטיסעמיטי־שע אויסברוכן און פּאָגראָמען קעגן יידן.

די גרויליקע נאַצי פאַרברעכנס אין לאַסק, די סאָוועטישע און שפּעטער די נאַצישע אָקופּאַציע פון ראָוונע האָבן אכזריותדיק אומגעבראַכט די יידישע באַפעלקע־רונג פון די צוויי שטעט. געציילטע יחידים האָבן זיך אומגעקערט אַהיים נאָך דער מלחמה אָבער צוליב די געפאַרן פון נייע פּאָגראָמען זיינען זיי ווידער אַוועק פון זייערע היימען, געשמוגלט גרענעצן צו די „די־פּי" לאַגערן און פון דאָרט, מיט דער הילף פון „בריחה", אומלעגאַל אַוועק קיין ארץ־ישראל. וועגן אַזעלכע צוויי יחידים דערציילט **הערמאַן טאַובע** אין זיין נייעם בוך: „דער איבערזעצער" — **"The Translator"**

דוד קליינמאַן איז אַנטלאָפן פון לאַסק דעם 6טן סעפּטעמבער, 1939. ער איז אָנגעקומען קיין ראָוונע ערבֿ דעם אַריינמאַרש פון דער סאָוועטישער אַרמיי. דאָרט האָט ער געפונען אַ היים ביי אַ פאַרמעגלעכער יידישער משפּחה, בליוויס. זייער טעכטערל, רייזעלע, אַ גראַדואַנטין פון דער בית־יעקבֿ שול, האָט זיך באַ־פריינדט מיט דעם לאַסקער בחור, דודל. מיט עטלעכע וואָכן שפּעטער האָבן די סאָוועטן געצוווּנגען די בליי־וויס פאַמיליע צו פאַרלאָזן זייער היים און זיי געשיקט אין אַן אַרבעטס־לאַגער אין סיביר. דוד קליינמאַן האָט זיך צו יענער צייט געפונען אין שפּיטאָל און פאַרלוירן יעדע פאַרבינדונג מיט זיין רייזעלע.

מיט פופציק יאָר שפּעטער, אין אַ מיטוואָך נאָך מיטאָג, בעת אַ לעקציע אין „אַמעריקאַנער חורבן מוזיי" אין וואַשינגטאָן, האָבן רייזעלע און דוד זיך ווידער גע־פונען. צום באַדויערן האָבן מיר נישט גענוג פּלאַץ צו קענען אַרויסברענגען די איינצלהייטן וועגן זייער צו־זאַמענטרעף. מיר קענען אויך נישט באַשרייבן די אומ־פאַרגעסלעכע בילדער וועגן די צוויי שטעט ראָוונע און לאַסק, ווי זיי ווערן פאַרגעשטעלט אין בוך פון הערמאַן טאַובע. גרינדלעכע טאָשמעס פון די אַרכיוון, ווי אויך אינ־טערוויוען מיט חורבן־געראַטעוועטע, האָט טאַובע אַרויסגעבראַכט גאָר אַ סך פאַקטן וועגן די שטעט און וועגן זייערע יידישע איינוווינער אין די מלחמה־יאָרן און אויך שפּעטער אויף זייער וועג צו אַ נאָרמאַל לעבן.

דער בולטסטער שטריך פון בוך איז דער פּסיכאָ־לאָגישער קאַמף, וואָס דוד קליינמאַן פירט מיט זיך אַליין. אַ האַלבער יאָרהונדערט שפּעטער פייניקן אים די שוידער־בילדער און טרויער־זכרונות. עס איז אַן אמתע געשיכטע פון צוויי געראַטעוועטע מענטשן, וואָס האָבן איבערגעלעבט די גרויליקע מלחמה־יאָרן און ווילן מיט אַלע כוחות בויען אַ ניי לעבן. „דער איבערזעצער" איז אַ וויכטיקער ביישטייער צו דער חורבן־ליטעראַטור פון יידישן פאָלק. עס דאַרף געלייענט ווערן פון יעדן, וואָס איז אַליין דורכגעגאַנגען די שואה, און פון די, וואָס ווילן זיך באַקענען מיט דעם אמת פון האָלאָקאָסט.

# Word of honour – it's more than a promise

**By RABBI EZRIEL SITZER**

**Rabbinic Reflections**

"I'll call you right back." "It'll be done by tomorrow." "I'm leaving the office in five minutes." "I will definitely look into it."

These expressions and hundreds more ring hollow in our ears in a society that has lost its sensitivity toward honouring one's word. The Mishnah teaches that acquiring a good name (which of course is only accomplished by keeping one's word) is better than any other worldly possession. But according to our Torah, it goes even further than keeping a promise.

Parshat Matot, the first of this week's double Torah reading, contains the clearest warning in the Torah that we are not to violate our word: "He shall not profane his word, but must do everything that emerges from his mouth." The verse isn't merely urging us to keep our promises – not to do so is a profanity! Imagine that. A profanity – something vulgar and sacrilegious. But why?

The Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chassidism, taught that every person is allotted a given number of words during his life. When he has used up his quota, he dies. (I once heard of a computer geek who believed that each person has a limited number of key taps in his life and refused to use the shift key!)

With his analogy, what the Baal Shem Tov wanted to impart was that the Torah is not teaching us just the importance of speech but also the essence of speech. To reveal to man that human life is speech. That is our life. And when a person's words run out, he has no further purpose or means by which to continue living.

But it goes even further.

In the account of the genesis of man the Torah says, "And God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Man became a living being – *l'nefesh chayah* – in the original Hebrew. The translation of those Hebrew words according to Onkeles (a Roman convert who, our tradition says, wrote a translation received through prophetic inspiration), is "a speaking spirit." In other words, the quality that makes us uniquely human is the power of speech – not communication – but speech. Many lower beings communicate, including animals, birds, fish and insects. But speech includes the ability a human has to convey his or her unique thoughts, including vision, insight, humour, emotion or a commitment.

The Mishnah in *Ethics of our Fathers* reveals that God created the entire universe with 10 utterances. It is an important lesson for us to learn – that it wasn't His thoughts or His hands, but His mouth that created all that exists outside of Him. (Abracadabra, a Hebrew-based word, literally means "I will create while I speak.") Only man, about whom it is written, "Let us make man in Our likeness," was endowed with the same ability as God to create through speech.

This is a paramount lesson. For the person who takes this lesson to heart, it can be life altering. Never mind lying, exaggerating, hurtful or shameful speech. That's all Level 1. Level 2 is recognizing and utilizing the power of our words to create, to produce and to fashion.

Just imagine the impact of a simple "Hello." Or "I love you." Or "I'm sorry." Words that change worlds. Words that change people. And this is the bottom line, because nothing is more beautiful or more important than creating, developing and perfecting our own humanness through proper and responsible speech. And when that is accomplished, the ultimate speech will return again, when God will talk to man and man to God.

*Rabbi Sitzer is the spiritual leader of The Jewish Centre for Learning & Living in Thornhill, Ont.*

# Sharing the power of living waters

**IDEAS ON IDENTITY**

***By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN***

I am honoured to offer the first in a series of monthly columns for *The Canadian Jewish News* called "Ideas on Identity" reflections on the complicated state of what it means to be a Jew in the modern world. Based on my observations both as a rabbi with 15 years in the field of transformational adult education and non-demoninational outreach, and also as "a Jew in the pew," I welcome your suggestions for topics you find challenging or interesting.

I'll begin with a topic close to my heart. Last month, I attended an amazing conference in Boston called "Pouring New Water into an Ancient Vessel: Reclaiming Mikvah." Hosted by Anita Diament (famous for her book *The Red Tent*), it launched the opening of Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh in Massachusetts. Mayyim Hayyim is a pluralistic mikvah that encourages both traditional and non-traditional uses of this ritual.

More than 200 men and women from across the denominational spectrum studied the mitzvah of mikvah and pondered both halachic and creative uses. Papers ranged from my own on *The Mikvah as Spiritual Therapy* (taking people for healing after rape, chemotherapy, infidelity, etc.) to an Orthodox mikvah attendant's on *Demystifying The Laws of Family Purity*.

I was touched more deeply by the cross-denominational dialogue than by all the scholarship. You see, the Orthodox mikvah lady and I became fast friends, and on the plane ride home, I wondered how that happened so naturally.

She and I would not feel comfortable in each other's shuls, for sure. She believes liberal Judaism is seriously misguided on some key issues, and I believe exactly the same about Orthodoxy. She is wary of change in Judaism and I embrace it. And so on. But she was willing to see that, despite her misgivings, I am a committed, passionate Jew. And I was willing to see that, despite my misgivings, she is also a passionate, committed Jew. We know we are both on the same "team" though we disagree on how to play the game.

We each know that the other cares deeply and is willing to do anything in her power to help Judaism not only survive but thrive. We respect the other's right to do it her way. We even respect her right to be wrong, even if only in our own opinion.

I have always felt that Jewish women have the power – and the challenge – to bridge the seemingly intractable denominational gaps. Once outsiders to the system, women who are now insiders can affect great change when we put our minds and hearts into it. This "commonality of womanhood" often supersedes even the thorniest of philosophical disagreements.

Yitz Greenberg, an Orthodox Rabbi, once wrote, "I don't care if we argue, as long as we argue in the same language."

My new friend and I did not have a meeting of the minds – we had a meeting of the hearts. She told me that she often shares information from my website with the kids in the Orthodox day school where she teaches, and I promised to share some of her teachings at Kolel.

She also admitted that, in a few weeks, she is taking five of her closest female friends – two of whom are haredi – to Mayyim Hayyim for a personal healing ceremony, something unheard of in her community.

But she is not afraid. She proclaims freely that she has something to learn from other Jews and other ways of being Jewish, and I proclaim the same. If more of us would just "dip in" at that level, the whole community would feel the power of living waters.

Jewish Life

# French air tax flies off course

Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman CA

The French government recently approved plans for a new tax on airline tickets, to be levied on all passengers boarding a plane in France, that would be distributed to the world's poor. Is such a tax ethically sound?

Jewish tradition recognizes that charitable giving must consist of both a private and public component. This combination allows both public needs and personal preferences to be met. Whereas public trustees must follow very strict rules regarding allocation of funding, private donors have much greater leeway in choosing the recipient of their largesse. Private donors may – and perhaps must – give priority to a close relative, something that would be a terrible breach of trust if done by public foundations such as a federation.

The existence of a public system of charitable giving means that Jewish law recognizes a coercive nature in assessing minimum charitable requirements. While the Diaspora Jewish community is no longer able to enforce this most crucial of mitzvot, secular governments can and continue to do so. This forced charity is what we call taxes supporting as they do health care, education, the unemployed and the needy. Jewish law recognizes that governments have tremendous latitude in determining the public interest. If halachah recognized this right in the premodern era of monarchs, dictators and the like, it is all the more important in democratic countries where the government truly are the people's representatives. This new French initiative would thus appear to be a wonderful way to raise funds for a worthy cause, one that many would otherwise not contribute to.

Nonetheless, on closer analysis, it appears to me that this law raises ethical issues that seriously question its appropriateness. One of the requirements of a Jewish social service system is the need for universality. Every member of society must participate in helping to alleviate poverty. As charitable giving benefits both the recipient and the donor, even those who themselves are recipients of charity must donate, albeit in very small amounts, to anti-poverty efforts. A law that targets only airline travelers fails to meet this criterion. It could even be argued that such a tax is inherently discriminatory and thus illegal under Jewish law.

Furthermore, as the many airlines who have lobbied against passage of this law have noted, it places airlines at a competitive disadvantage. While adding a user tax designated for such things as capital improvements at the airport would seem to present no ethical problem despite a similar increase in costs, doing so for extraneous purposes would unnecessarily wreak economic harm on an already beleaguered industry. This would violate the ethical responsibility of a government to pursue policies that encourage economic growth and development. Whereas general taxes may be spent as the government sees fit, taxes levied on particular industries should be spent on those industries.

Another issue relates to the nature of airline travel. With France being the leading tourist destination in the world, attracting more than 100 million visitors a year, a large proportion of those travelling to and through France are citizens of other countries. While the specifics vary depending on the type of charity involved, Jewish law does not levy communal taxes on those just passing through a particular locale. For instance, the laws of Passover begin with the codification of the obligation to ensure the poor have their needs met for the holiday, but only those who have settled permanently or have resided in a particular place for 12 months must participate.

The concept of a designated tax to help alleviate poverty is a beautiful one and should definitely be encouraged, provided it is assessed across the board. However, singling out air travellers is not the way to go.

*Comments to info@torahinmotion.org*

# Promoting a website, blog or podcast

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

So you've created your own Jewish website. Congratulations!

Now you want the world to know about it.

Maybe you have a Torah story to tell or a political blog to publicize or a Yiddish podcast you've been slaving over. After all that hard work, you want to make sure as many people as possible to visit. There are some great sites that will help get the word out about your Jewish site – free. Today, I'll tell you where to find them.

In truth, the best time to think about attracting visitors to your site is while you are still building it. There are a few basic principles you need to consider to make your site search engine-friendly. And these rules apply to any kind of site, Jewish or not. Because, face it, most people who are doing a search turn to Google or Yahoo first. For a good primer, check out the Wikipedia article on Search Engine Optimization. **[http://tinyurl.com/hdmh4]** You'll learn about the importance of the title area of your web page and you'll be warned against trying to fool search engines by overloading your site with keywords. **[www.submit-it.com/subopt.htm]**

Although most search engines operate by sending automatic programs (known as spiders or robots) to troll the web, there are services around that rely on humans to do the categorizing. And you can submit your site to them for consideration. The Google Judaism directory **[http://tinyurl.com/fsgxe]** gets its information from the Open Directory Project, which calls itself "the largest, most comprehensive human-edited directory of the web." Its Judaism directory currently lists more than 2,500 sites. **[http://dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Judaism/]** You can submit your site directly to them **[http://tinyurl.com/kv8zs]** as well to a similar directory at Yahoo. **[http://tinyurl.com/eromz]**

As for directories and search engines that specialize in Jewish sites, the most famous is probably MavenSearch.com, which was founded in 1994 and currently lists more than 15,000 websites. It accepts applications for listing at this page. **[www.mavensearch.com/submit/submit.asp]**

By the way, as you visit these sites, you will notice a common theme. Most directories of Jewish sites say that they will not accept listings for Christian messianic groups. They have their own directories for that. Despite that precaution, those messianic groups do sometimes appear if they have opted to take out commercial listings. To read more about the fight to fool search engines, take a look at my previous article, Of Google and Joogle Bombs. **[www.cjnews.com/viewarticle.asp?id=3234]**

If you like to be the first to hear about new Jewish and Israeli sites, I highly recommend subscribing to the MavenSearch newsletter. **[www.mavensearch.com/newsletter/subscribe.asp]** You'll receive a regular e-mail updating you on recently launched sites. (That's how I just came across the new – and habit-forming – site, Guess Who's The Jew. **[www.guesswhosthejew.com/]**) Shamash, another of the early Jewish sites, operates the similar Jewish-Announce mailing list on which you can publicize your site. **[http://tinyurl.com/fagez]**

The lists of Jewish lists continues: Hareshima **[www.hareshima.co.il/ADDURL.ASP]**; Nu?! **[www.jewishsites.org/addurl.htm]**; JewishStar **[www.jewishstar.com/addsite.htm]**; Yehud **[http://tinyurl.com/g9l3o]**; 123 ABC Jewish **[http://tinyurl.com/hvaql]**; and Kineret. **[www.kineret.com/]**

And then there is a favourite search engine of mine. Actually, I'm not really sure if it does the best job but it does have a great name for a Jewish Google wannabe: Koogle. **[www.koogle.net/]**

If you have a Jewish blog more people should know about, tell the folks at JewishBlogging.com. **[www.jewishblogging.com/addBlog.php]** And for your Jewish podcast, look at the link at the bottom of Podcast.net's Judaism page. **[www.podcast.net/cat/117]**

There is one more way for you to get the word out about your Jewish site. Tell me about it. Write to me at the address below about the Jewish or Israeli website, blog or podcast you've created and I may mention it in a future column.

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*


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Greater Toronto Area

**The senior executive of B'nai Brith's Upper Canada Lodge is, from left, first vice-president Sid Isenberg, president, Franklin Switzer, second vice-president Albert Waisglass, chaplain and immediate past president Marc Mittleman. Missing is third vice-president Irv Hochman.**

# Upper Canada Lodge marks 60 years of *chesed*

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Since 1946, the members of B'nai Brith's Upper Canada Lodge have performed numerous services for the Jewish and general communities.

As the lodge celebrates its 60th year, it can look back on its outstanding accomplishments and selfless dedication from its first president and founding father, former Toronto mayor Phil Givens (1946-47), to its newly elected 36-year-old president, Franklin Switzer (2006-08).

The Upper Canada Lodge (UCL) has lived up to its motto, "People helping people," through such volunteer projects as visiting the sick, outings for seniors and adults with disabilities, Meals on Wheels deliveries, Chanukah and Passover parcel deliveries, Clowns-on-the-Town, hospital projects, participation in the League of Human Rights, and the list goes on and on.

***First president was Toronto mayor Phil Givens***

The UCL is well known for building and maintaining the Upper Canada Lodge seniors housing complex at 4266 Bathurst St. The residence helps many seniors and people with disabilities live affordably and well. The lodge's day-to-day involvement with the building's operation and with its social and educational programming have become a model for community living.

One of the lodge's strengths is how it integrates its senior and more youthful members.

Switzer, 36, told *The CJN* that when he returned to Toronto from university in 1995, he wanted to play sports. "Someone put me in contact with Steve Lubek, who was then the commissioner of basketball for B'nai Brith. He got me involved in the sports program."

Switzer, who operates a law enforcement outerwear manufacturing plant, says Lubek, a past lodge president, exposed him to UCL, and he became active in the lodge and in B'nai Brith Canada.

"In 1996, when Steve Lubek became president, he asked me to join the executive, and I became the third vice-president of UCL, and I just moved my way up."

He adds that his grandfather and father were in B'nai Brith's lodge system.

The younger members and the more senior members get along very well, Switzer says. "We all work well together – some of our members are in their 90s."

Switzer is proud of the UCL's legacy.

"Once I became active in the lodge, I was very impressed with their services and I want to insure that it is carried on into the future. I am delighted that I and some of the younger members are working along with the senior members. It makes us stronger."

Established as a men's group, the lodge has since opened its membership to women, and it installed its first female president, Judy Gordon, in 1992.

Albert Waisglass, a World War II veteran and a founding lodge member who is currently second vice-president, said that along with its many other services to the community, the lodge is proud of its Sabbath and holiday services that are held in the chapel of its housing complex and at the Harold and Grace Baker Centre retirement home in the former city of York.

"But above all," says Waisglass, "I have enjoyed the camaraderie and the friendships that I have made and the colleagues I have worked with over the years. I have not only contributed to the community, but I have personally gained so much."

Upper Canada Lodge's year of celebrations will culminate on Sunday, Oct. 20 at a gala dinner and dance at Paradise Banquet & Convention Centre.

# Jewish *Canadian Idol* contestant falls short of top 10

Nancy Silverman

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Nancy Silverman may not have made the top 10 on *Canadian Idol*, but the Jewish resident of Thornhill made Jewish Canadians proud by outlasting 12,000 other hopefuls to make it as far as the top 14.

About 3.3 million voters put Silverman and three other contestants in the bottom four last week, ending her quest to win the fourth season of *Canadian Idol*.

It's only natural for Silverman to be disappointed after being eliminated from the competition in a live CTV broadcast.

But in an interview with *The CJN* a few days before the show, she talked of how blessed she felt to have been a part of the process.

"Even if you're the first person voted out, you've gotten to do what you love for the whole country. If you're here, you've already won," said Silverman, who preformed songs such as *Could I Be Your Girl* by Jann Arden, *Fallin* by Alicia Keys, and *Stupid* by Sarah McLachlan.

"We're working with incredibly skilled performers – the best in the field. The training is amazing," she said.

The 19-year-old will be continuing her training when she enters her third year in the musical theatre program at Sheridan College.

Although Silverman said she has only been singing since her last year of high school three years ago, dancing has been a part of her life since she was just a kid.

"I began dancing at nine. I took jazz, tap, ballet and hip hop. But I really became interested in pop music in my first year of college."

She also said that even as an elementary and high school student, she was very involved in the arts. She went to Baythorn Public School, and Unionville High School, which are both known for their extensive arts programs.

She said that because she only started singing in the last year of high school, she wasn't physically or mentally prepared to audition for *Canadian Idol* until this year.

"I needed the time to build my self confidence," she said, adding that the training she has received as part of her musical theatre program – which includes half-hour, one-on-one vocal training sessions – has helped her improve her range.

About the competition itself, Silverman said she didn't know what to expect.

"On a typical day, I come to the studio, I workshop a song, do a couple of interviews, and we have to find time to practise," she said of her routine.

"It was hard to anticipate what the experience would be like. But it's been great fun, very challenging and I've learned a lot."

While the judges often described Silverman's style as unique, she said, "my vocal style is influenced by the artists I listen to. My favorites are Alanis [Morissette], Fiona Apple and India Arie."

She said that since she was competing with "the most talented singers in the country," she never expected to make it as far as she did in the competition.

Despite the fact she didn't win the competition, Silverman said there is still no telling where the show, and the exposure it's given her, will take her.

"I just want to share what I do. I'm trying to touch people in any way that I can," she said.

She said that although she was the only Jewish contestant on the show, it didn't change the way she approached the competition.

But it did provide her with a sense of pride.

"I'm very proud to be representing the Jewish community. It's about time there was a Jewish competitor in the top 10."

Maybe next season.

## Golf tournament raises funds for breast cancer research

The 10th annual Henry's Tournament fore Health will be held at the Angus Glen Golf Club in Markham, Ont., on Aug. 3. The event will benefit the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Organizers hope to raise $200,000. The tournament has raised $1.2 million since its inception.

Co-chairs Debbie Kimel and Tiana Koffler Boyman, as well as Marvelle Koffler, founder and inspiration for the centre, will be taking part. In addition to the golf, there will be both a live and a silent auction.

Tee-off time is 9 a.m., with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Although the event is sold out, people can donate to the cause, or sponsor a player, by going online to www.mtsinai.on.ca/henrysgolf.

The Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, which opened in October 1995, sees some 33,000 people a year. It is an outpatient facility specializing in all aspects of breast health and breast care. It integrates services from the departments of surgery, medicine, radiology, pathology, psychiatry, nursing, palliative care, nutrition and social work.

### Correction

In the article "Refugee conference shines positive light on Israel" (*CJN*, July 6), Mila Volhanski should have been identified as executive director of JIAS Canada. *The CJN* regrets the error.


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TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS COURTESY OF SUNWORLD TOURS

# Education director stresses inter-denominational tolerance

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Debbie Spiegel has a somewhat rare vantage point relative to Judaism's three major religious streams.

As director of education for Holy Blossom Temple, with responsibility for its preschool, religious school and adult education under the auspices of the synagogue's Schwartz/Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning, she serves the city's largest Reform congregation. She also has close ties with Orthodox Judaism through her synagogue affiliation and lifestyle, and with the Conservative movement as assistant director of Camp Ramah in Canada for 13 years until 2004.

Debbie Spiegel

"I really feel very strongly that however you express your Judaism is terrific... I want everyone to be proud and enjoy being Jewish. The way you make Shabbat at home may not be the way I make Shabbat at home, but that doesn't matter. [What matters is that you] make Shabbat. Have that time in your life."

Spiegel, a 51-year-old mother of four, likes to focus on things like Jewish holidays that all Jews have in common. Jewish education can also be a common denominator, she believes. Whether parents choose to send their children to day school or supplementary school, she said, she wants them to "do it wholeheartedly and with the right head."

She believes there needs to be "a lot more tolerance [and] a lot more respect" among the denominations. "We're a small people. We need to be unified. We're not doing anyone any favours by making comments about another movement. We need to be friends.

"If people are accepting, and there's no 'but' in the equation, there's no problem," she believes.

As an administrator, Spiegel, who has a BA in Judaic studies and a teaching certificate from the University of Michigan, believes in an open-door policy with her teachers and in "looking at the big picture." She doesn't want to ignore details, she said, but she does not believe in getting "bogged down by minutia."

Two personal experiences have had a strong impact on that philosophy. One was serving as a chaperone on March of the Living in 2004 and 2005. The other involves her daughter Miryam, an 18-year-old graduate of Ulpanat Orot and a survivor of leukemia, diagnosed when she was just 22 months old.

"We take nothing for granted. We cherish each and every moment," said Spiegel, who took on her current position in an interim capacity last August and assumed it officially over the winter.

In the schools, she said, "we want to make sure we create an environment where kids have a wonderful place of learning, a place they can call home and feel great about being Jewish."

Spiegel also worked at Holy Blossom before her stint at Ramah, as Hebrew school and senior school supervisor, and said it was "like coming home" to return there.

The one-night-a-week senior school for grades 7 to 10 is undergoing curricular changes and enhancing its social action program, changes that reflect the synagogue's strategic plan to implement change, Spiegel said.

Included in the change is a more integrated program with the synagogue's youth group.

"I believe in informal education. I think kids learn well that way," said Spiegel, whose own background is heavy on informal Jewish education, even before her stint at Ramah.

As a child growing up in the Conservative movement in Detroit, she was a United Synagogue Youth member, a Ramah camper and later a staff member. She also served as a student teacher at her synagogue, and took part in leadership training programs as part of her religious school experience. "I just loved it," she said.

She met her husband, Randy, a native of Hespeler, Ont. who is executive director of Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto, at Camp Ramah in New England in 1980. They married two years later.

This summer, Spiegel will spend a week working at Camp George, the Reform movement's summer camp in Ontario.

Much of the rest of her summer will be devoted to the Schwartz/Reisman centre, and to revamping curriculum and working with teachers, a prospect she finds exciting.

"Our expectation is that they will give their all for the sake of creating future Jews, and that's what it's all about."

# *New USY president plans to reach out to others*

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Julie Zucker, the new executive regional president of United Synagogue Youth's Eastern Canadian region, wants to reach out to people who haven't found USY or don't know what it's really about.

"I hope to make it a lot more appealing to people who don't have a Jewish [connection] in their life," said Zucker, 17, who was elected in the second week of May. "I just hope that a lot of people who have not experienced a [Jewish] youth group find USY."

Her term as president will last until May 2007. USY, the youth branch of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, has more than 25,000 high school-aged members in Canada and the United States.

It has 17 regions and more than 400 chapters. Eastern Canadian, the only completely Canadian region of USY, consists of Ontario and Quebec, and boasts a membership of over over 700. There are 130 active members in the region, said Zucker, who lives in Thornhill, Ont.

"[USY] is really for everybody. It's just a matter of how much you want to look for it or how much you want to care about it. Everyone who has come to [any] convention has really loved it and has come back," she said.

In order to run for the presidency, Zucker, who was formerly vice-president, had to collect 50 signatures of USY members and submit an essay. There was one other candidate running for regional president, Zucker said. She did not want to disclose the name of her opposition.

"It was very nerve-wracking. The competition was neck-and-neck. There was no person with leverage over the other," she said. "People really want an opportunity to get involved with the region that they love."

Zucker was introduced to USY through her synagogue, Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto, and quickly became an active member of Kadima, USY's group for kids in grades 6 to 8. At 15, Zucker became president of USY at Beth Tzedec.

The week-long international USY conventions held each December – this year's will be in Boston – attract approximately 1,200 members.

"Everyone I know who has gone to a convention has loved it and come back. You just have to take the time to actually go," said Zucker, who went to United Synagogue Day School for elementary school and is going into Grade 12 at Thornhill Secondary School this fall.

"There was just a program a couple of weeks ago for Shavuot with USY where we all stayed up and studied all night, which was a lot of fun," said Zucker with a soft giggle. "I got home at eight o'clock in the morning after being up all night."

Since elected to her new position, Zucker has been caught in a flurry of activity.

Julie Zucker

"It has been ridiculous. I haven't been able to start anything that I've wanted to," she said. "I've had to organize the mailing of 400 flyers for a [regional] convention that's happening in August. I have a goal meeting for the entire executive board, so I've been on the phone every night these past two weeks with my staff, trading goals with the rest of the [executive body]. It's just been very crazy," she said.

Zucker credits her older sister, Eva, with influencing her to become active.

"It's all because of my sister. She was extremely involved with USY. She, herself, was on the regional executive board," she said. "When I was in Grade 8 in 2002, she took me to my first convention."

Eva is currently the communications director at Hillel at York University.

Once she graduates from high school, Zucker hopes to spend a year in Israel doing USY's nine-month-long Nativ program before studying business at university.

"I joined USY not knowing many people, but [members] are incredible. They are so much fun," she said. "I've made a lot of my best friends through USY."

Greater Toronto Area

# Kosher chicken now available in Cuba

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

A halachic-based humanitarian and educational organization has begun slaughtering kosher chickens for the Cuban community on an ongoing basis.

"Even though in the past we had periodic chicken slaughtering… [From now on] every few weeks we'll have another few slaughterers go down," said Rabbi Simon Aisenbach, executive director of the Canadian Friends of Cuban Jewry (CFCJ).

"Every two to three weeks, a team goes down there to slaughter chickens, and we'd love to do more, but it's based on how much we can put together. It's a very costly project, but the more money we get the more we can do."

The organization pays $6.80 for each chicken.

Rabbi Aisenbach said it's difficult for the average Cuban to access poultry or meat on a regular basis.

"It's very costly and the average individual makes very little there," he said. "They have a few dollars that they accumulate, they'll spend it on something else, like vegetables and eggs, which you can get more of for that same price."

Two hundred and twenty families receive the 500 kosher chickens from the CFCJ. The number of chickens distributed to each family varies according to need, said Aisenbach.

Cuba's only Orthodox synagogue, Adath Israel, serves as CFCJ's distribution centre.

While the organization has made strides making chicken available, there is still some work that needs to be done before kosher beef is available to Cuba's Jewish community, which Rabbi Aisenbach estimates to be around 1,000 and is centred mainly in Havana.

He said that while it is possible for the community to obtain a certain number of cattle from the government, "it's not simple for them [the government] yet to digest this concept that in Jewish law a big part of the animal would not be kosher, and a big part of the animal, which maybe is kosher, is not halachically allowed to be eaten."

"The Halachah with beef is a lot more complicated. There are tens and maybe hundreds of details, which… exist in kosher slaughter, pertaining [to] the cattle versus the chicken," he said.

The CFCJ wrapped up its 101st mission to Cuba on July 9. The next group of *shochtim* (kosher slaughterers), all of whom are from South America, arrived in Cuba July 16 for a three-week stay.

The CFCJ, founded in 1994, is Chabad's official representation in Cuba.

Its annual summer camp there, Gan Israel, begins July 23 and wraps up on Aug. 31.

The camp program is structured for the children, but parents or older siblings are invited to enjoy a day out and have a good, satisfying meal and "to enjoy different experiences that they cannot and would not all year round," Rabbi Aisenbach said.

"We provide these kids with meals on a daily basis, and we thought we could provide the parents as well with the physical sustenance as well as the educational component."

Rabbi Aisenbach said religious education and spiritual support is provided solely to the Jewish community, but the organization will not deny anyone humanitarian assistance, regardless of religion.

"We never differentiate, not only with the halachic Jew, but between the Jew and the non-Jew at all," he said. "Even recently, we got a call for help to provide medicine from a completely non-Jewish couple. As much as we can, we try to help everybody. It's important to help every human being for that matter."

Rabbi Aisenbach is pleased with how his organization has been received by Cuba's small Jewish community.

"It means everything for them, the fact that they know that they have an address and literally whatever they need, besides the ongoing humanitarian aid distribution," he said.

"We have our representatives there, and anyone can turn to them, at any moment, with any subject, be it religious, educational or primarily humanitarian… [For] anything like shoes, clothes and medicine, [the community can] turn to us."

**Seen at the Island Yacht Club's day for disabled Israeli veterans are, from left, Simon Weisman, Israeli group leader Offer Alon, Rachel Weisman, event co-ordinator Sid Golden, Nancy Golden and Revital Marom.**

# Yacht club hosts disabled Israeli vets

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

On a lovely Sunday earlier this month, the Island Yacht Club (IYC) hosted a group of disabled Israeli veterans for a day of sailing, lunch and camaraderie.

Ten yacht club skippers volunteered their boats and crews for use by visiting veterans and their Toronto host families.

The Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel-Beit Halochem (Canada) hosted the veterans. Gillian Sarfin and Rachel Weisman were the local itinerary co-chairs for Beit Halochem and Sid Golden was the IYC's co-ordinator for the club visit.

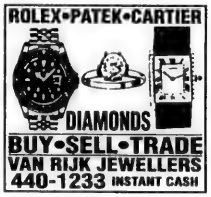
"Everyone was warmly greeted by our commodore Cynthia Amsterdam and our committee members. The club members welcomed the veterans and [member] Uriel Domb addressed the group in Hebrew," Golden said.

After a picnic lunch, the 10 boats left the docks for what Golden called "a highly touted sailing adventure. Our guests were not disappointed."

He added, "The winds on occasion were quite brisk. When a sudden gust of wind hit our boat followed by a sharp heel, I heard the plaintive 'Yisgadal' [of the *Kaddish* prayer] being softly chanted in the background."

Golden said that along with the warm thanks the members received from the veterans, "the feedback I received from the IYC skippers, crews, guests and Beit Halochem officials was all very positive and very satisfying."

The 10 skippers who volunteered were Cynthia Amsterdam, Harvey Barth, Uriel and Michael Domb, Jeffrey Engel, Sid Golden, Stephen Gurza, Howard Levinoff, Lawrence Litvack, Nathan Mechanic and Jeff Solway.

Coast to Coast

# Canadian MDA arm celebrates 30 years

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — At 93 and coping with hearing loss, Sydney Lithwick can no longer be as active in his favourite charitable cause, Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA), but he is determined to still make a contribution.

Lithwick was one of the major supporters honoured at CMDA's 30th anniversary celebration last month. He has been with the organization almost since it began, and is now an honorary member.

"I can still speak and see, so two out of three isn't bad," Lithwick said cheerfully in accepting the tribute.

Despite his impairment, Lithwick is fulfilling a lifelong dream by taking piano lessons. He is practising twice a week for two hours each session. His goal is to learn to play *Rhapsody in Blue* well enough to do so in public. When that happens, and he figures it will be by the end of this year, Lithwick pledged to put on a benefit concert for CMDA.

Lithwick said his proudest memory as an active CMDA member was helping raise funds in Canada for the establishment of the first national blood centre in Israel, which today supplies almost all of the country's needs.

Also honoured was Oscar Costin, 90, another CMDA pioneer. He is now an honorary director.

Since 2000, CMDA has sent more than $6 million (all figures US) worth of ambulances, equipment and medical supplies to Magen David Adom in Israel.

Over the past 10 years, this has included 113 ambulances: 72 standard models, 39 mobile intensive care units (MICUs) and two bloodmobiles. Canadians are now sponsoring an average of 10 to 15 ambulances a year, said national executive director Arnold Rosner, to help replenish MDA's fleet of more than 700 vehicles, of which 10 per cent are retired annually.

A standard ambulance costs the donor $82,500 and the larger, more specialized MICUs, $105,000. That covers the cost of the vehicles, with only minimal equipment, Rosner said. Full equipment can add another $25,000 to $50,000 per ambulance.

Overall, Canada is behind only the United States and Britain in its level of support for MDA, he said.

According to its charter, CMDA must donate actual goods, not send money to Israel for ambulances and equipment, he said.

The ambulances are manufactured by Ambulances Demers based in Beloeil, Rosner said, which has the added bonus of supporting jobs in Quebec.

Lithwick recalled that Canada's $500,00 contribution to the construction of the national blood centre in Tel Aviv is one of the highlights of the organization's three decades.

CMDA's next big project is to buy at least 200 computerized "shaker and scale" machines at a cost of $600,000. These machines send information on each donated blood unit to a central computerized system, thereby allowing it to get to recipients faster.

The organization has also contributed more than $300,000 to the development of MDA's cord blood bank, a project being undertaken with the country's hospitals to advance stem-cell research and development of treatments for cancer and blood disorders.

The bank collects donated umbilical cord blood following the birth of healthy babies, a practice which the religious authorities have deemed acceptable. It is anticipated that the MDA cord blood bank will become a major resource for Jews worldwide, as well as for the Arab population.

Many Canadian Jewish young people also volunteer in the summer with MDA, often going on to health-care professions. CMDA's fundraisers are rejuvenating, too. At the celebration, the young leadership division of the Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Québec presented a cheque for $6,800, part of the proceeds from its "Bachelor/Bachelorette" auction, where bids were taken for dates. It's the second year the group has supported CMDA.

MDA, Israel's emergency medical, disaster relief and blood supply service, was founded in 1930.

CMDA, under the national presidency of Miriam Lang of Montreal, has offices in Toronto, London and Edmonton, as well as chapters in Hamilton, Ottawa and Vancouver. Chapters are being formed in Winnipeg and Calgary.

Israeli Consul General Marc Attali congratulated CMDA on its achievements.

CMDA is planning a mission to Israel from Oct. 18 to 29, which will include the opportunity to donate blood directly to MDA's bank and then recuperate at a Dead Sea spa.

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Torah in Motion: CHAT

Afternoon Program
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12:30 p.m.
OU/Aish Hatorah video presentation featuring
Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinrib and Rabbi Noach Weinberg

2:00 Mincha

2:30 Maimonides on the Loss and Recovery of Prophecy
Dr. Eddie Breuer / Hebrew University

3:30 The Lord is Righteous in all His Ways Reflections of Rav Soloveitchik
Rabbi Reuven Tradburks / Kehillat Shaarei Torah

4:30 The Last Time the Zionist Movement Failed Do We Run the Same Risks Today?
Rabbi Eric Levy / Principal, Ulpanat Orot

5:30 Principles and Peace: Balancing the Dialectic
Rabbi Benjamin Hecht / Director, Nishma

6:30 The Scandal of Rationalized Suffering Why Bad Explanations Happen to Good People
Dr. Elliott Malamet / Torah in Motion CHAT

7:30 Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation Video Presentation

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# Fairness suffers as columnists rip into Israel

The *Daily News* in Halifax served up a dual attack on Israel July 9 in its "Perspective" section: a piece by syndicated writer Gwynne Dyer ("Excessive force?") and another by the paper's own columnist, Stephen Kimber ("Do we need a little more MAD?"). Talk about balance!

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

Dyer began his article by siding with the European Union in its criticism of Israel for using "disproportionate" force in its military operations in Gaza in response to the kidnapping of Cpl. Gilad Shalit. Like the EU, Dyer conveniently omitted any mention of the other acts Israel was forced to counter – such as the incessant firing of about 700 Qassam rockets from Gaza into Israeli sovereign territory since Hamas took control of the Palestinian Authority in January. No other country in the world would tolerate such provocations, as Israel tried to do month after month.

The very EU members who have "rediscovered their backbones," as Dyer puts it, never once criticized the Hamas-led PA for failing to prevent the Qassam launchings, or for condoning and even encouraging so-called "armed resistance," which lacks any commonsense basis a year after Israel's full withdrawal from Gaza.

Many journalists have taken issue with certain tactics of the Israel Defence Forces. They often cite the destruction of one of the main power stations, which has left a great many Palestinians temporarily without electricity. Dyer not only joins the ranks of these journalists, but he focuses exclusively on finding fault with Israel, making it appear that Israel has set out, with barely any cause at all, to impose "collective punishment" on the Palestinians. "There is no sense of proportion here," wrote Dyer about Israel's Gaza operation, oblivious to the fact the very same statement applies to his own one-sided analysis.

Dyer's invective further confuses readers by erroneously comparing pre-state Israel with the Hamas-led PA. He attempts to draw a parallel between the Jewish Agency and the Haganah on one hand and the "political" and "military" wings of Hamas on the other. Dyer insists that Hamas cannot control its "military wing" which, along with "various other radical groups" is attempting "to discredit mainstream Palestinian organizations that want a negotiated settlement with Israel."

Such utter nonsense appears in virtually every sentence Dyer writes. The Haganah asserted its authority over rival forces, and the Jewish Agency developed a fully functioning civil society dedicated to peace and territorial compromise. By contrast, Hamas whose "political" and "military wings" are not, contra Dyer, distinct, is far more consumed with waging violence and terrorism against Israel than in providing sustenance and economic development for its own people.

Thus Hamas remains what the international community, including even the EU, has branded it – a terrorist organization that is dedicated to the destruction of Israel. It is certainly not trying to achieve any "negotiated settlement," as Dyer ludicrously implies.

Like Dyer, Kimber also lacks even a hint of proportionality and fairness where Israel is concerned. Referring only to the IDF's military actions without providing any context, and characterizing them in a cartoonish fashion, Kimber insists that Israelis are killing "innocent [Palestinian] civilians because… well, because they can." That's a canard against the IDF, which, despite regrettable accidents, tries to prevent civilian casualties – a task made infinitely more difficult by Hamas' propensity to operate in residential areas.

Reversing cause and effect, Kimber tramples over the truth: "Who's going to stop [the Israelis]? Certainly not the pitiably ill-armed Palestinians, whose response weapons-of-necessity consist of little more than a few pathetic, homemade, unguided Qassam missiles. No wonder they resort to suicide bombers and soldier kidnapping."

By the way, Kimber, in addition to being a *Daily News* columnist, also teaches journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax. One can only have compassion for his students who need to learn about journalistic ethics of fairness and accuracy, and concern for what he might be teaching them about the coverage of Israel and the Middle East.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

**MONKEY SEE: David Kornhauser, left, and Dr. Glenn Berall, chief of pediatrics at North York General Hospital, stand in the playroom of the hospital's pediatric unit with 10 stuffed monkeys from David's bar mitzvah celebration that he donated to the facility.**


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## Notification by the State of the Netherlands
## 4 April 2007: final closing date for restitution applications
## 'Cultural objects and the Second World War'

Following the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945, many works of art that had been confiscated or purchased by the German occupying forces were brought back to the Netherlands. These works came into the custody of the State of the Netherlands and formed the 'NK collection' (named after the SNK, *Stichting Nederlands Kunstbezit*). The NK collection consists of 4,217 works of art. In some cases the owners were Jewish.

Since 2001, the Netherlands has pursued a liberalised restitution policy for cultural objects from the NK collection that, as a result of the Second World War, were involuntarily lost by the then owners, provided they belonged to a persecuted group.

The Restitutions Committee (*Adviescommissie restitutieverzoeken cultuurgoederen en Tweede Wereldoorlog*) advises the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science on individual applications for the post-war restitution of cultural objects that are currently in the custody of the State of the Netherlands.

**Under the liberalised restitution policy, written applications for restitution may be submitted no later than 4 April 2007. Please send your application (including the grounds for your request) to the:**

**Ministry of Education, Culture and Science**
**Attn State Secretary for Culture**
**Postbus 16375**
**2500 BJ Den Haag**
**The Netherlands**

A short factsheet with further details can be found on the website of the **Royal Netherlands Embassy: www.netherlandsembassy.ca.** The site also indicates who you can contact if you have any questions.

Additional information on Dutch restitution policy, the Restitutions Committee and the submission of claims, as well as specific information on the objects in the NK collection, is available in Dutch and English on the following websites:

- www.minocw.nl
- www.restitutiecommissie.nl
- www.herkomstgezocht.nl or www.originsunknown.org

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# Yad Sarah hopes to raise $1M in Canada this year

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Yad Sarah is one of Canada's best-kept tzedakah secrets – except among people who travel frequently to Israel.

It's one of the best-known volunteer organizations in Israel, mainly because of its free short-term lending programs for medical equipment and for its health services.

The enthusiasm of Arlene Weisbart, the recently appointed director of Canadian Friends of Yad Sarah, is infectious as she speaks of the many services provided to Israelis and visitors to Israel through Yad Sarah's headquarters in Jerusalem, as well as through its 103 lending stations across Israel.

Yad Sarah lends more than 300 different types of medical equipment, from walkers to crutches, to hospital beds and wheelchairs, Weisbart told *The CJN*, "and if you can't go for it, they will arrange to bring it to you."

Uri Lupoliansky, now mayor of Jerusalem, launched Yad Sarah in 1976 when he was a school teacher and realized the need for a service that lends medical equipment.

Weisbart said the Israeli government is unable to fund such a service, and it's estimated that Yad Sarah saves the state more than $320 million (US) annually in hospital and long-term care costs.

Last year, Yad Sarah volunteers helped 380,000 families. The organization relies on volunteers and private donations, 80 per cent of which come from Israel and 20 per cent of which come from abroad.

The Toronto office of Yad Sarah opened in January and is a registered Canadian charity.

"Already there is great enthusiasm across Canada", said Weisbart, who noted that Baycrest has donated 100 wheelchairs to Yad Sarah in Israel.

"We hope to raise $1 million this year, which will buy more equipment and help with the maintenance of the 32 specialized vans that operate in Israel. Some of the services that will benefit are a women's crisis centre, a children's play therapy centre for children with disabilities and their families, a geriatric dental clinic, a legal aid service for those in need, and much more," Weisbart said.

"We encourage Canadians travelling to Israel to visit Yad Sarah and to volunteer to do some hands-on chesed during their tour and to see the amazing work they are doing there."

Recently, a gala reception was held for Yad Sarah at the home of John and Lori Ulmer. Israel's consul general in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh, spoke of his personal experience with Yad Sarah and said it was important to every individual who requires medical equipment. Satirist and author Allan Gould was the featured guest artist.

The Canadian Friends of Yad Sarah also recently held a information meeting at the home of Joseph and Lee Minkowitz, where guests heard about Yad Sarah's non-sectarian medical and rehabilitation services.

To raise money, Yad Sarah sells tea boxes that are hand-decorated by its rehab clients. The attractive boxes are filled with kosher flavoured teas. A small one is $25 and a large on is $45.

"If I lived in Israel, I would be a [Yad Sarah] volunteer," Weisbart said. "They don't only loan medical equipment, they loan their hearts. I would like to hear from people who have been helped by Yad Sarah."

To purchase tea boxes or to donate to Yad Sarah, contact Canadian Friends of Yad Sarah at 416 781 6416.

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# *Aurora woman will swim in support of breast cancer*

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Debbie Albaum of Aurora, is once again going to Swim for The Cure at the end of the month, to raise money for breast cancer research.

Swim For The Cure, now in its sixth year, invites participants to swim whatever distance they feel comfortable with, down the Severn River near Coldwater, Ont., (north-west of Orillia). This year's swim will be July 29.

"Last year, because it was my first year, the eight-kilometre swim took me about 4½ hours. I want to do the full 13-kilometre swim this year," she said. "It's equivalent to just over 500 lengths. It's a lot of swimming, but it's for a great cause." This year, she expects the swim to take her more than six hours.

Albaum, who is a dental hygienist, raised approximately $600 for breast cancer research last year, and she hopes to raise $1,000 this time.

"I'm still collecting [sponsorship], but I'm hoping to at least surpass what I had last year," said Albaum, who had received $400 worth of donations at the time of the interview. "I'm still collecting. There are people who are still giving and money outstanding, so I don't know exactly how much [I'll end up raising]."

Dr. Marla Shapiro, medical specialist on CTV and host of *Balance* on the same network, is a survivor of breast cancer. She was Albaum's inspiration for the 2005 swim.

"When I had [finished the swim last year], I wrote her an e-mail because she's really been my inspiration. I think she's just a wonderful person – very well balanced. I watch her TV show all the time," Albaum said. "I wrote, telling her that my swim was dedicated to her last year because she had developed breast cancer, and I believe she's fought it."

Albaum received a phone call from Shapiro, thanking her for her effort.

"It was really nice. I will be thinking about her when I do my swim again this year," she said.

Event organizer Debbie Bang said the swim has raised a total of $51,000 for breast cancer research in its five years.

In 2005, Swim For The Cure's most successful year, there were 26 participants and $14,000 was raised. So far, nine people have signed up for the 2006 swim, but Bang expects that figure to jump to 20.

All participants must have a boat, canoe, kayak or paddleboat in the water beside them to monitor their well-being during the swim.

Albaum's colleagues, Steve Sedore and Leah Tallon, will be Albaum's crew for the second year.

Members of the Orillia district of the Canadian Cancer Society will be on hand at the event to collect donations in support of breast cancer.

**Debbie Albaum**

Albaum will begin her swim at 6 a.m. in order to make it to her 12-year-old daughter Erin's baseball game in Niagara Falls later that day

"It's a two-hour drive to Niagara Falls afterward. My mom is going to have to help me drive out there cause I'm probably going to be falling asleep. It's going to be a very interesting day for me," she said.

Albaum said that while the swim can be gruelling at times, the cause makes it all worthwhile.

"For the first part of the swim, it's amazing because your muscles are stiff and you're trying to warm up. The second part of the swim I start to think about what I'm making for dinner that night. By the time I get to the middle or end of the swim, I'm in so much pain that that becomes the point when I start to think of all these [people] and the pain and the trials and tribulations of everything related to the cancers and the pain [they endure]," she said. "My heart is going to be with them."

For more information about Swim For The Cure, visit the website at www.swimforthecure.net.

On Campus

# *Torontonian enters unique Israeli medical program*

**By SHERI SHEFA**
*Staff Reporter*

Toronto native Ilana Pister will join a class of medical students in Israel this month to learn how to advance global health and provide medical care to diverse communities around the world.

**Ilana Pister** **[Sheri Shefa photo]**

Pister, with a degree in biophysics from Yeshiva University, will learn about international health issues, including infectious diseases, nutrition, disease prevention and humanitarian emergencies, at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Faculty of Health Sciences Medical School for International Health in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center.

"They have classes that are specifically designed for international medicine and teach you to interact with different cultures and how to deal with communities that have no idea what western medicine is," Pister said.

"They have their own methods of dealing with whatever ailments they have. [The classes teach you] how to approach the situation, because you don't want to insult anyone, but you want to provide them with the proper care."

At only 22, Pister has volunteered as an ambassador at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, worked as a laboratory assistant at Brookhaven National Laboratory, co-authored two published research articles, and presented at both the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society.

After deciding that finishing her education in Israel was something she wanted to do, she discovered the Ben-Gurion University program.

"I was looking into programs in Israel and I saw this one, and it really interested me because it is directed at international medicine," she said.

"Going into medicine, I thought you're really able to help someone because you're providing medicine to populations that don't normally get it."

The medical school, located on the Be'er Sheva campus, offers a four-year "American-style" curriculum to accommodate the international student body.

"This is an American-modelled program as opposed to the Israeli-European system, where there is no undergrad and medical school. You just do it all at the same time over six or seven years. But for this program, you have to have a bachelor's," Pister explained.

While students are free to decide where they want to do their residency after completing the program, they are required to complete a two-month clerkship in less-developed communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Israel, Nepal or Peru, during their fourth year.

"I think I'll wait a little bit longer before I make a final decision on that," she said about choosing where she wants to do her clerkship.

"One thing I did think of, is [that] I did some research in a lab, with parasites found in South America, so I thought that might be interesting."

Pister, who left for Israel on July 19, met with four of her classmates at the recent Save Darfur Rally in Washington, D.C. last April.

Not only were the students given the opportunity to get to know each other before meeting in Israel, they were also educated about the crisis in Sudan while spending an afternoon at the National Mall during the protest.

"Because of the nature of the program, it seemed like something we'd be interested in doing," she said, adding that another group of classmates who live on the West Coast met in Seattle for the Darfur rally there.

"It makes sense because a lot of people might end up doing their clerkship in Africa."

She said after meeting only a handful of her future classmates, she was very impressed with them.

"It looked like they really hand-picked people for the program. We're all at different levels. One has done a master's and one has spent the last four years working all over the world," Pister said.

"I just like that everyone brings something unique to the group."

# FAMILY MOMENTS

## Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish news

**Ira, Joy and big sister Alexandra would like to announce the arrival of**

**Jordana Rivkah Eisen**

**born on January 22, 2006 to our family, friends and the community.**

**Joshua Ethan was born on June 19. Overyjoyed parents are Shoshana & Sheldon Hauer and big sister Ashley. We love you and wish you happiness and health.**

**Happy second birthday to Ashley Lauren Hauer. You are our shining star. Love, Mommy, Daddy and Joshua.**

**Mazel tov Melanie Cohen on receiving your bachelor of education at University of Toronto. Love, Mom, Dad, Melissa, Shoshana, Sheldon, Ashley & Joshua.**

**Anne Jamieson graduated with a bachelor of health sciences honours program from the University of Western Ontario.**

**Mazel tov Norman Levine on your 75th birthday. With great affection from your friends in the Sunday Morning Walking Group.**

**Danica, daughter of Pia Brown & Marty Herman, married Dave, son of Louise & David Wolch of Winnipeg. Grandparents: Lou & Donia Brown and Min Herman.**

### *SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!*

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to:**
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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. There is no issue July 27. This issue of What's New includes events occurring July 20 to Aug. 3. Monday, July 24, is the deadline for the Aug. 10 issue. Monday, July 31, is the deadline for the Aug. 17 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

*This week's column was prepared by Carolyn Blackman.*

## Thursday, July 20

**SUMMER CONCERT**

Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park presents *Cadence, 4 Men, 4 Mics, no instruments*, 7 p.m., free admission. For information, call 416-395-7873.

## Wednesday, July 26

**SAR-EL**

Find out about the Sar-El program in which civilian volunteers work on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m., in the Haifa Room, 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

## Saturday, July 29

**PARSHAH DISCUSSION**

**Henry Alkin** on the weekly portion Dvarim, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

**OTHER NEWS**

**SUPPORT GROUP**

Eating Disorders of York Region holds meetings Thursday evenings in Richmond Hill, for people affected by anorexia, bulimia, compulsive overeating and disordered eating. 6-7 p.m., young adults; 7:30-9 p.m. adults, parents, family and friends. 905-886-6632 or www.edoyr.com

**VOLUNTEERS**

Baycrest Centre needs youth volunteers to assist with recreational programs for evenings and weekends. Also needed are volunteers who speak Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, Hungarian and Romanian as well as English for friendly visiting with clients. Police check may be required. Call **Syrelle Bernstein**, director, volunteer services, 416-785-2500.

**NISHMAT**

Nishmat Yarchei Kallah with **Dafna Siegman**, instructor at Nishmat, From Blessing to Destiny, Brachot in Sefer Bereishit, July 25-27, Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Call **Pnina**, 416-785-4663, or e-mail cfnishmat@gmail.com

**JEWISH OUTDOOR CLUB**

Join Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Ontario and Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Clubs of America for their annual Labour Day weekend getaway at Lake George, N.Y. For details, see www.mosaictoronto.org and www.mosaicoutdoor.org.

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS**

Isolated seniors need escorts to drive them to medical appointments and back home. Mileage and parking costs are paid. If you have about two hours per month, call Circle of Care, 416-635-2860, ext. 413.

**SUMMER SPEED-DATING**

Register early for Aish's Summer Speed-dating, Tuesday, July 25, women 32-38, men 33-40; Tuesday, Aug. 29. Call **Aliza**, 905-764-1818, ext. 316, or www.speeddating.com.

**GARAGE SALE**

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, holds a garage sale Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Council House. Great bargains. Call 416-633-5100 for information.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St., #325, www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

**Continued on page 23**

Food, Scrumptious Food

# Reisman stresses importance of balance, moderation

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

According to weight loss maven Rose Reisman, you can have your cake and eat it, too.

The Toronto-based lifestyle guru and media personality – she's the new face for McCain Foods – preached a message of balance and moderation at a recent cooking demonstration held by the Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood.

Proceeds from the event, which drew about 100 people, went to the Reena Foundation and the One Family Fund, which aids Israeli victims of terror.

The evening culminated with coffee and low-calorie desserts based on recipes from Reisman's various cookbooks.

An award-winning and prolific cookbook author, Reisman has written 15 books and raised more than $1 million for breast cancer through the sale of her books. The most recent, *Secrets for Permanent Weight Loss* (Whitecap 2006), includes advice on weight loss, health, and longevity, along with 150 recipes.

Reisman, a mother of four, made her name by creating low-calorie recipes with great taste. At Holy Blossom, she shared her weight loss know-how, offering advice on serving up healthy, appealing meals, along with lifestyle tips that foster weight loss.

She confessed that she, too, has struggled with her weight over the years.

"I would go up and down 15 pounds every 1½ to two years," she said. "I avoided the scale."

However, Reisman said she recently managed to lose the weight and this time it has stayed off for two years because of lifestyle changes she has made.

She stressed the importance of exercising and eating most of your daily calories early in the day. "I only take a little bite of food after 7 [p.m.]." Between 8 and 9 p.m., you shouldn't have more than 200 calories, she added.

Reisman does make adjustments in her eating, however, to accommodate social functions. She said it's all part of a lifestyle of moderation that allows for social engagements and holidays, rather than strict rigidity around food.

She cautioned people to beware of extremes in eating behaviour. "Don't become carb-phobic," she advised.

She suggested that people choose complex carbohydrates such as vegetables and whole grains, "which keep you full longer." She also recommended eating a good dose of protein, which will not cause weight gain.

"Protein is not the culprit," she noted.

As for creating low-calorie foods that taste good, Reisman has a variety of ways to cut back on fat, from choosing ingredients packed in water to using small quantities of foods that are high in taste to add a culinary spark to a dish. For example, she will add small amounts of brie cheese or candied pecans to salads so that there is "something rich in every mouthful."

The following vegetable recipes come from Reisman's book, *Secrets for Permanent Weight Loss*.

### CAULIFLOWER MASH WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS AND ROASTED GARLIC

1 head of garlic, skin on
2 tsp. vegetable oil
2 cups of sliced sweet onions
2 tsp. brown sugar, packed
1 tsp. balsamic vinegar
½ tsp. cinnamon
1½ lb. of cauliflower florets, chipped (about 6 cups)
¼ cup of vegetable or chicken stock
1 tbsp. olive oil
⅛ tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
**Garnish**: 3 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 425. Wrap garlic in aluminum foil and bake 25 minutes, or just until tender. Cool, then squeeze out garlic. Set aside. In a non-stick skillet sprayed with vegetable spray, heat oil over medium high heat and cook onions for 5 minutes. Stir in brown sugar, balsamic vinegar and cinnamon. Reduce heat to medium low and cook until onions are golden, about 10 minutes.

Steam or boil cauliflower just until tender, about 7 to 5 minutes. Drain and place in a food processor with stock, olive oil, salt and pepper. Puree until smooth. Stir in the onions and garlic until combined. Garnish with parsley. Serves 6.

**Nutritional Values**
Note: net carbohydrates are total grams of carbohydrates minus grams of fibre
Per serving: calories, 100; net carbohydrates, 8 g; fibre, 3.8 g; protein, 3.2 g; fat 3.7 g

### ROASTED VEGETABLES WITH MAPLE SYRUP AND CINNAMON

1 lb. unpeeled sweet potatoes
1 lb. butternut squash, peeled and cut in 2-inch cubes
1 red bell pepper, cored and cut in 4 wedges
1 yellow bell pepper, cored and cut in 4 wedges
1 large sweet onion cut in 8 wedges

**Dressing**
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. pure maple syrup
½ tsp. cinnamon

**Continued on page 24**

What's New

**Continued from page 22**

JIAS Toronto offers programs for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext. 28.

**HEBREW CLASSES**

Keren Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for fall-session Hebrew-language classes for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 5. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. To register, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

**TISHA B'AV PROGRAM**

Torah in Motion's morning program for the 9th of Av fast begins at 8:00 a.m. with Shacharit at Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. Following davening, there will be introductions and explanations of selected Kinnot led by Rabbi Jay Kelman.

The afternoon program commences at 12:30 p.n. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Ave., with a special video presentation. Speakers include Dr. Eddie Breuer, Rabbi Benji Hecht, Rabbi Eric Levy and Dr. Elliott Malamet. "Do You Know the Way Home?" presented by the Chafetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, begins at 7:30 p.m. Minchah, 2 p.m. For information, contact Torah in Motion at 416-633-5770 or visit www.torahinmotion.org.

**GOLF OUTING**

Join Temple Israel, London, for a day of golf and fun, Aug. 27, Westminster Trails Golf Club. $80 golf and dinner, $45 dinner only. Call 519-686-6121.

**FALL LECTURE SERIES**

Temple Emanu-El offers its fall general-interest lecture series on Mondays 2-4 p.m. Nov. 6, "Great Palaces and Museums" with **Dr. Catherine Danter** of the U of T School of Continuing Studies; Nov. 13, "Health Care in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities" with **Dr. Michael Guerriere**; Nov. 20, "From Page to Stage" with **Linda Hutcheon**, professor of English and comparative literature at U of T; Nov. 27, "The Folk Singers" with **Mike Daley**, department of music, York University. Series $30. For registration and information, call 416-449-3880.

**SINGLES WALKING GROUP**

Walking group for singles 50+. Stroll along the lakeshore boardwalk and travel down memory lane, past the Palais Royale, the Boulevard Club, the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion and the Sunnyside Outdoor Natatorium, known as the "Sunnyside Tank." Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Sir Casimir Gzowski Park on Lakeshore Blvd., at the foot of Ellis Ave. Parking is limited, so please arrive early. For more information about this event and becoming a member, contact walkandtalk etc@hotmail.com.

## FOR SENIORS

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park.** Sunday dance, July 23; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 9; Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Aug. 29; Mahjong, Mondays, 12:30-3 p.m. and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Come out for the Sunday fitness classes. Pilates, 9-10 a.m. Stretch and Strengthen, 10-11 a.m.

Boost Your Memory – enjoy trivia, games and riddles every Thursday at 11 a.m. Free.

Lecture on "Some Lesser Known Heroines in Jewish History," Tuesday, July 25, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Spend Thursday, July 20, at the Betel Centre with Stories from the Heart at noon and Fun with Yiddish at 1 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Israeli Etrog Club meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

Trip to Casino Niagara and Fuego Spanish dancing, Wednesday, Aug. 2. Members $45, non-members $55, includes $15 of play at casino.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

"Secrets to Youthful Aging," weekly lecture series with **Phil Fields**, Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. through Monday, Aug. 28.

Book and Munch Club meets weekly with a discussion relating to short stories. The stories are read aloud by group members and then a discussion follows. 12-1:15 p.m., in the Volunteer Members' Lounge, bring your lunch. Call **Monica**, ext. 2273, for information.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

This summer the Family Place @ the Jewish Discovery Museum – Toronto's hands-on Jewish children's museum for kids aged 5 and under and their families – is running Wednesday Morning Circle Time and Thursday Morning Shabbat Parties. Both programs include song, dance, stories and more and run in the museum at 10:15 am. Cost is regular museum admission – $2.50 per person. Museum members free. Call 416-636-1880, ext. 390, for more details.

The Koffler Gallery presents Fray on display until Oct.13. The artists in Fray explore the implications of memory embodied in the design, materials and processes associated with textile traditions.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts is running classes and workshops over the summer in a number of areas including ceramics and stone, painting, printmaking, life drawing and portraits.

Limited spaces available for Sept. 2006 – morning Tic Tac Two Program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers and senior kindergarten. For more information, call 416-636-1880, ext. 248, or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music Rock Band, Broadway All-stars Vocal, Boogie Babies & Jammin' Tots with Deborah, Opera Is Cool for Kidz with Judy, brass ensembles, cello ensembles, band. For information, call ext. 228.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT: Zareinu Educational Centre's 10th annual golf tournament, which attracted more than 300 golfers, raised about $360,000 for the school. Co-chairs Evan Sone, left, and Jeff Lanys, right, presented a $325,000 cheque to Danny Gordon, president of the board of directors of Zareinu, as part of the total raised from their most successful golf tournament ever.**

**TORAH FUND: Canadian Seaway Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism recently honoured Joyce Binstock and Deenie Reiken at the Torah Fund evening held at Beth Torah Synagogue. Rabbi Sean Gordon was the guest speaker. From left are Binstock, Reiken and Torah fund chair Ruth Shapiro. [Mollie Rothman photo]**

***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

# Cookbook author Rose Reisman

**Continued from page 22**

Preheat oven to 425. Line two baking sheets with aluminum foil and spray with vegetable spray. Place sweet potato, squash, bell peppers and onion in a single layer on prepared baking sheets. Spray lightly with vegetable spray. Bake in centre of oven 25 to 30 minutes until browned and tender. If trays are on separate racks, switch positions halfway through the baking time. Place all the vegetables in a serving dish.

**Dressing**: In a small bowl, whisk together vinegar, olive oil, maple syrup and cinnamon. Pour over top of the vegetables. Garnish with parsley and green onions. Serves 6.

**Nutritional values**
Per serving: calories, 189; protein, 12 g; net carbohydrates, 31 g; fat, 2.6 g; fibre, 6.7 g

**FENNEL ORANGE AND CILANTRO SALAD**

2 cups diced fennel
1½ cups diced. skinned orange segments
½ cup diced red bell pepper
⅓ cup chopped red onion
¼ cup chopped green onions
⅓ cup chopped cilantro

**Dressing**
1 tbsp. low sodium soy sauce
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. liquid honey
1 tsp. minced garlic

To make salad, combine fennel, oranges, red bell pepper, red onion, green onions and cilantro in a large bowl.

To make dressing, whisk together olive oil, soy sauce, honey and garlic in a small bowl. Pour over salad. Toss and coat. Garnish with toasted almonds. Serves 4.

**Nutritional values**
Per serving: calories, 141; protein, 2.9 g; net carbohydrates, 4 g; fat, 5.9 g; fibre, 4.9 g

**To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling**

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

**To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date**

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**Mt. Sinai Memorial Park**
Beth Sholom New Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**GEORGE ENGEL** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, July 23rd, 11:30 a.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
9961 Weldon Ave
Shaarei Tefillah Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**BERT MEYER COHEN** ז"ל
will take place
**Tuesday, August 8th, 1:00 p.m.**
**Holy Blossom Memorial Park**
Brimley Rd. North of St. Clair
Section One
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**IRENE KERI** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, July 23rd, 1:00 p.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St. n. of Major Mackenzie
B'nai Torah Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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and I will always love you.
*Zew*

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**NANCY GORD** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, July 23rd at 2:00 p.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St. 3km north of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Community Section EEE

## Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Kestenbaum, Bella** | **April 11, 2006** | **145 Codsell Ave.** |
| **Kalev, Haim** | **April 13, 2006** | **Private** |
| **Kurtz, Dorothy** | **April 13, 2006** | **90 Fisherville Rd.** |
| **Belkin, Yeta Leah** | **April 13, 2006** | **80 Antibes Dr.** |
| **Horowitz, Irene** | **April 14, 2006** | **1101 Steeles Ave. W.** |
| **Berger, Bella** | **April 14, 2006** | **15 Breda Court** |
| **Olfman, Maurice** | **April 14, 2006** | **2075 Bayview Ave.** |
| **Hoflezer, Sam** | **April 15, 2006** | **3560 Bathurst St.** |
| **Sadlov, John** | **April 16, 2006** | **136 Bedford Rd.** |
| **Snitman, Florence** | **April 17, 2006** | **6200 Bathurst St.** |
| **Aber, Thelma** | **April 17, 2006** | **80 Antibes Dr.** |
| **Hochler, Edith** | **April 17, 2006** | **7 Lonny Court** |
| **Dacosta, Goldie** | **April 18, 2006** | **25 Laurelcrest Ave.** |
| **Krashinsky, Gail** | **April 20, 2006** | **12 Tova Place** |
| **Moss, Alan** | **April 20, 2006** | **28 Glenmanor Way** |
| **Singer, Paula** | **April 20, 2006** | **156 Cactus Ave.** |
| **Finkelman, Asia** | **April 20, 2006** | **Private** |
| **Green, Katherine** | **April 20, 2006** | **7601 Bathurst St.** |

## BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Daniel Zoltynski** | **Jul 3/06** | **550 Cummer Avenue** |
| **Jack Reingold** | **Jul 2/06** | **16 Cedarcrest Crescent** |
| **Susan Haber** | **Jul 3/06** | **91 Esther Crescent** |
| **Louis Stulberg** | **Jul 3/06** | **85 Skymark Drive** |
| **Sam Daniely** | **Jul 2/06** | **1993 Mississauga Road** |
| **Nathan Mendelsohn** | **Jul 4/06** | **1035 Eglinton Avenue, W.** |
| **Ann Rosen** | **Jul 7/06** | **205 Cummer Avenue** |
| **Ada Silverman** | **Jul 8/06** | **21 Mayfair Avenue** |

HEBREW BASIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Rose Kalb** | **Jul 2/06** | **74 Rideau Drive** |
| **Allan Sliwowicz** | **Jul 8/06** | **1131 Steeles Ave., West** |

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# IDF forces foil infiltration attempt on northern border

By YAAKOV KATZ
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — IDF forces foiled an infiltration attempt by Hezbollah operatives near an Israel Defence Forces post close to Zar'it on the northern border on Friday.

Troops opened fire toward the infiltrators and clashes erupted in the area.

Meanwhile, fighter bombers blasted Beirut International Airport in the third attack on the nation's sole international facility since the military offensive was launched against Lebanon three days before.

Airport officials said one of the three runways was hit with two missiles, and Lebanese eyewitnesses reported that a nearby residential building was struck in the raid. No casualties were reported.

About an hour before Friday's raid, the five remaining Airbus jets belonging to the national carrier Middle East Airlines flew to Amman for safety reasons, officials said.

Earlier, the air force struck the main Hezbollah headquarters building in Beirut as well as an adjacent structure that housed security guards.

The IDF said that the headquarters, which was in the Shiite neighbourhood of Dahiya, was used to direct terrorism around the world.

Police said that three people were killed and 55 wounded in overnight air strikes against the Lebanese capital's southern suburbs where Hezbollah has its strongholds.

Israel widened its offensive on Lebanon early Friday with an air strike on the southern suburbs of the capital that are strongholds of Hezbollah and a raid on a large fuel storage tank at a power station, police and witnesses said.

The impact of at least seven missiles were heard in the attack on south Beirut in the hours before dawn on Friday, according to an AP photographer, reporter and other witnesses. Anti-aircraft fire from the ground echoed in other suburbs of Beirut as the planes roared over the Lebanese capital. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said there were several injuries from the attacks, which started fires in the area. Some of the wounded were hit in their apartments by flying glass.

Lebanese police officials, who were talking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media, confirmed the air raid.

Some news reports said a playground where Hezbollah leaders hold rallies for thousands of their supporters was also targeted.

Israeli officials had warned that south Beirut, a densely populated neighbourhood of Shiite Muslims where Hezbollah has its political headquarters, could be targeted. Leaflets dropped in the evening told people to stay away from Hezbollah offices.

Early Friday, an Israeli plane also fired a missile at a fuel storage tank for the power station at Jiye on the Mediterranean coast in central Lebanon, just north of the port city of Sidon, witnesses said.

The attack started a huge fire in the area, about 20 miles south of the Lebanese capital, but the power station itself was not hit. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Late last Thursday evening, three people were reportedly killed when the air force bombed the highway linking Beirut to the Syrian capital of Damascus, closing the country's main artery.

IDF fighter jets attacked a highway section high in the mountains of central Lebanon, in Mdeirej. The targeted area was an old road extension, and the bridge on the nearby main highway remained intact, the officials said.

Another air strike apparently targeted the main bridge's exit. Authorities turned back motorists, who had to take long detours through other winding mountain roads.

Because of the darkness, it was not immediately clear what the extent of damage on the main highway was. Authorities said they were turning back motorists as a precautionary measure.

Earlier last Thursday night, the IDF began bombing Beirut's southern neighborhoods following the firing of two rockets at the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

Navy gunboats shelled Beirut's airport for the second time Thursday. Witnesses reported that two fuel tanks were hit, while large flames could be seen at the airport.

Following a day of Katyusha rockets raining on northern Israel on Thursday, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert approved the widening of the scope of IDF targets in Lebanon.

"The air force is ready for any operation that will be necessary during the current military campaign against Lebanon," Brig.-Gen. Yohanan Locker, commander of the Israeli air force told the *Jerusalem Post* last Thursday night.

Locker revealed that fighter jets, helicopters and AWAC surveillance planes had participated in hundreds of airborne operations over Lebanon since two soldiers were kidnapped and eight others killed in a Hezbollah attack along the northern border last Wednesday.

# Palestinians cheer Hezbollah attack

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Palestinians across the political spectrum welcomed the kidnapping of the two IDF soldiers by Hezbollah and expressed optimism that the move would lead to the release of thousands of prisoners from Israeli jails.

Spokespeople for a number of armed and political groups also expressed their hope that the Arabs and Muslims would eventually join the fight against Israel.

Both Fatah and Hamas officials hailed the attack as "heroic" and urged Hezbollah not to release the soldiers unless Israel agreed to free all Palestinian prisoners.

In several places in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians took to the streets to celebrate the kidnapping of the two soldiers and to voice their support for Hezbollah.

Families of prisoners gathered outside the offices of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Gaza City and handed out sweets to passers-by.

"This is a great day for the Palestinian people," said Um Amjad, whose son Muhammed has been in prison for nearly 10 years. "We want to thank [Hezbollah Secretary General] Hassan Nasrallah for this wonderful gift and we hope that today's heroic operation will result in the release of all our sons from Israeli prisons."

Also in Gaza City, gunmen belonging to various Palestinian groups opened fire into the air as an expression of joy and called on Hezbollah and Hamas to kidnap more soldiers.

Palestinian lawyers and human rights organizations reported that thousands of prisoners held in Israeli jails began chanting and dancing as soon they heard about the abduction of the two soldiers.

"The prisoners are celebrating because they feel that they will be released soon now that Israel has three soldiers in captivity," said a Bethlehem-based lawyer who represents security prisoners. "They feel that they are close than ever to freedom."

The Hamas government said in a statement that the Hezbollah attack was a "natural response to Israeli crimes against our people in the Palestinian territories."

# *Federations start emergency funds*

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and FEDERATION CJA in Montreal have established emergency Israel crisis relief funds to help residents of northern and southern Israel who are facing rocket fire from Hezbollah, Hamas and other Palestinian organizations.

Haifa is recovering from a Katyusha rocket barrage, and missiles have already struck more than a dozen Israeli communities. As of *The CJN*'s deadline, more than 100 people have been injured and two people have been killed in rocket strikes by terror groups.

In Toronto, the fund will help send children from communities facing rocket fire to camp in other parts of Israel and be used to provide such things as toys, books and games for bomb shelters. The weekly cost of camp for one child is $350 (US). Donations will also be designated for other requirements as needs increase.

CJA FEDERATION in Montreal has also set up a fund to help provide social and recreational activities for children during the crisis, particularly in Israel's north.

In Toronto, contributions can be made at www.ujadonations.com/israelcrisis or by calling 416-631-5705. In Montreal, call 514-735-3541.

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# An opportunity to restore deterrence

By EFRAIM INBAR
*Jerusalem Post*

Comment

The artillery barrage by Hezbollah on Israeli villages along the Lebanese border, and the killings and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers there, come as no surprise. Military intelligence has warned about such a scenario time and again. Nevertheless, July 12 saw a military fiasco, coming just two weeks after the attack at Kerem Shalom on the Gaza border and compounding the problems of grappling with the chaos there.

Israel seems to be caught in a war – albeit a limited one – on two fronts. This has already required a partial mobilization of the reserve force. The relatively new government headed by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, which includes the inexperienced defence minister, Amir Peretz, faces its first serious challenge.

The option of a prisoners' swap has become untenable politically. This government is unlikely to give in to the demands of Hamas and Hezbollah because much more is at stake than the lives of three soldiers.

Beyond the importance Olmert and Peretz attach to their political careers, they understand that Israel must restore a modicum of deterrence and its ability to secure some tranquility for its citizens living along the borders.

Indeed, the kidnapping of the soldiers provides the trigger to deal with larger strategic issues. In Gaza, it is the Qassam rockets, and in Lebanon, it is Hezbollah's missile arsenal that pose serious threats to a large part of the country.

For some time, the defence establishment has considered the Hezbollah armaments an important enough target to justify pre-emptive action. Therefore, the removal of the missile threat and the perceived strategic parity that has constrained Israel's reaction to past Hezbollah provocations must be the primary goal of an Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon.

Eliminating the Hezbollah missile threat will allow greater freedom of action against Syria and Iran. The "search and destroy" mode of operation required for capturing and/or destroying the missiles hidden in numerous locations necessitates the use of ground forces. But, of course, even their cautious employment under an aerial umbrella might be costly. To a large extent the success of Israeli actions in Lebanon will be measured by the counting of casualties.

Israel may well capitalize on its missile hunt in Lebanon to expand the goal of the operations. Israeli threats to seriously punish Hezbollah probably mean targeting its leadership. A "gloves off" policy to decapitate Hezbollah could paralyze this terrorist organization for several years. This would clearly signal Israel's determination to deal with terrorist threats and with Iranian proxies.

A further expansion of goals concerns Syria – the channel for Iranian support to Hezbollah. Damascus still hosts the headquarters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, despite promising the Americans a few years ago to close their offices.

Israel may enjoy much freedom of action versus Syria because Syria frustrated the American and French attempts to limit its influence in Lebanon in their quest to restore Lebanon's independence. Washington, in particular, may relish military pressure on a Bashar Assad regime in Syria that allows infiltration of insurgents into Iraq from its territory.

Syrian targets could be attacked by an Israeli Air Force that could easily suppress the Syrian air defences and acquire aerial supremacy. Israel may also decide the time is ripe for attacking the Syrian long-range missile infrastructure, whose threat hovers over most of Israel.

Escalation has often been the Israeli response to the wars of attrition waged by its enemies. A successful Israeli military operation in Lebanon and in Syria would have many ripple effects in the region. Radicals advocating terror against militarily superior powers could be constrained. The Palestinians might pay attention and calibrate their goals accordingly.

Perhaps most important would be the impact on a nuclear-aspirant Iran that seems to believe that it can defy a modern military force. It has been some time since Israel had a resounding military success. Hezbollah may have provided the opportunity, and hopefully the IDF can meet the challenge.

*Ephraim Inbar is professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University and director of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies.*

# Necessary steps for Israel

By MICHAEL OREN

Analysis

For the first time since the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Israel is facing hostilities on two fronts. The exceedingly volatile situation is liable to embroil other Middle Eastern states, culminating in a regional conflict similar to that of the 1967 Six-Day War.

Faced with such a prospect, Israel could yield to international appeals for restraint and allow tensions to subside. By doing so, however, it would accelerate a process by which Syrian- and Iranian-backed terrorist groups in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon can keep the country in a state of perpetual military mobilization, paralyzing it economically and deepening its diplomatic isolation. To deny the terrorists this victory, and indeed to survive, Israel must take bold action to fundamentally alter the security situation on its northern and southern borders.

Paradoxically, Israel has been attacked from the two territories from which it unilaterally withdrew with the approval of much of the international community. Since the pullout of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in May 2000, Hezbollah terrorists have periodically fired rockets at civilian targets in Israel and ambushed soldiers across the U.N.-recognized border. Since the withdrawal from Gaza last year, Hamas and other Palestinian groups have fired more than 1,000 rockets into Israeli territory and have repeatedly attempted to conduct terrorist raids across the border.

Israel refrained from large-scale military reprisals for this aggression, confident of having won international goodwill through its withdrawals and fearful of being dragged back into the Lebanese and Gazan morasses. But Israelis have learned that unprovoked violence against them raises little outcry in the world and that failure to react to isolated acts of terror invites unremitting terror.

Today a united Hezbollah-Hamas axis has emerged, financed and trained by Syria and Iran, with the goal of destabilizing Israel and frustrating its efforts to disengage from the conflict. In spite of the perils that this front poses to Israel, and the ethical dilemmas that fighting it raises, Israel can transform the situation into one that promotes both domestic and regional stability.

In countering Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel has little choice but to strike at those who authorize the attacks: the heads of those organizations. Both Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh in Gaza and Hezbollah leader Sheik Hasan Nasrallah in Lebanon appear indifferent to their own peoples' safety. For propaganda purposes, they order rocket crews to operate in densely populated areas so that Israeli retaliation will inflict the maximum number of civilian casualties. But these leaders remain extremely reluctant to pay for terror with their own lives, a fact that Israel discovered when its policy of targeted assassinations compelled Hamas to agree to a ceasefire.

By contrast, punishing the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples collectively, as Israel has been doing, only strengthens their support for terror while creating painful ethical problems for Israelis. And negotiating with the terrorists for their hostages' release merely encourages them to kidnap more Israelis. Ultimately, Israel has no alternative other than convincing these leaders that terror incurs a personal cost.

But even targeted assassinations are no substitute for deterring state sponsors of terror. Israel cannot hope for quiet along its borders as long as Hamas leaders continue to direct terror with impunity from Damascus and as long as Hezbollah receives orders from Syria and Iran.

Efforts by the United States, the United Nations and the European Union to dissuade Iran and Syria from activating their terrorist agents have consistently proved ineffective. Therefore, Israel has no realistic option but to convince these states that the price of promoting aggression is prohibitive. If Israeli soldiers and civilians are the targets of Iranian- and Syrian-backed terror, then the Iranian and Syrian militaries must become targets for Israel.

By eliminating the terrorist leaderships in Gaza and southern Lebanon and deterring Syria and Iran from prodding their proxies to war, Israel can restore a reasonable level of security to its citizens. Such measures will also be implicitly welcomed by Israel's Jordanian and Egyptian neighbours, who are similarly threatened by these same terrorist groups. Only by establishing a new and more stable status quo along Israel's borders can Prime Minister Ehud Olmert proceed with his plan of redrawing those borders permanently, either unilaterally or in cooperation with a non-violent Palestinian partner.

*Military historian Michael Oren is a senior fellow at the Shalem Center, in Jerusalem. This article first appeared in the* Washington Post.

# Nasrallah may be a target

By HERB KEINON
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Israel's Justice Minister Haim Ramon suggested July 13 that Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah was a target for assassination.

"Hezbollah is a target wherever it is located in Lebanon, in Tripoli, in Beirut, in every place," Ramon told Army Radio. Asked whether Nasrallah was a target, Ramon said, "All those who plan the attacks, all those who allow such terror activities, are also a target."

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said that day that Israel's military operation in Lebanon was designed to move Hezbollah away from the northern border and force the Lebanese government to deploy its troops to take control of South Lebanon.

"We have a goal," Livni said. "The goal is to move Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon." Livni, speaking to Channel 2 soon after a rocket hit Haifa, said that during a cabinet meeting on July 12 where the Israel Defence Forces operations in Lebanon were approved, the ministers took into consideration that Hezbollah would make good on threats to hit Israeli cities in the north.

A communiqué issued after that meeting said, "The new reality in which Israel is operating requires special readiness, especially in light of the possibility that the enemy will seek to attack the home front."

"We had no other choice," Livni said of the army's operations. "For a number of years, Israel waited, as Hezbollah was arming itself, for the Lebanese government to move it out of southern Lebanon."

Livni said Hezbollah was not only an issue on the Lebanese border. "Hezbollah is a proxy of Iran and Syria with an open front with Israel, and Nasrallah wants to become a regional leader and block any possibility for an agreement. He is a regional provocateur; it was impossible to continue with it anymore. We had to respond, and that is what we are doing today."

She said that the operation was not intended to avenge the July 12 attacks, in which two soldiers were captured and eight were killed, but had larger strategic goals. "There will be a point of time where the Lebanese government will need to decide that Hezbollah does not promote Lebanon, is a burden on the Lebanese people and the Lebanese government, and that they will need to send the army south to areas that are now empty."

Livni said that as a result of the IDF's actions, the Lebanese government can no longer claim it doesn't have the ability to dislodge Hezbollah from the south, since to a large degree the IDF has already done that.

# Falash Moras' lives in Ethiopia a waiting game

*Part two of a series*

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

**ADDIS ABABA** — For eight of her 18 years, Felaguche Abe Amara has waited. And waited.

When she was a little girl growing up in a rural area of Gonder province, she tended sheep. Now, she lives in a cramped one-room shanty whose only decorations are newspaper and magazine articles that wallpaper the 12-by-12-foot room. The floor consists of hard-packed dirt covered in green strands of a grass-like plant. Two beds are crammed into the space along with what appears to be a vinyl bench, now tattered with its stuffing seeping out. She shares the room with her mother and three brothers.

There is no indoor plumbing and potable water is available at a communal tap nearby.

When she considers her fate, she acknowledges life was a lot better in Gonder. But there is one advantage to her current situation – it's in Addis Ababa and it's a lot closer to the Israeli embassy, through which Falash Mora en route to Israel pass.

Felaguche is among the thousands of would-be Falash Mora immigrants who hope to one day leave Ethiopia for the Holy Land. Her father and half-sisters are already there, but she and her Christian mother have been turned down. Falash Mora are the descendants of Ethiopian Jews who converted over the past 100 years or so to Christianity.

Speaking through interpreter Micha Feldman, who organized the Operation Solomon mass evacuation of Ethiopian Jews in 1991, Felaguche said that "we left our village to move to Addis according to the promise that God gave that [Israel] will be the land we will live in."

Although her father lives in Ashdod, Israel, she is ineligible to make aliyah because her mother is Christian. "When I was a child, I did not go to church, but my mother did," she said.

Felaguche and her mother are unable to immigrate to Israel under that country's Law of Return, which applies to Jews. And because she has no maternal Jewish ancestry, she is unable to move to Israel under the country's current immigration policy vis-a-vis Ethiopians, which was adopted in January 2005, Feldman said.

Instead, she and her family in Addis are living in harsh conditions – to be fair, many Ethiopians seem to reside in the same kind of shanties – hoping that one day Israel will change its immigration policy.

Six other families from Gonder live near them in a compound not far from the centre of town. Felaguche said her family was inspired to move to Addis after several relatives did so and were accepted for aliyah.

Up to a year-and-a-half ago, she attended school, but that facility has closed and she can't afford classes anywhere else. She spends much of her time at a clinic in the Israeli embassy compound, where prospective olim receive medical treatment, are vaccinated and are educated about personal hygiene. An aspiring actress who hopes to pursue a career in theatre in Israel, Felaguche and two others perform an AIDS awareness skit to educate Falash Mora about the dangers of the sexually transmitted disease.

Working in the clinic is tough on her: "We see people leave, we want to leave already," she said.

Returning to Gonder, however, is out of the question. As Feldman explained, "if they go back, no one will accept them. It's also a question of honour. They can't go back."

* * *

In the departure lounge in Addis Ababa's international airport, hundreds of Falash Mora sit quietly waiting for the boarding announcement for the two flights that will take them to Israel that night.

Yezina Birhanu is there with her husband and four children. She grew up in northeastern Ethiopia near the border with Sudan in an area generally not considered an area of Falash Mora settlement. She's been living in Addis Ababa for eight years, anticipating this moment.

Her parents are waiting for them in Israel – they've been there four years.

Asked why she is moving to Israel, she said, "It's by the order of God. All Jews should go to Israel."

* * *

**Felaguche Abe Amara, left, and her mother Adena Eshete. [Paul Lungen photo]**

Honalign Atalo, 20, has been in Addis for nine years waiting for approval to make aliyah. Born in Gonder, he said, "I want to be in Israel. Life is better there."

An aunt and uncle preceded him. They have been living in Netanya for three years.

Looking around the departure lounge, Honalign said that "today everyone is happy because they are making aliyah to Israel."

* * *

Waganesh Fenta, whose name translates loosely as "you are a prize," hails from the village of Wollo in eastern Gonder. As Micha Feldman translates her story, she reveals that her mother is Christian and remains in her village. "I was raised Christian," she said, "but I am ready to be Jewish."

She said she has been in Addis six years waiting to be reunited with relatives – an aunt and an uncle in Israel. However, her mother is still back in the village and Feldman, an old hand at Ethiopia immigration, shakes his head that Waganesh has been found eligible to immigrate to Israel.

* * *

"*Hashem sheli Adisu* [my name is Adisu]," the 27-year-old writes in Hebrew in my notebook. Adisu has been waiting eight years in a town near Addis for the flight to Israel. His parents are in the Jewish state and he has lots of other relatives in Ashdod and Haifa. To prepare himself for life in a new country, he has been studying Hebrew. He knows that "it is hard to live in Israel without work," but his dream is sports. A long distance runner with a specialty in 5,000-metre races, he plans to continue his athletic career.

* * *

At the other end on this night's aliyah, a couple of dozen former Ethiopians wait in the arrival level at Ben-Gurion Airport for the passengers from two recent flights to arrive. Wadoo Ayala, 39, was born in Gonder and arrived in Israel in 1998. He lives in Ashdod and he is waiting this day for his sister, her husband and two young children. In all, he has been waiting eight years for his sister to join him in Israel.

His mother, another sister and brother already live in Israel and one sister remains in Ethiopia, waiting for permission to join them.

Habtamis Worku is likewise waiting in anticipation of the arrival of family from Gonder. "It's difficult, it's hard," he said of the 15-year separation from his sister, who is coming with her husband and two children.

Asked if the family is Jewish or Christian, he replies that they "always felt Jewish."

A factory worker, Habtamis said life has been hard in Israel. But he always encouraged his sister to join him. "Even if life is not good here, come here, the family is here," he told her.

Looking back on their lives in a tiny village near Gargora, in the Gonder region of Ethiopia, Habtamis said some Beta Israel converted to Christianity and lived as Christians. "But in the end, they are Beta Israel."

His view echoes a finding by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, a former Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, who has ruled that the Falash Mora remain "the seed of Israel."

Habtamis reclaimed his Jewish roots in Israel, eventually converting to Judaism.

* * *

Leo Salomon was part of the first wave of Ethiopian immigrants to Israel – the group that largely departed Ethiopia on foot and experienced numerous hardships before a secret airlift arranged by the Mossad brought them to the Promised Land in 1984. Some 4,000 Beta Israel died – many in Sudanese refugee camps – during that exodus.

Salomon was a youngster when he moved to Israel and over the course of his life there, he joined the Israel Defence Forces and rose to the rank of captain. He is married with three children.

He's back in Gonder now, an employee of Israel's Ministry of the Interior whose job it is to interview the Ethiopians who have applied to make aliyah.

"Not only people connected to the Jewish people want to go to Israel, but also their friends and neighbours," he said in his modest office in the Jewish Agency compound in Gonder. "Israel has a lot of appeal, so we have to check everyone.

"Beside interviews, we do a lot of social work, as it is hard to say no to someone who feels they have the right to go to Israel."

He and a colleague try to deal sensitively with those who will be disappointed by their decisions. But, he explained, "Israel can't give refuge to everyone. It has to take care of its own. So it's the hard part of the job to tell them no and to settle themselves back in Ethiopia."

*Paul Lungen was in Ethiopia on a mission courtesy of Toronto businessman Walter Arbib.*

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## Israel Briefs

***Immigrant killed in attack***

One of the people killed in a Hezbollah rocket attack on northern Israel was an Argentine immigrant. Monica Saidman, 47, died July 13 when a rocket hit her apartment in Nahariya. The Jewish Agency for Israel in Argentina said Saidman immigrated to Israel three years ago with her husband, Dario, and their youngest daughter, a teenager, after Argentina's 2001 economic crisis. A second person, unidentified as of *The CJN*'s deadline, was also killed in a rocket attack on Safed.

***IDF hostages still alive***

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz Halutz said July 13 that soldiers Ehud Goldwasser, 31, and Eldad Regev, 25, who had been kidnapped by Hezbollah the day before, were still alive. "We know the soldiers are alive and we hold the Lebanese government completely responsible," he said on a tour of the north. The body of one of four soldiers killed in the July 12 attack was retrieved by the army, which was struggling to evacuate the bodies of all the soldiers from the vehicles in which they were killed due to ongoing fighting and rocket attacks in the area.

***Soldiers identified***

The soldiers killed July 12 in an attack by Hezbollah across Israel's border were Sgt. First Class (res.) Benin Eyal, 22, of Be'er Sheva; Sgt. First Class (res.) Torjeman Shani, 24, of Beit She'an; First Sgt. Nazel Wasim, 27, of Yanuach; Sgt. Nimrod Cohen, 19, of Mizpe Shalom; Staff Sgt. Gadi Moisayev, 19, of Acco; Staff Sgt. Alexei Koshnirski, 21, of Nes Ziona; Staff Sgt. Shlomi Yirmiyahu, 20, of Rishon Letzion; and Staff Sgt. Yaniv Bar On, 19, of Maccabim.

***'Two states' called irrelevant***

Israel must abandon the two-state paradigm when it comes to dealing with the Palestinians, its former military chief said. "The two-state paradigm is not relevant," Moshe Ya'alon said at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he has been a fellow since leaving the military last year. "Israel should issue a new paradigm." Asked to elaborate, he said one scenario could involve a regional arrangement among Israel, Jordan, the Palestinians and possibly Egypt. He said the Hamas regime, Iran's increased role and Palestinian instability made Palestinian statehood unrealistic for now. He said Israel should establish a "defensible-borders" policy, which would include a heightened military presence in the West Bank and pressure on the international community to recognize Israeli sovereignty in West Bank areas close to Israeli population centres.

***Amnesty criticizes Israel***

Amnesty International criticized Israel's military retaliation against Lebanon and called on Hezbollah to treat captured Israeli soldiers humanely. "Israel must put an end to attacks against civilians and against civilian infrastructure in Lebanon, which constitute collective punishment," the group's Malcolm Smart was quoted as saying. The group also said Hezbollah should allow Red Cross officials to meet with the hostages, as per the Geneva Conventions.

*– JTA and Jerusalem Post*

# Film fest celebrates Canadian talent

By JENNY HAZAN
*CJN Israel Bureau*

**JERUSALEM** — The 23rd Jerusalem Film Festival (JFF) opened with a bang on July 6. Thousands of moviegoers gathered for a loud and colourful fireworks display at the Merrill Hassenfeld Amphitheater at Sultan's Pool, sandwiched between the retaining walls of the Old City and the upscale German Colony neighbourhood, to kick off the 10-day celebration of cinema with the debut screening of *Someone to Run With*, by Israeli director Oded Davidoff.

But Davidoff was not the only director honoured at the festival's opening event. Two great Canadian film talents were also singled out: director Atom Egoyan and producer Robert Lantos, who each received an achievement award for his contribution to the cinematic arts.

Lantos and Egoyan were two of the nine Canadian celebrities in the JFF's Canadian Retrospective program this year, in which each participant introduced one of his or her films and followed it up with a post-screening question and answer period with the audience. The other Candians were actresses Kim Cattrall (who played Samantha in HBO's *Sex in the City*), Arsinee Khanjian (*Exotica*, 1994) and Marie Josée Croze (*Ararat*, 2002); director/producer Simcha Jacobovici (who debuted his new documentary *The Exodus Decoded*, which presents evidence to suggest that the biblical Exodus actually did occur), actor Paul Gross (*Due South*, 1994); producer Denise Roberts (*The Barbarian Invasions*, 2003); and director Patricia Rozema (*Mansfield Park*, 1999).

"It was very moving for me to be honoured in that environment," said Lantos, at a private luncheon for the Canadian guests at the posh Te'enim Restaurant in Yemin Moshe the day after the festival opening. Lantos, a longtime Zionist who first visited Israel in 1969 as a water polo player for Canada at the Maccabiah Games, organized the star-studded mission with help from the JFF, Israel's ministries of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv, the Canada-Israel Committee and El Al Airlines.

"The festival provided the perfect opportunity for me to expose my influential Canadian colleagues to Israel," Lantos said. "The best way to combat the onslaught of propaganda about Israel that passes for fact in the western world is to bring people here to see the country with their own eyes. You can't spend a week here and walk away thinking that the country shouldn't exist. On the contrary, you invariably walk away with the realization that Israel must exist – even if you are not a Jew."

Lantos' method proved effective. "This is a spectacular country," said Gross, whose participation in the festival marked his first trip to Israel. "The sense we get of Israel from the media – that it is hopeless and miserable and awful is totally inaccurate. The spirit here is unlike anything I ever imagined. It's very exciting."

Egoyan, who last visited Israel in 1988 when he screened *Family Viewing* (1986) at the 18th JFF, expressed similar sentiments. "The image that a lot of people in Canada have of Israel is that it's a really dangerous time to visit. I think that makes the trip here all the more important," he said. "To be fearful is to become a victim of the hype, and as cultural figures, it is our role to somehow transcend that hype."

Egoyan's contribution to the effort included calling all of his Canadian friends from his cellphone at the festival opening, while the fireworks exploded in the background. "I have a droll sense of humour," he said with a wink.

In addition to attending screenings and other festival events, the Canadian delegation crammed in a whirlwind tour that included Masada, the Old City, the Israel Museum and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Yad Vashem was the most touching and controversial stop for Egoyan, who, like his wife, Khanjian, is of Armenian descent. Egoyan's *Ararat* – the film selected to screen at the JFF – deals with the Armenian Genocide 1915-1917, when the Ottoman Turks deported and murdered 1.5 million Armenians. Because of its political relations with Turkey, Israel officially does not recognize that genocide.

"There is a huge connection between Jews and Armenians, due in no small part to the tragedies in our respective histories," said Egoyan, in reference to the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. "We see Israel as a place where it is possible to have a national dream, to survive unbelievable traumatic circumstances and form a state. That is truly inspiring. But [our common histories make] Israel's active denial of the Armenian Genocide, absurd."

**Atom Egoyan and his wife Arsinee Khanjian [Jenny Hazan photo]**

"Being in Israel is a very emotionally charged experience," said Khanjian, who was born in Beirut and first visited Israel with Egoyan in 1988. "There is a certain catharsis in visiting a people who have finally returned to their homeland. But if Israel wants the world to memorialize the Holocaust with the gravity of universal responsibility, it cannot for political purposes deny the tragedy and horrors that other peoples have endured. To deny the Armenian Genocide ultimately damages Israel's own remembrance process."

Khanjian believes it is remembrance and a love of history and storytelling that make Israeli filmmaking unique. "Jewish culture in general, and Israeli culture in particular, has this great love of telling history," she said. "There is an amazing talent pool in this country, and all sorts of amazing stories. Film is being used wonderfully for that purpose."

"Israeli film is booming," Lantos said. "In the last few years, Israelis have been making wonderful, inspiring films. I am very impressed."

Egoyan concurred, and said he wished he could say the same about films coming out of English Canada. He believes the English Canadian film industry – which because it shares a language with the United States finds itself competing with Hollywood – can learn from the Israeli film industry. "What's really impressive is that the last time I was here, no one in Israel went to see Israeli films, and since that time, they have been able to capture a huge domestic audience," he said. "We [in English Canada] look at what has happened in Israel with envy because that is exactly what we want – namely, to capture more domestic box office. Obviously someone has been doing something right in order to turn that around, and to get Israeli audiences to grace their own cinema."

Israeli filmmakers also stand to learn from their Canadian counterparts. "The festival provides a great opportunity for people in the local industry to get to know people from abroad. It's about mingling and getting to know each other, and hopefully, to build strong international relationships," said Eran Riklis, director of *The Syrian Bride* (2004). "When you have great guests from abroad – like this year, with our guests from Canada – it gives the festival a certain flavour, and really puts it on the map as an international film festival."

"That's what makes the festival so amazing," concluded Egoyan. "Film festivals are about different cultures interacting and discovering how different people experience the world. Historically, Jerusalem is a place that has been a real meeting point. So symbolically it is the ideal place to have a film festival."

Books & Authors

# Jaffa's fortunes tested relationship between Jews and Arabs

***City of Oranges: Arabs and Jews in Jaffa* by Adam LeBor, Raincoast Books.**

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

Jaffa, Tel Aviv's next door neighbour, was once the cultural, political and spiritual capital of the Palestinian people. Ruled by a succession of conquerors from the Egyptians to the Ottomans, Jaffa was a hub of the Middle East as the first Arab-Israeli war broke out.

When Jaffa fell to Israeli forces on May 13, 1948, just a few thousand of its original population of about 100,000 Arab Muslims and Christians remained behind.

**Adam LeBor**

As Jaffa crumbled into decrepitude and Tel Aviv prospered, Jaffa's status as a redoubt of Palestinian nationalism faded into obscurity but was never really forgotten by the Palestinians who had departed.

Adam LeBor, a British journalist, has written a lively book about Jaffa's changing fortunes. *City of Oranges: Arabs and Jews in Jaffa* unfolds through the stories of six families – three Arab and three Jewish – that symbolize the sheer complexity of Israel's relationship with the Palestinians.

And while the stories of such families as the Arab Abulafias and the Jewish Chelouches are of interest and brimming with a certain nostalgic charm, *City of Oranges* is strongest in recounting Jaffa's long and intricate history.

As previous writers have pointed out, Tel Aviv was founded by Zionist pioneers in 1909 as a counterpoint to Jaffa, which was considered congested and unhygienic.

Jaffa was home to some 11,000 Muslims, about 3,000 Christians and the same number of Jews when an assimilated Austrian Jewish journalist named Theodor Herzl published *The Jewish State* in 1896.

By then, agriculture was the mainstay of Jaffa's economy. Peaches, figs, grapes, melons, almonds and vegetables were among the crops cultivated by farmers. But Jaffa was most famed for its shamouti and baladi oranges.

In 1917, fearing that allied armies would conquer Palestine, the Turkish authorities expelled the Jews of Jaffa, many of whom were foreign citizens.

Four years later, serious clashes broke out between Jews and Arabs, causing the deaths of 55 participants and bystanders, triggering a massive Jewish exodus from Jaffa to Tel Aviv and undermining hopes that Palestine could be mutually shared.

As LeBor observes, the 1936 Arab Revolt – in essence the first Palestinian uprising – forced the British to place Jaffa under curfew. By that juncture, Jaffa had already come under the influence of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood.

Under the 1947 United Nations' Palestine partition plan, Jaffa was to have been included in a future Arab state.

But the Arabs rejected the proposal and proceeded to attack Jewish settlements. Jewish and Arab snipers in Jaffa and Tel Aviv traded shots, touching off the flight of middle-class Arabs to surrounding Arab countries. Many believed they would soon go back to their homes.

Interestingly enough, Jewish and Arab orange-grove owners signed a non-aggression agreement that enabled them to harvest and export their respective crops.

LeBor writes that Jaffa's Arab fighters were assisted by Bosnian Muslims and Palestinian Germans from old Templar colonies like Sarona and Walhalla, which had been established in the 19th century.

With Jaffa's surrender, the ornate Ottoman villas of the Ajami and Jebaliyyeh quarters fell into a sad state of disrepair. Many were taken over by new Jewish immigrants, mainly from Bulgaria. By 1949, virtually the entire Bulgarian community had settled in Israel.

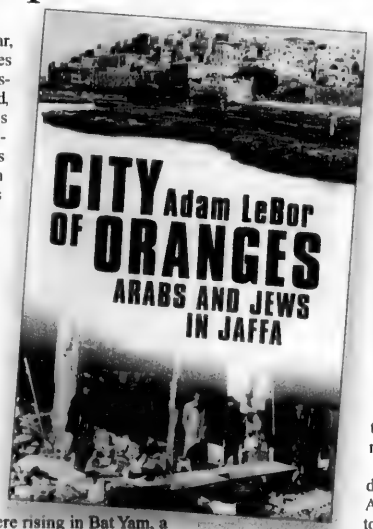
Meanwhile, taking security and demographic considerations into mind, the Israeli government refused to permit Arab refugees to return to Jaffa.

The citrus groves survived the war, but since they required vast quantities of water and were a reminder of a Palestinian society that had been dispersed, most of the orange and lemon trees were uprooted for housing developments. Furthermore, Arab street names were replaced and named after Jewish heroes and rabbis, and Jaffa itself was amalgamated with Tel Aviv.

Manshiyyeh, Jaffa's northernmost quarter, which had been virtually destroyed during the war, was left as a pile of rubble. Ironically, one of the last original buildings standing there was converted into a museum extolling the Irgun, the right-wing Jewish militia that had seized Jaffa from the Arabs.

The medieval lanes of Old Jaffa deteriorated into a slum, fit for only prostitutes, junkies and drug dealers.

Conventional wisdom held that Arab houses in Jaffa should be bulldozed and replaced by cheap high-rise apartment buildings such as were rising in Bat Yam, a southern suburb of Tel Aviv.




But sanity prevailed and Tel Aviv's municipality agreed to preserve Old Jaffa as an artist and tourist quarter.

LeBor's account of this volte face is quite interesting, but he suggests that the majority of Tel Aviv's art dealers resisted the temptation to relocate to Jaffa.

As always, Jews and Arabs in Jaffa lived side by side but separately, with their lives usually intersecting only in commerce and business.

Today, two-thirds of Jaffa's 45,000 residents are Jewish, but the Arab birthrate is higher, as it is elsewhere in Israel.

LeBor reminds a reader that Jaffa is a high-crime area, a central node of Israel's drug trade and a place where Arab and Jewish criminal gangs co-operate. He quotes a Jewish police officer as saying, "If there was co-operation like that in the peace process, we would have peace by now."

During the opening days of the Al- Aqsa Palestinian uprising in 2000, Israeli Arab rioters blocked off Yefet Street, one of Jaffa's main thoroughfares, and hurled bricks and stones.

Across town, Jewish extremists tried to set fire to the Hasan Bek mosque in Manshiyyeh.

According to LeBor, these doleful events prompted Jews and Arabs to turn inward and some Jews to boycott Arab shops in Jaffa.

But long before the intifadah, a minority of Israeli Arabs in Jaffa had drifted toward radicalism and Islamic piety.

In ending, LeBor claims that Jaffa could yet become "the laboratory for a new Israel, even a new Middle East, where Arab and Jew, Israeli and Palestinian, learn not necessarily to love another, but at least to live alongside each other in peace."

It may be a faint dream, but hope springs eternal, even in Jaffa.

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# Stacey Farber back for sixth season of *Degrassi*

By DAVID SILVERBERG
*Special to The CJN*

When I first hear Stacey Farber answer one of my questions, I begin to think she's been well media-trained. Or has become mature beyond her years, growing up on a TV set playing Ellie in the popular teen show *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

She talks in solid sentences, instead of the usual fast chatter I hear from most 18-year-olds taking the TTC. "In hindsight, I'm happy I chose working on *Degrassi* than going to camp four years ago," she says, smoothing her red hair.

And certainly her fans, both in the United States and Canada, are also happy she made that decision. In the four years since her character first appeared on *Degrassi*, the ever-brooding Ellie has evolved into one of the more likable teen girls on the show.

Although Ellie sported fish-net stockings and Goth-style garb in the first two seasons, she replaced her morose mood with a more practical attitude. It was this transition that intrigued Farber.

"I love the change and I love being challenged," she says. "When I can put myself in someone else's shoes, that's what I like about being an actor."

Like many of the *Degrassi* ensemble, her real-life persona varies widely from the character she plays. Ellie is shy and can't make eye contact; Stacey is bubbly and won't break a gaze. Ellie prefers a sharp, sarcastic sense of humour; Stacey will act out sketches and comedy shows with her friends. For fun.

Stacey Farber

One more big difference: Ellie acts off instinct, while Stacey thinks ahead. Take this wild ride many call show business. Farber is already practical about how her career can change instantly.

Although she's back for the sixth season of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* (airing in the fall on CTV), Farber will attend a New York City university in September. She already finished her first year at York University, where she took writing for the professional. (How appropriate – in season six, her character attends her first year of university and volunteers as a student journalist.)

"Acting can be such a risky business," Farber says. "It's so crowded and there's so much rejection. I really value my education and getting a degree."

Spoken like a true honours student. Farber excelled in academics at the Claude Watson School for the Arts in Toronto, where she first felt the pull of theatrics. Back then, she would experiment with homemade videos by acting out scenes from *The Parent Trap* with her sister.

Farber swings her mouth into a smile. "I still do that kind of thing with my friends."

When she landed the role as Ellie, Farber didn't know what to expect. She likely wasn't prepared for all the black enveloping her character: black boots, black eyeliner, black personality. Ellie might have swung into darkness, even taking a blade to her wrists in one harrowing episode, but Farber says reality is the show's focus.

And not the reality some other programs peddle. "We don't look like supermodels like the kids from *The O.C.*, but we're not incredibly homely, either," she says. "We pride ourselves on portraying realistic students at a realistic school."

That's a statement the original *Degrassi* cast, from 20 years back, would gladly endorse. The writers of the half-hour drama know teen problems and are not afraid of exposing subjects too taboo for family-oriented programming: gay sex, abortions, suicide, life-threatening anorexia and even religious extremism. Being part of such a ground-breaking series is empowering – according to CTV, the Canadian viewer average is 759,000 for last season. But it also creates a legion of fans. Screaming teenage fans.

"We don't do mall tours anymore," Farber tells me bluntly. "I was in L.A. once with another actor, and more than 4,000 kids showed up at this mall appearance we did. Uh, it was kinda dangerous."

There it is. Wait. A glimpse of the teenage Farber, the one who snowboards, goes to Toronto Rock (lacrosse) games with her dad and shops with a smile on her face. It's there beneath the maturity of a child actor, waiting to overflow as it surely does when Farber is with her friends.

But now she's talking about the grown-up world she finds herself in. "I'm learning about the business side of acting," she says, "like maintaining contacts and even how to do taxes."

The savvy, practical side of Farber is paying off. She enjoyed a minor role in the crime film *Narc*, a guest appearance in the TV series *Doc* and will be seen as a prostitute in the upcoming indie film *King of Sorrow*.

Oy, what's a nice Jewish girl having a gun pointed to her head in a movie? I don't ask this question, but I can tell Farber relishes the challenge, the change of pace.

"And no matter what, my family will be supportive," she says. "They're so excited for me."

Of course. What other mother can say, "You can watch my daughter on television, once a week at 8:30 p.m. And you know what, they're also making graphic novels of these *Degrassi* actors!"

It's all well and good now, but a kid needs variety. When it comes to the future, how would Farber like Ellie's university years spent?

"Maybe the writers can send her on a trip to Italy," she says, only half-joking. "And not just an Italian set. Shooting on location."

Farber has that gleam in her eyes and, once again, the woman becomes the girl.

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# Travel Talk

by Bill Gladstone

## TRAVEL NOTES FROM ALL OVER

### CANADA

• "Clash of Empires: The War That Made Canada" tells the story of the collision between the French, British and the First Nations in their historic struggle for North America. The "first global war" erupted in the backwoods of Pennsylvania, spread to the gates of Quebec City, and ultimately decided Canada's fate. At the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, until Nov. 12. www.warmuseum.ca

• The Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Que., across the river from Ottawa, is currently celebrating its 150th anniversary celebrations with several special exhibitions. On view are exhibitions on Canadian stamps, skating, comments on politicians, and other aspects of the Canadian experience. www.civilization.ca

* * *

### UNITED STATES

• **Eva Hesse:** Sculpture focuses on the large-scale latex and fibreglass sculptures of "a great American artist of the 1960s." At the Jewish Museum, New York, until Sept. 17. www.thejewishmuseum.org

• New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, is extending two special exhibitions and opening a third. "Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War," which explores the roles of Jewish men and women who were part of the American war effort, has been extended to Dec. 31. "Bukharan Odyssey," which focuses on one of the world's most exotic and colourful Jewish communities in the cities and villages of central Asia, has been extended to Sept. 4. And the upcoming exhibition "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People," is on view Sept. 6 to Dec. 31. 36 Battery Place, Manhattan. 646-437-4337

* * *

### EUROPE

• Bonnie Horowitz and Vivien Rethazy of the Toronto-based Travel Network plan to escort a Jewish culture and heritage tour of Budapest, Vienna and Prague, Oct. 11 to 23. The emphasis is also on music, theatre and history. The itinerary features four nights in Prague, three in Vienna and four in Budapest, all in luxury hotels. 416-789-3271, www.thetravelnetwork.com

• Two new exhibitions in neighbouring villas on the shores of Berlin's Lake Wannsee explore two aspects of German-Jewish history. "The Wannsee Conference and the Genocide of the European Jews" focuses on the infamous conference at which high-ranking Nazi party members discussed the Final Solution of the Jewish Question. And a much happier display in a nearby villa highlights the summer home, gardens and work of painter Max Liebermann. Details at www.ghwk.de and www.max-liebermann.de.

* * *

### CHINA

• Travel professional Harriet Morton is offering another of her popular tours of Jewish China. Her "China: A Journey Through Jewish Eyes" takes in Beijing, Harbin, Kaifeng, Xian, Congqing, Yangtze River, Yichang and Shanghai. Travel dates are Oct. 16 through Nov. 2. For details, contact Morton at 416-928-3113, ext. 245, or by e-mail, hmorton@newwavetravel.net.

* * *

### ISRAEL

• "Treasures of Ancient Glass" is the new exhibition at the Bible Lands Museum of Jerusalem. Beautiful glass jewelry, vessels, miniature masks and more are dramatically displayed showing the vibrant colors of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome and the Mediterranean. 972-2-5611066

• The popular travelling exhibition "Charlotte Salomon: Life? Or Theater?" opened recently in Yad Vashem's exhibitions pavilion. The illustrated biographical play, consisting of paintings accompanied by music and narration, depicts the life story of Charlotte and the extended Salomon family in Germany. The works were created by Salomon during her forced exile in the south of France from 1940 to '42. Until Oct. 1.

• Each year in Tel Aviv, the International Franchise and Business Opportunities Fair draws thousands of Israeli, European and North American entrepreneurs, eager to own a franchise, invest in business opportunities and meet other executives from a variety of sectors. The fair is scheduled for Oct. 24 and 25 at the Tel Aviv Convention Center. For details, visit the website www.iiff.co.il.

• The new Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea is a creation of local stone, tiles and glass, set amidst gardens of olive trees and palms, lagoons, waterfalls and private pools. The design is a tribute to the famed hanging gardens of Babylon. The hotel's first phase, the 114-room Ishtar Villas, opened recently, offering "the largest, most amenity-rich and high-tech hotel rooms and suites in the region." The soon-to-open Anatara Spa will focus on wellness and beauty. www.kempinski-deadsea.com

* * *

### TOURS TO ISRAEL

• Rabbi Gary Zweig of Toronto's historic Kiever Shul is planning to escort a group to Israel from Dec. 23 to Jan. 7, 2007. The tour, which emphasizes spiritual rejuvenation, includes a stopover in Prague and 10 days in Israel. Rabbi Zweig is also planning a Passover tour, April 1 to 15, 2007. For details, please call 416-977-3502.

• YYZ Travel continues to offer holiday opportunities for families and corporations looking for behind-the-scenes, interactive and personal tours in Israel. YYZ's upcoming family tours include departure dates of July 30, Aug. 20 and Dec. 24. The Toronto-based travel company is also booking seats for an October culinary tour led by Bonnie Stern and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein. For details, call toll free 1-877-999-4768, ext. 320, or e-mail gila@yyztravel.com.

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# CBC TV profiles concert promoter Michael Cohl

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Michael Cohl is the most famous concert promoter you may never have heard of.

The reclusive, Toronto-born impresario, whose clients have ranged from the Rolling Stones to Michael Jackson, has been notoriously close-mouthed and inaccessible, at least until now.

But on Monday, July 24 at 8 p.m., the CBC TV documentary *Life & Times of Michael Cohl*, directed by Barry Avrich, will be broadcast, and the veil will finally be lifted.

Blending interviews with archival and concert footage, this is a film that draws a surprisingly open portrait of a man – the world's most powerful concert promoter – who values his privacy and keeps a low profile.

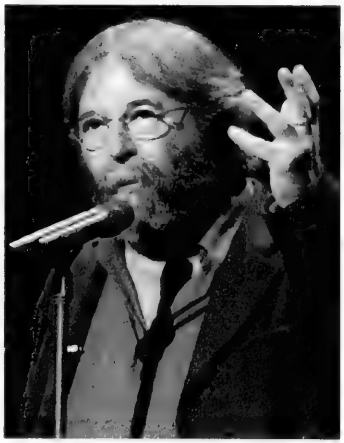
Avrich's revealing documentary is the story of a driven, strong-willed, disciplined visionary who found a niche and exploited it to its fullest potential.

Marty Onrot, a competitor who clearly admires him, says Cohl "created opportunities." In addition to promoting rock stars, Cohl has produced major sporting events and theatre productions (*Cats* and *The Lion King*, to name but two) and has crafted extremely lucrative merchandising and sponsorship deals for which his clients should be eternally grateful.

In a frank admission, Cohl acknowledges that he has made tons of money for his roster of clients. An example: His first Stones tour grossed $240 million, a record. No wonder Mick Jagger and Keith Richards speak highly of him.

Cohl, whom Onrot describes as a combination of aggressiveness and intelligence, hails from a middle class Jewish family. Little is said about his father, who was a lingerie manufacturer. But his mother, Adele, is held up as an influential factor in Cohl's life.

Portrayed as ambitious, Cohl admits he had a burning desire to succeed. "Whatever I did do, I had to win," he says.



Michael Cohl

A star debater in high school, Cohl still has a way with words and can out-argue virtually anyone, Jagger says.

Eager to establish a financial base, at the age of 18, Cohl opened a strip club in Ottawa. But it was soon busted by police.

When he learned that a friend had earned $5,000 from promoting a rock concert, a light lit up and he realized he had found his calling.

His first venture as a promoter was a fiasco. The band he had booked didn't bother to show up. But fortune beckoned when Harold Ballard, the owner of Maple Leaf Gardens, signed a contract giving Cohl exclusive rights to stage concerts at that popular venue.

In another coup, Cohl wrested the Rolling Stones away from the legendary Bill Graham, who fumed, "Today, I watched my lover become a whore."

To his credit, Avrich does not glorify Cohl, mentioning a *Toronto Star* allegation that accused him of skimming concert receipts.

All in all, *Life & Times of Michael Cohl* is a balanced and entertaining account of a Canadian entrepreneur who has practically cornered the market in a cutthroat business.

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Arts & Travel

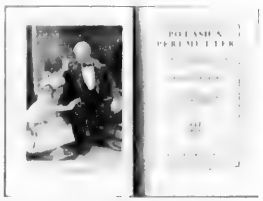
# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN PART I: THE IMMORTAL 'POTASH AND PERLMUTTER'

For years the magazines sent him rejection letters, inferring that his short stories about a pair of Jewish cloak and suit makers in New York were about as unmarketable as last year's suits and dresses.

But in the early 1900s, **Montague Glass** broke through to the big time as major American magazines like *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Cosmopolitan* began clamouring for his tales about Potash and Perlmutter, a pair of lovable shlemiels in New York's cutthroat shmatte trade. The duo's hilarious business misadventures eventually translated into a string of popular movies, radio dramatizations and stage-plays that broke attendance records in both New York and London.



Title page and frontispiece of 1911 edition, showing scene from early "photoplay."

Born in Manchester in 1877, Glass came to New York at age 12 and studied at City College. He trained as a lawyer and joined a Jewish law firm that represented many of the immigrant garment factories that were a dime a dozen in New York. The experience gave him the ability to write about the tailoring milieu from the inside – a world that, for anyone else, would have seemed far too common to be glamourized in fiction.

Glass' heroes, Abe Potash and Mawruss Perlmutter, are so ordinary, and their business surroundings so mundane, that their very representation in literature is already cause for laughter.

*Bookman*, a literary journal, praised the 1911 collection *Potash and Perlmutter: Their Copartnership Ventures and Adventures* for its "photographic sketches of Hebrew types found on the East Side of New York," adding that Glass' various characters – cutters, designers, travellers, bankers, lawyers, fashion models, factory owners occasionally seem as vivid as "Pickwick, Becky Sharp or Falstaff."

"They come to us dripping with faults; they shock us by their manners and their meannesses, by their money-lust and sharp practice; but they grow on us until we accept them as relatives – that is, we see their faults merged into a universal humaneness, a humaneness that we share ourselves."

"Mr. Glass blazes a trail of his own in current fiction by presenting certain types of Jewish businessmen who appear to us as real human beings and not caricatures," *The New York Times* noted when the volume *Abe and Mawruss* appeared in 1912.

In one story, Mr. Siegmund Lowenstein, proprietor of a Galveston dry-goods company, wants to place a large order, using the fact that he has also visited the rival house of Garfunkel and Levy as leverage. "I looked over their line and I may place an order with them, although they ain't got too good an assortment," he says.

"Far be it from me to knock a competitor's line, Mr. Lowenstein," Perlmutter replies, "but I honestly think they get their designers off of Ellis Island."

Garfunkel and Levy have a more generous credit policy, a fact that Lowenstein uses to persuade Perlmutter to extend his credit terms from the usual 30 days to 90 days. "The house what gives me the most generous credit gets my biggest order," he says. Despite the certain knowledge that Potash will be aggravated, Perlmutter gives Lowenstein 90 days to pay.

Glass depicts cloak and suit makers as being capable of engaging in friendly truces while still remaining fierce competitors: "While they cheerfully exchanged credit information from their office files, they maintained a constant guerilla warfare for the capture of each other's customers." But in this case Abe Potash acquires information all on his own that Lowenstein is untrustworthy.

While on vacation, Potash visits his brother-in-law, Hyman Margolius, an auctioneer in Pittsburgh, and helps him unload a huge consignment of garments purchased at distressed prices. To Potash's astonishment, the shipment consists of his own company's plum-coloured Empire gowns, Style No. 4022. The seller is "a feller called Lowenstein in Galveston," Margolius explains. "He wrote me he was overstocked."

Surmising that Lowenstein is planning to declare bankruptcy to avoid paying for the goods, Potash wires his partner not to fill the bulk of Lowenstein's order. Thus the episode ends well for the duo, who remain largely unscathed when Lowenstein indeed declares bankruptcy and absconds to Mexico. But in their continuous bid to outsmart their competitors and customers, they are often foiled.

In one story, they quarrel over the practice of selling single garments below cost to friends, but Abe finally allows Mawruss to discount an Empire gown to his wife's servant-girl, Lina, who would be saving about two dollars. The hefty Lina squeezes inelegantly into the dress just as a major client, who had ordered hundreds of that garment that morning, returns to finalize the purchase. Seeing Lina, he abruptly changes his mind and flees the showroom.

In the capable hands of Glass, who quit lawyering to work full time as a writer, such unlikely material easily becomes the stuff of literature and stage comedy. Glass felt that he was able to see the dramatic possibilities of New York society because he was an outsider due to his English birth.

His ironic characters are presented in a realistic and somewhat farcical light: they are Jewish knights locked in combat with untalented designers, shifty suppliers and cantankerous labour unions.

Glass rightly considered his representations of Jews to be a sharp improvement over the gross caricatures that had been common in vaudeville. But surprisingly, he wrongly believed he was writing in a romantic vein; instead, along with writers like Abraham Cahan and Anzia Yezierska, he was one of the early American Jewish realists who sought to portray their subjects not idealistically but as they really are.

Glass died in 1934 and is largely forgotten today. Most of his works are out of print and many of the movies they inspired have disintegrated into dust. However, the New York-based Arno Press reprinted a volume of his stories in 1975 and another collection is available free as an e-book on the Internet through Project Gutenberg. Visit www.gutenberg.org for details. Aficionados of Jewish writing will find his stories old-fashioned but still highly entertaining.

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Just Listed!! Fabulous 2 bedroom Condo, 2 Car Parking + Locker, Eat in Kitchen with window, 6 Appliances, Extra's Galore! Shows Great! Asking $264,900. *Ted Waxman

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**BATHURST/CLARKE 'CONSERVATORY'**
Just Listed!! 1st Ad, Original Owner 1+1 bedroom, Solarium, 5 Appliances, Approximately 1000 Sq.ft, Low floor, Vacant. Asking $199,900 *Perry Waisglass

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Executive home in highly desirable location! Spacious 3,800 + sq. ft., 5 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, granite foyer, gleaming hrdwd. floors, main floor library + laundry room, close to TTC, subway, shops, schools. $1,199,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**BATHURST / LAWRENCE**
**BRAND NEW** custom executive home, approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + finished basement, luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, gleaming hardwood floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **ONLY $1,149,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**BRAND NEW** custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,249,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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5+1 Bedroom, main floor library+den, nanny/in-law suite. Large 40x134 ft. lot. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

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**9 CARLUKE CRES! BAYVIEW/FIFESHIRE!**
$749,000! Amazing 4+1Bdrm, 4Bath! Mn Fam+2Pce! Gorgeous 72x115' Dare To Compare! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**25 LAWRIE ROAD! BATHURST N/CENTRE!**
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1790 sq. ft., Premium South Facing Courtyard Unit, Loaded w/ Upgrades, 3Bdrms, 3Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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**Bath./Lawr., lrge. bsmt. apt., nr. TTC, shops & shul. Avail. immed. Call 416-784-9152.**

### 125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Aventura**, 3/3 TH, cmr. unit on gff. crse., 2000 s.f., pool, tennis, $699K US. Call 1-786-303-3042.

### 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Lake Couchiching**, exec. cottage-home, 5 bdrms., 4 baths, 1 1/2 hrs. from GTA, immaculate condition, $699K. Please call 416-487-3999 or see: bytheowner.com - password: 38600.

**Muskoka**, 3 bdrm. cottage, 3 season, Lake Mckay, child friendly sandy beach, in friendly Jewish community co-op. $125,000. Contact Sherry at 416-789-0206 or sherry.zweig@pearsoned.com

### 110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Lake Simcoe**, house for rent, 3 bdrm., everything included, private waterfront, 5 minutes from Casino Rama. Please call 416-236-9555 or 416-704-9050.

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3 bdrm, 3 baths, liv & din comb, fin basement, double garage, large lot, next to plaza, Don't Miss.

**SHEPPARD/WILMINGTON**
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FUNKY LOFT! Upgraded 2 bed., 2 bath, approx 1000 sf

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### 15 HOUSESS FOR RENT

**Beautiful new house**, spacious 3500 sq. ft. in Thornhill Woods area, with lovely pond view, overlooking Bathurst St., close to all schools, shopping, amen., Promenade Mall. Available Sept. 1. Call evenings 905-597-1399.

### 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**3000 Bathurst St.**
**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer, solarium, prkng, Shabbos elevator, near Shul, just reduced, must sell at under market price.
$ 275,000. Zidner Realty
**416-249-3356**

**7300 Yonge St.**, 1560 sq ft, 2 bdrm. & solarium , 2 parking. Priced to sell. Call 416-301-0882. Randi

### 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**Thornhill-Promenade** condo, 2 bdrms., balc., 1 prkg., locker. No agents. Call 905-709-2821.

### 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

New unit be the first to occupy, 2 bdrm, 2 bathroom, 5 app., granite, parking. Many upgrades, great location. Bathurst & Wilson, $1400/mnth. Tel: 416-989-5208.

**Neptune Dr.**, lge. furn., 2 br., 2 bath condo, 3rd flr., amenities. Walk to shul, TTC. Call 416-256-3031.

**Bathurst/Finch**, 2 bed., 2 bath condo, incl. parking, avail. immediately. Call 416-630-9449.

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**Bright, newly reno'd**, 1 br. grd. flr. apt. in quiet, small bldg. across Earl Bales Park. Bathurst/Sheppard avail. for rent $850+ hydro. Call 416-635-5081.

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## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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## 160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

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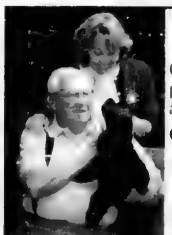

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**M3B 3K4**
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## 275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

**I am an attractive,** tall, bright, slender, very personable, physically fit lady with a great sense of humour. I am looking for that special someone, a gentleman in his 60's to early 70's who is financially secure and in good health, as am I, for companionship with the possibility of a long term commitment. A photo would be appreciated but not necessary. Please reply to CJN Box #5116.

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Israel & the Jewish World

# 'Souls were present' at Polish cemetery rededication

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

**Pictured at the rededicated cemetery in Ilza (Drildz), Poland, are the 19 people who came for the rededication. Second and third from left are project co-chairs Brenda and Barney Dales.**

Nineteen descendants of Polish Jews who lived in the small shtetl of Ilza – also known as Drildz – stood transfixed with emotion during a recent memorial service at the place where a once-thriving Jewish community buried its dead.

The cemetery was established in 1837 and was completely destroyed during World War II.

The Germans forced the Jews to transport its gravestones to swampy areas for road-building near the city of Radom. What remains is a densely forested area on the outskirts of the town.

In 2003, on the 70th anniversary of Toronto's Drildzer Congregation and Society, the members, under the presidency of the late Mae Waese, formed the Ilza Historical Cemetery Restoration Project to restore the 3½-acre graveyard.

Brenda and Barney Dales, who had previously visited Drildz, became co-chairs of the restoration project.

With a small committee, they established the groundwork in North America and Poland and began a three-year process of researching, fundraising and arranging for construction.

Brenda Dales told *The CJN* that when she was standing in the cemetery during the May 22 ceremony, "I felt like my great grandparents were there, along with my late grandmother who came to Canada in 1920 and died in 1961. I felt their presence and my grandmother was hugging me. To me, it is important that they are remembered."

Norman Weinberg, a scientist in Buffalo, N.Y., and president of the Polish Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project, was instrumental in directing the reconstruction.

The chief rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, oversaw aspects of halachah related to cemeteries, and Monika Krawczyk of the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland also contributed to the project.

A stone wall was constructed around the area and large iron gates were installed at the entrance.

The 19 visitors – 11 from Canada, four from New York and one from Brazil – and their spouses spent one week in Poland visiting Warsaw and small communities around Drildz. Some were even able to locate where their families once lived.

Participant Debbie Cowitz said the trip "was a profound experience for all of us, especially the younger people in the group. I didn't think this would impact on me as it did. I felt that my ancestors were all around me. The soul is for eternity, and I felt all their souls were present there."

There are no Jews left in Drildz, but there is a regional museum with a small Jewish exhibit. The town was known for its pottery, and a local pottery company was owned by a Jewish family.

The sombre rededication ceremony was attended by 200 people, including the mayor of Ilza, the local priest, students and members of the community.

Brenda Dales thanked those who helped with the restoration and urged those present to locate and return stolen gravestones.

The memory of a Christian family from the area who saved Jews was also honoured, and Dales asked anyone who knows of other Christian families who tried to save Jews to contact her.

The mayor of Ilza also spoke, as did Marcia Lightman of Toronto, who spoke in memory of her late sister Mae Waese.

Two large granite stones were placed in the cemetery, including one on the site of what is believed to be a mass grave.

Brenda Dales read the inscription on the large plaque at the main gate, which is written in English, Polish, Yiddish and Hebrew.

It reads, in part: "This cemetery has been rededicated in blessed memory of the vibrant Jewish community of Ilza (Drildz) Poland and its surrounding communities who were buried here and to those Jewish people who perished in the Shoah without proper burial.

"They left a lasting heritage that will forever be remembered by their descendants who pray that their souls rest in peace and will remain in the embrace of the Almighty for all eternity."

**The gates and stone walls at the entrance to the rededicated cemetery.**


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# Rooting for a World Cup wildcard

By A. MARK CLARFIELD
*Special to The CJN*

**BEERSHEVA, Israel** — Those who can't read are termed "illiterate," those who can't compute, "innumerate." But what do you call someone who knows nothing about sports? "Unsportsmanlike?" That doesn't do. "Not sporting?" That doesn't quite capture it, either.

But whatever you want to call this character trait of mine, it may explain why, of all countries in the world to root for, I was pulling for a rogue nation to win the World Cup.

To understand why, you need to know a bit about my sporting history. As all young boys are wont to do, I dabbled a bit in sports growing up in Toronto, where I was expected to take part in the usual games: baseball, football, and above all, hockey. In fact, although I did get a bit involved in these tough team sports, I much preferred the gentler one of volleyball. My favourite activity, gymnastics, was quite individual in nature and I was actually not too bad at it.

However, while the peer pressure to take part in discussions about sports waned during my university years, it absolutely disappeared in medical school. Who had time? And no one really bothered me anymore. If someone asked about last night's game, which I hadn't watched, I could easily get away with "I was on call," or "I was post call," or "I was studying." No one took umbrage and no one seemed to think less of me.

Once, 30 years ago, after a particularly gruelling three-night/four-day stint as an intern on call delivering babies at Mount Sinai Hospital, I was finally liberated one bright sunny morning.

Desperate to leave the hospital and see life on the streets again, I wandered out onto Toronto's University Avenue. Unusual for a Sunday morning, the sidewalks were filled with people – young and old – and the street, a broad boulevard, was blocked to vehicular traffic. The six lanes were full of marchers, floats, bands and mounted police. It was all very exciting, in a hallucinatory kind of way, but I had absolutely no clue what was going on.

Still in my hospital whites, stethoscope dangling from my neck and the usual manuals, papers and reflex hammers spilling out of my pockets, I asked a police officer what was going on.

Shocked by the apparent rank stupidity of my question, he looked at me as if I had just arrived from Mars.

"Where are you from that you don't know?" he asked, with both surprise and derision in his voice. Post call, all I could do was stare back blankly, happy just to be outside the hospital. Seeing that he was going to get nowhere with me, the cop said, somewhat archly, "It's the annual Grey Cup football parade."

I thought quickly, wondering how best to defend myself against the implied slur of total ignorance. I hadn't actually been to a football game in decades and hadn't watched one on TV for years.

"How should I know?" I replied, at a total loss as to how best to defend myself. I settled on the obvious riposte, "I'm from Jamaica!"

Believe it or not, that little white lie – the truth was that I had never visited the island – worked very well.

"Oh, I am so sorry, sir. I thought you were from here. Welcome to Canada!" he offered, now smiling broadly. Who says Canadians aren't friendly?

Now, several decades later, and after having changed countries, I haven't managed to improve much on my gamesmanship (maybe that's the word?). If I didn't have two boys, both of whom are fairly sports-mad, I wouldn't have a clue as to who is playing whom.

And with my sons egging me on and the world celebrating a collective mania around soccer's World Cup, who could remain completely indifferent?

But whom to root for?

Unfortunately, as neither Canada nor Israel made it into this year's tournament, I had to look further abroad.

My choice was influenced by the realization that professional sports serves a useful societal function – beyond selling hot dogs and beer. I've concluded that such games actually play an honourable part in avoiding armed conflict. They are, quite clearly, war surrogates. (Isn't it interesting that peacetime military manoeuvres are called "war games"?)

Isn't it better to cheer a national team that's chasing a ball or skating after a puck than to encourage masked men armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers or suicide bomb vests strapped to their midriffs? And what if a country wants to acquire an atom bomb it doesn't need? And even worse, what if it decides to use it – especially if the president of that country is a Holocaust denier and wants to wipe my home, Israel, and the whole Jewish people, off the map?

It would be better for all concerned if that country's young men were caught up in the proxy contest of football, rather than a real one of armed conflict.

And, at least until they were ousted from the tourney after tying Angola, I screamed myself hoarse with the cheer, "Viva Iran!!!"

*A. Mark Clarfield is head of geriatrics at Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva and a professor of geriatrics at Ben-Gurion University.*

# Raptors sign Maccabi Tel Aviv star

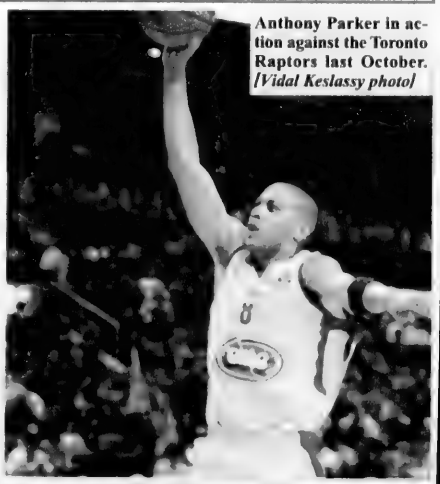
Free agent swingman Anthony Parker, who as a member of Maccabi Tel Aviv sunk the Toronto Raptors with a buzzer-beating basket in an exhibition game last season, has signed with the Dinos.

The 31-year-old guard/forward has been called the best player outside the NBA and is a two-time Euroleague MVP.

"At his age and at his skill level, I think it was the right time for him to make the transition into the NBA," Raptors GM Bryan Colangelo told a news conference. "We think that by securing Anthony, we are getting one of top free-agent guards that was available."

A former draft pick of the New Jersey Nets, Parker has played the last six seasons with Maccabi Tel Aviv. Last year he scored 14.7 points per game while averaging 6.5 rebounds and 3.9 assists.

Parker signed a three-year contract with the Raptors valued at more than 12 million (US).



**Anthony Parker in action against the Toronto Raptors last October.** *[Vidal Keslassy photo]*

# Late-life depression

By MICHAEL GORDON

We met walking out of the university hospital. "Hi, I haven't seen you in years. You looked after my grandmother many years ago," the man said.

I immediately recognized him, as we were residents at about the same time, almost 30 years before, and had some professional interactions over the years, as he had gone into surgery and worked at one of the university hospitals. But we had not seen each other for at least five years.

The Senior Side of Life

He continued: "I learned a lot from my grandmother and your diagnosis and treatment of her depression, to which she responded. She not only went back to her bridge games but lived another 10 years.

"Most interesting, my sister developed some depressive symptoms years later that we recognized because of grandma. She, too, got better with treatment."

As we walked along, I replied: "She was one of the first patients whose late-onset depression I recognized, whose loss of interest in her lifelong love of bridge was a diagnostic clue that I have often used as part of my teaching anecdotes.

"I remember just how dramatic her response to antidepressants was and how wonderful I felt when she returned and told me, 'I played bridge again last week, and won' – which was an indication to me that the treatment was successful."

Since that patient almost 30 years ago, I have dealt with many older people with depression. Over time, from a condition that was not readily understood by many physicians, late-age depression is now known to be common; it is often misdiagnosed or ignored, and therefore inadequately treated.

Those with late-age depression may be unable to fulfil their potential in life, and in some more tragic cases, depression may result in disastrous results including death from not eating or lack of self-care, or sometimes, in desperate situations, self-inflicted death. Severely depressed older people who are intent on ending their lives are tragically often successful in their attempts.

The good news is that with increased awareness of the condition and a wide array of treatments, many older depressed individuals can be successfully treated and can return to a level of function that meets their expectations and that of their loving families.

Late-life depression can occur in many scenarios, with potentially different implications of the illness. It can be treated with drugs or psychosocial therapy or, as often happens, a combination of the two.

At one end of the spectrum are those who experience and demonstrate evidence of depression for the first time. The symptoms often include a sense of dread, rumination (going over again in their mind or in talk, terrible events or experiences from the past) or a sense of loss, hopelessness and worthlessness. Sometimes there are physical symptoms with almost every ailment being mimicked, and quite often there is a loss of interest in food, entertainment and family interactions. One test I use I call the grandchild *kvel* test. When grandparents have lost all interest in the well-being of their grandchildren, it is often a symptom of profound depression.

If someone has been depressed before and has responded to treatment, that bodes well for treatment of another occurrence in later life.

Depressive symptoms can be a premonitory sign of early or future cognitive impairment that may develop into dementia. That can be recognized only as the illness progresses and the response to treatments unfold. It may then be necessary to address the dementia as well through various treatments, including newer medications that may provide some benefit.

Depression should not be discounted by family members and physicians. With proper recognition and treatment, beneficial outcomes can often occur, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

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## Epi on Education

# Another word that I don't like

Since I have, in previous columns, expressed my distaste for such acceptable Jewish terms as "continuity" and "survival," the time has come to deal with yet another word that I find problematic: "secular".

*Seymour Epstein*

I don't like when curricula label some studies secular and others sacred, even though I realize that some schools see this terminology as part of their ideology. My personal belief (not to be confused with the policies of any organization I work for) is that once a school decides to include general studies such as mathematics, English or geography in its curriculum, it should see these studies as having the same spiritual potential as *limudei kodesh* (holy studies).

In the religious world, studying the intricacies of God's zoology or planetary system should lead one to an even greater perception of God's greatness. Hence, chemistry becomes a religious subject, very close to Talmud. Both are illustrations of human potential for observation, insight, and deduction – all God-given attributes from Day 6 of Creation.

But I also have problems with the word "secular" when it's used to mean the opposite of observant Jews of any religious denomination. There was a period when "secular Jew" denoted a veritable movement of Jews who actively opposed Jewish religion on ideological grounds. Most of those original secular Jews came from backgrounds that afforded them profound literacy in Jewish sources, which they then opposed ideologically. Except for certain specific groups in Israel and some Diaspora settings, there is little of that left. Most Jews who are labelled "secular" these days are just indifferent or somewhat assimilated, but not proactively secular in any ideological sense of the word.

The error in labelling usually occurs when the Israeli division of secular and religious (*chiloni, dati*) is applied to Diaspora settings where it does not apply. I know and respect the fact there are some secular Jewish organizations in Diaspora communities, but they are small and they do not represent the vast numbers of Jews who are not affiliated with one of the religious denominations.

There are, then, two instances where the label "secular" is misused and leads to a lack of clarity.

*Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto*

# Thoughts on Jewish warriors

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Cpl. Gilad Shalit was captured by terrorists and hidden away for the Israel Defence Forces to find. His tragic situation elicited so many thoughts and feelings in me about who we are as Jews, and our place in the world. Here are a few.

URBAN WRITER

How many of us thought about – but never spoke of – the images we had of how this soldier, this young Jewish man, was tied up? How many of us imagined Gilad in a crouching position, unable to move his arms and legs, and the fear he felt to be blindfolded and guarded by violent thugs? The thoughts were dreadful.

We read the newspapers and followed his father's pleas for Israel to release Palestinian prisoners, yet as a reader, we felt a certain safety and fortune in knowing that we could get relief from a father's pain by putting the paper down. Gilad is not our son.

How strange the differences between our reality in Canada and that which exists in Israel. Here, our neighbours smile when we meet them. They harbour either a liking of, or basic indifference to, our Canadianism.

In the Land of Milk and Honey, however, you need only walk by a construction site with Arab workers to feel the anger and hatred for Israeli Jews that lies within many of their souls. And a Shabbat walk in Jerusalem's Old City brings you close to the Arab Quarter, a place we believe is filled with anti-Semites, terrorists and assassins.

Gilad Shalit. Gaza. Yoni Netanyahu. The raid on Entebbe.

To live in Israel and to fight in its army is to be a warrior, and warriors live and die hard. They sculpt our peoplehood, whether in Israel or in Canada, because they allow us space and time to be free in a land of our choice.

Gilad reminds us that to be a Jew is to live close to the edge, where danger lurks and vigilance is our protector. Yoni, the only rescuer or hostage to die at Entebbe, reminds us that to be a Jew is to know that our bravery will be called upon at some point.

Gilad tests our commitment to our Jewishness, and our loyalty to our people. Each one of us must remember where we were when he was abducted, and what we did in the course of that day in his honour, in support of Israel and the Jewish people. It's not enough to feel bad when "Gilads" happen. A Jew must act.

Yoni forces us to reflect on our ability to do so – to act. When and where will our Uganda be? Only time will tell. And when it does, his courage will call out to us, like a man on a soapbox – leading us forward, cheering us on.

When peace is at best a slogan in Israel, I am compelled to thank Jews in Israel over and over, to show my indebtedness to the Gilads and their families and a commitment to never forget every valiant Jew, like Yoni, and what their legacy represents to us.

At the time this column was written, Gilad's fate was unknown. By the time you read this, you might know whether this young warrior lived or died, about how he was treated, and of the emotional state of his family. How strange to be writing about him without this knowledge, yet knowing that you might have it. Gilad is our son.

Looking forward, looking back, Gilad, know that we prayed for your life, and for peace for your family and the Jewish people. We collectively expressed our gratitude for the fight you chose to wage on behalf of Jews, everywhere.

Gilads never really die. They can't. We won't have it. The souls of Jewish warriors live.

*Avrum@vesahavta.org, Sudan?*

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# Harper rejects moral equivalence between Israel and terrorists

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered a strong message of support for Israel last week and rejected criticism his government had shifted Canada away from its traditional role as an honest broker between Israel and its adversaries.

Paraphrasing on several occasions a statement by former British prime minister Winston Churchill, Harper said Canada would not remain neutral between a fellow democracy and a terrorist organization.

"What we refuse to do is to be drawn into a moral equivalence between a pyromaniac and a fireman," Harper stated in a telephone interview with *The CJN*.

Israel is well within its rights to defend itself from Hezbollah, a terrorist organization bent on using violence to destroy Israel. If a terrorist organization crossed Canadian borders, kidnapped our soldiers and hurled missiles at our population centres, Canada would do the same as Israel, "fight back," the prime minister said.

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper**

Harper's position on the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, which set off the conflict three weeks ago when it captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight, stands in marked contrast to that of interim Liberal Party leader Bill Graham. Graham, a former minister of foreign affairs, said "we're very concerned about Mr. Harper's change in Canada's traditional position of working with all sides in the Middle East for long-term peace by being able to work with all sides of the conflict to bring them together and in a dialogue.

"Canada has always been able to act as an intermediary, but we can only serve in that capacity if both our comportment and our actions enable us to play that role."

Liberal consular affairs critic Dan McTeague said Liberals were "disappointed with Harper's decision to depart from Canada's traditional role of peace broker and follow U.S. President George W. Bush's Mideast policy prior to the release of the joint statement by G8 leaders."

Liberal leadership candidates weighed into the issue, with some publishing their view of the Hezbollah-Israel conflict. Bob Rae issued a statement saying Canada should respond to the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon and live up to the spirit of Nobel Peace Prize-winner and former Canadian prime minister Lester Pearson, "who used his experience and understanding to defuse a crisis."

**Continued on page 18**

# *Family awaits word on abducted son's fate*

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

When Yair Goldwasser saw the uniformed army officers knocking on his door, he knew right away the news would not be good.

He had been trying all day to get some information about his brother, Ehud, who he knew was completing his last day of army reserve duty on the Lebanese border. When he heard early-morning news reports that Hezbollah had abducted two soldiers and killed eight others in an unprovoked raid, he quickly got on his cellphone and dialed Ehud's number. When there was no answer, he contacted Ehud's wife of 10 months, Karnit, but she, too, had had no luck in reaching Ehud. Yair then began the grim task of calling local hospitals to see if his brother was among the dead or wounded.

**The family of two Israeli soldiers kidnapped July 12 in a cross-border raid into northern Israel, show photographs of the soldiers at a news conference in Paris last week. Malka Goldwasser, centre, mother of Ehud Goldwasser; Gudi Goldwasser, left, his brother; and Eyal Regev, the brother of Eldad Regev, met with officials in Paris to ask for French diplomatic intervention.** *[Reuters/RNS photo]*

After several hours had passed and there was still no word about Ehud, "we started to be a little bit worried, he said.

At 3 p.m. – nine hours after the incident occurred – army officers finally arrived at his home in Nahariya. "I immediately knew. I saw them on my doorstep and I knew they were going to give me bad news."

With the army's confirmation that his brother had indeed been captured along with fellow soldier,

**Continued on page 37**

## *Israel at War*

**Due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, this issue of *The CJN* includes expanded coverage of the war in Israel, starting on page 3.**

**Shabbat Nachamu: Va'etchanan**
**Candlelighting: 8:19**
**Havdallah: 9:24**

*Greater Toronto Area*

**Olmert expresses deep regret over civilian deaths — see page 31**

# The News in Brief

## CANADA

### Groups Get Status

**OTTAWA** — Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada have been granted intervenor status at the judicial inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing off the coast of Ireland that killed 329 people. Sikh extremists seeking a homeland in India are believed to be responsible for the attack. Two men were acquitted of criminal charges in the case last year. Testimony in the inquiry starts next month, and a report is due next year. The groups will comment on anti-terrorism policy.

### Camp Director Killed

**TORONTO** — A director of a Jewish camp in Michigan that specializes in wilderness trips for teens died July 17 in Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park when a tree fell on his tent during a thunderstorm. Jeff Grey, 26, of Oak Park, Mich., a Detroit suburb, was leading a trip with six staff and 17 campers from Camp Kennedy in northern Michigan. A counsellor from the Detroit area, Aaron Lebovic, 19, was also injured by the tree. He has been released from intensive care at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital and is set to go home this week for further care.

### Standing With India

**TORONTO** — B'nai Brith Canada's executive vice-president Frank Dimant expressed condolences last week to Satish Mehta, India's consul general in Toronto, at a Queen's Park rally to recall the 207 victims of the July 11 train bombings in Mumbai. About 200 people, attended the event.

### New Training Program

**TORONTO** — Four directors of Ontario camps are among 20 from across North America selected for a new program that will teach them about leadership, business and Jewish ethics. Miriam Allman of Camp Moshava in Ennismore, Ron Polster of Camp George in Parry Sound, Michael Wolf of Camp Ramah in Utterson, and Brenda Tessler-Donen of the B'nai Brith Community Camp in Kenora will be the first participants in the New-York-based Foundation for Jewish Camping's Executive Leadership Institute, the foundation said last month.

## CIC Extends Regrets Over Lebanon Deaths

**OTTAWA** — Canada-Israel Committee chair Marc Gold expressed "deep regret" at the deaths of four UN observers, including a Canadian soldier, who were killed last week when an Israeli jet bombed a UN observation post in Lebanon.

"On behalf of Canadian Jewry… I want to convey sincere condolences to all the families who have suffered losses in this tragic accident," said Gold, who added that he has confidence in the ongoing Israeli investigation into the incident, which Israel described as an accident and came during strikes on Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon.

Gold also expressed "great appreciation" to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his "thoughtful and encouraging comments" on the incident. After the UN post was hit, Harper said he doubted it was deliberately targeted and wondered why it was still manned two weeks into the fighting. He also repeated his view that Israel has a right to defend itself.

Gold also extended condolences to the families who have suffered losses in the current crisis, including a family of eight Lebanese Canadians from Montreal who died July 16 during Israel's shelling of Hezbollah positions in Lebanon.

"Both Israelis and Lebanese are the innocent victims of Hezbollah and neither country will be able to reolaim normalcy until the threat of Hezbollah is eradicated," Gold said.

He added that "the CIC is grateful for the principled position articulated by the Canadian government," which has demanded an end to the support of terror by Iran and Syria "and the return of the Israeli nationals kidnapped by their proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah."

## WORLD

### Monument Vandalized

**BRUSSELS** — A Holocaust memorial in Brussels was found vandalized on July 24. The gate of the memorial's crypt was pulled out, documents were destroyed, windows broken and an urn containing ashes from Auschwitz victims was emptied, the European Jewish Press reported. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt said he is shocked by the attack.

### More Looted Art?

**NEW YORK** — U.S. museums may still have many Nazi-plundered artworks, says a new report by the Claims Conference and the World Jewish Restitution Organization. Only 12 per cent of art in U.S. museums possibly stolen from Holocaust victims has been fully researched and the results publicized, Gideon Taylor, executive vice-president of the Claims Conference, said July 25. The 140,000 artworks in question were created before 1946 and bought after 1932, and changed ownership during that time. Some major U.S. museums, such as the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, didn't take part in the survey.


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# 8,000 rally for Israel in Toronto

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

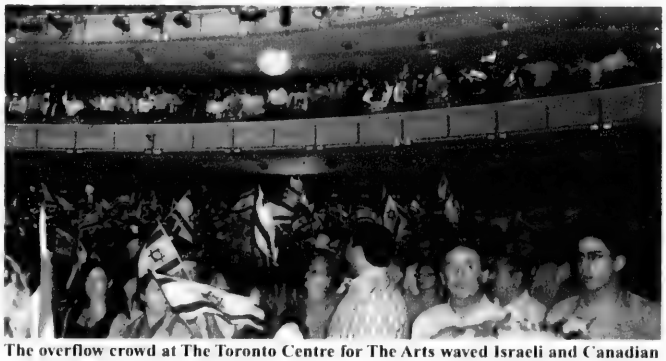
A crowd of 8,000 supporters of the Jewish state gathered for an emotional evening at the Stand for Israel Rally last week in Toronto.

The occasion was to "commend our government for its principled support of Israel's obligation to protect its citizens," said famed film producer Robert Lantos, who was master of ceremonies for the July 26 event, held at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, with an overflow crowd of more than 5,000 people gathered in nearby Mel Lastman Square.

Lantos received a standing ovation when he thanked Prime Minister Stephen Harper "for standing tall and making me proud to be Canadian" because of the prime minister's "unequivocal support" of Israel's "fundamental right to live in peace and to protect itself when under attack".

Applause and laughter followed Lantos' declaration that "I hereby take off my lifelong federal Liberal hat to you. Symbolically, I toss it away, if there were anyone willing to catch it."

Tears soon followed that laughter, however, when Toronto resident Moti Markizano, 38, and his 28-year-old brother, Guy, an IDF artillery commander currently positioned on the Lebanese border, were reunited face-to-face for the first time in more two years via satellite as the entire crowd watched on video monitors.



**The overflow crowd at The Toronto Centre for The Arts waved Israeli and Canadian flags provided by event organizers. [Jessica Freiman photo]**

A live, two-way video feed linked the northern Israeli town of Metulla with the audience in Toronto at 3:15 a.m. Israel time.

Guy Markizano and some of the 50 artillery soldiers he commands were featured in the feed, along with the mayors of Kiryat Shmona and the Upper Galilee municipality. Seeing Guy positioned on the front lines of war and being able to talk with him for all to see was "incredibly emotional" for his brother in Toronto.

"I haven't seen Guy for the last 21/2 years," Moti told *The CJN*. "The last time I saw him was when he got married in Israel. It was so moving to hear his voice and to know what he's been through."

There were few dry eyes among audience members as they witnessed this virtual reunion of brothers. "It was so marvellous for me and my family to show that we are behind him," Moti said. "I am so proud to be his brother."

Not all the people at the rally were Jewish. In addition to the numerous MPs, MPPs and Toronto city councillors in attendance, friends of Israel from other faiths – such as Ron Banerjee, director of communications for the Hindu Conference of Canada; Barb Boraks, executive director of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto; Manoj Pundit, past president of the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Alistair Gordon of the Canadian Coalition for Democracies; and Maher Rizkalla, president of the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Coptic Association – came to show their solidarity with Israel.

Continued on page 15

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Israel at War

# The big lie, again and again

*From the editor's desk*

Supporters of Israel must not become emotionally or physically fatigued in defence of the Jewish state. We do not have the luxury of fatigue. For Israel's enemies are counting on Jews around the world to become tired of the "conflict" and ultimately turn their backs on the "problem" they are determined to ensure will not go away.

And, to quote Rabbi David Hartman of Jerusalem, we certainly do not have the luxury of despondency or despair. For despair is the very antithesis of the meaning of Jewish history and tradition and in a profound sense, a betrayal of all who came before us and all who will come after us.

In truth, however, it is so very difficult – and so very human – not to feel disheartened and even uneasy at the way in which the war Israel is waging against the malevolent Hamas-Hezbollah-Syria-Iran axis is being portrayed.

To watch, especially the television news coverage of the war, one would think that bombs are falling only on Lebanon. The predominant focus of the coverage was typified by one CTV correspondent who said last week, "The world is baffled by what it sees, united in sympathy for Lebanon." As of this writing though, mostly ignored by the commentators who sympathize with Lebanon, is that more than 1,500 rockets have been deliberately launched into areas in Israel only populated by civilians.

[Josh Meles photos]

Aside though from the distortion in the coverage of the war's carnage, we – Israel's supporters – find unfathomable that we must once again answer the calumnies and big lies that opponents of the Jewish state rush to retell.

But answer them we must. We must always answer not for the sake of attempting to persuade the propagators of the lies, but rather for the sake of buttressing the sense of purpose of the younger generation – Jew and non-Jew – who must always hear the truth.

Nor must we doubt that there is an objective truth about this conflict that can withstand scrutiny by honest, well-intentioned individuals.

Throughout history, the haters of Jews have resorted to the big lie. Nothing has changed.

Common variations of the big lies were on rampant display last week in Toronto and Montreal when anti-Israel protesters took to the street.

"End the occupation" was one of the recurring slogans of the marchers. But what is the "occupation" that they demand come to an end?

"Occupation" is one of those loaded words that will always inspire indignation among conscientious, socially aware, anti-colonial activists. But in reference to Israel, it is a code-word understood – not by all the protesters – by all those intent on Israel's demise.

For them, the entire State of Israel is an "occupation" of lands that belong to the Arabs. Thus, inescapably, when they shout "End the occupation" they mean "End Israel."

How can honest, well-intentioned individuals support such a cause, we ask ourselves?

Another slogan cheerfully waved by some protesters was "Stop [the] Holocaust in Lebanon." (See the photo inset.)

The word "holocaust," of course, is synonymous with genocide and racism. Some people would just shrug off the reference as heated hyperbole. But the ignorant, unaware or gullible may begin to believe the reference as being accurate. The truth of the matter, however, is that the use of "holocaust" in reference to the war against Hezbollah in Lebanon is obscene.

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But what creates the greatest sense of disquiet among supporters of Israel is embodied in the second photo inset into this column. Its message is unambiguous, without any code words.

"Israel out of Palestine" is a bellicose call for the elimination of the Jewish state. The portraits of Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah cinch the matter for the elimination of the Jewish State has been their main message since they rose to the positions of their power.

Rabbi Daniel Gordis, in a recent Internet communication, expressed what the vast majority of Jews know to be the truth about this war. "This is not about the 'occupation.' This is not about creating a Palestinian state. This is about whether there will be a state called Israel."

How can honest, well-intentioned individuals, we ask ourselves, not support Israel when it defends itself against the enemies who want, more than anything, to destroy it?

And though we may be disheartened with the answer, we are forbidden to despair.

— *MBD*

SeeJN

**TERROR VICTIMS ATTEND CAMP:** Ten Israeli children who have been affected by terrorism are now attending Camp Timberlane, thanks to the efforts of the One Family Fund, which helps victims of terror, and a number of sponsors, including Spin Master Toys, Roots Canada, By the Way Café, the Trillium Sales Group and Camp Timberlane. The $30,000 raised covers much of the cost of one month at camp for each of the children, and the cost of a 25-year-old counsellor, herself a terror victim, to escort the children and act as their confidant at camp.

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Israel at War

# Tourism takes hit, but many travellers stick to plans

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN and FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporters*

Until the recent crisis in Israel began in mid-July, the country was enjoying "a gangbuster summer" for tourism, according to Avi Rodak, vice-president of Aufgang Travel in Toronto.

"There were no rooms. Everything was packed," he said.

But about half the families his agency has booked for trips in the next couple of weeks have cancelled, he said last week.

The other half will use modified itineraries, avoiding the northern part of the country.

El Al and Air Canada are allowing people to reschedule their trips at no fee for the next six months, subject to availability, Rodak said.

Like Rodak, Ehud Telem, president of Peerless Travel, said that about half of his clients who had plans to go to Israel on an imminent group trip have cancelled. People whose plans are for later in the summer, for the most part, had not made any changes as of last week.

"A lot of people are postponing, cancelling, changing [their plans]," said Telem. But many are still going, he added. He even has customers who have made plans to go because of the situation, to show support or offer help, he said.

Aside from Israel's north — where hoteliers in places such as Haifa, Tiberias and Rosh Pina are shutting down operations and turning off electricity – tourism in the rest of the country is mostly holding up.

However, tourism workers all over Israel are worried their livelihoods may be devastated if the fighting drags on. That, in turn, could wreak havoc on the economy as a whole.

The economic impact on Israel's tourism industry already has run into the millions of dollars, according to a JTA report.

Rather than cancelling their trip, many of those planning a visit to Israel have altered their itinerary, said the director of the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO).

"No doubt, we have had cancellations, but people are still going. They're focusing their trip on such cities as Tel Aviv or Jerusalem," said Dani Shahal.

Up until now, he said, this year has been the best ever with regard to tourism. "From January until the end of June we had about 30,000 tourists, and we had expected about 65,000 to 70,000 before the end of the year."

Although individuals within tour groups have cancelled, he said, all organizations that have plans for tours are going ahead with them.

Airlines, hotels and tour operators are being urged to be flexible with regard to cancellation fees and deposits, said Shahal.

"I understand it is a very difficult time. People are being cautious, and that is why we are trying to get organizations to plan solidarity missions.

"We need to show support so we can increase the morale in Israel, and help the economy. We can only rely on our brothers and sisters and on the Christian organizations that support Israel."

In a letter that the IGTO sent to rabbis and their congregations across Canada, Shahal said that in most of Israel, things are totally normal. "Kids are going to summer camp, parents are working, and life goes on.

"In the centre of the country as well as the south, restaurants are full, beaches are packed, shopping malls and tourist sites are busy. All is 'business as usual.'"

In Israel, the letter said, "there is no panic, there is no rushing to leave, the airports are operating normally. Flights are arriving in Israel full, and they are leaving empty.

"We're responsible people, [and] it would be against our interest to endanger tourists. If the situation were so bad, the last thing Israel would want would be the added burden of dealing with worried and frantic tourists."

Perry Romberg, director of campaigns and community resources at United Israel Appeal Federations Canada, said his organization is planning a solidarity mission. "We're looking at it as an important part of our support for Israel, and we're looking at which groups to target."

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which spearheaded last week's Stand with Israel rally, has already sent one solidarity mission and as of last Friday had raised more $8 million toward its $20-million goal for its Israel Crisis Relief Fund, established July 13.

It seems few who were in Israel when the fighting began have cut their trips short. The Reform movement North America-wide has more than 600 youth on programs in Israel, said Rabbi Sharon Sobel, executive director of ARZA Canada and of Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ). "They're all staying," she said, adding that parents are updated daily and the groups are staying away from the north.

A group of 150 youths now travelling in Israel as part of Canadian Young Judaea Bilium Israel, is making no plans to cut its trip short, said Michael Silverman, national director of Canada Israel Experience, the trip's organizer.

"We believe we can offer a secure, safe and educationally sound program. We have replaced some activities in the north with activities in the centre and south of Israel, and Canadian Young Judaea is in constant touch with the parents," he said.

David Altshuller, a member of the national board of Canadian Young Judaea, said he is in daily contact with the tour, "and the kids are in excellent spirits. There are photos on the website, and I don't see a frowning kid.

"Parents feel like they're getting all necessary information, and they are confident in the measures we are taking. Our trips have run through some very interesting times over the years, and every year we have different contingency arrangements," said Altshuller, who was director of programs in Israel from 1995 to 2001.

In Canada, a number of organizations are raising money and encouraging the community to also help Israel in other ways.

Organizations here are taking whatever measures they can to help Israelis caught in the north part of the country, and most are raising money and taking in evacuees into their organization's facilities in the central and south.

The CCRJ, in addition to collecting money for Israeli Reform congregations and for a more general fund, is encouraging people to support Israel by doing things such as writing letters to newspapers and local politicians, participating in rallies, and voting in media polls soliciting opinions about Israel.

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham held an emergency prayer meeting on July 17 and is encouraging people to take on mitzvot such as affixing mezuzot in the hope that God will intervene and protect the Jewish nation, according to a news release sent out by the organization.

* * *

The following is a partial list of numbers to call for further information and to help out:

- Israeli Ministry of Tourism tourists' hotline, 011-972-3-520-7600
- UJA Federation's Israel Crisis Relief Fund, 416-631-5705 or www.ujadonations.com/israelcrisis
- FEDERATION CJA in Montreal has also launched an Israel Emergency Campaign. Call 514-343-8700, or visit federationcja.org.
- Jewish National Fund of Canada, 514-934-0313, 416-638-7200
- Association for the Soldiers of Israel, 416-783-3053 or 800-433-6226
- Canadian Magen David Adom, 514-731-4400 in Montreal, 416-780-0034 in Toronto, or online at www.cmdai.org
- ORT Canada, 514-481-2787, 416-787-0339
- Na'amat Canada, 416-636-5425
- Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, 1-866-796-0008 or www.chw.ca
- Jewish Women International/Canada, 416-630-9313
- Emunah Women of Toronto, 416-636-0036

*With files from JTA.*

# *Nfld. Muslims and Jews partner to help war victims*

**ST. JOHN'S** — The president of the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mahmoud Haddara, and Arnold Bennett, speaking for the Jewish Community Havura, announced an "emergency partnership" last week to raise funds for victims of the conflict in the Middle East.

The Jewish and Muslim Emergency Partnership will contribute equal amounts to the Red Crescent and Magen David Adom, which are both associated with the International Red Cross.

"In the Newfoundland tradition of neighbours working together in time of disaster, our partnership expresses our joint commitment to helping those in trouble," Haddara said.

"Many of us are already contributing to special humanitarian charities operating in one or another country in the Middle East. Many of us have relatives and close friends under fire or in bomb shelters. Our partnership rises above politics and concentrates on helping all who are suffering, on all sides," Bennett said.

Haddara and Bennett said that St. John's Al-Noor Mosque and the Havura would ask for donations at services this past weekend, and they called on churches and other religious groups to ask for donations at their weekly services as well.

Tax deductible donations can be made by cheque to the Emergency Partnership and mailed to the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, 430 Logy Bay Rd., St. John's, Nfld., A1A 5C6, or to the Jewish Community Havura, 2750 Topsail Rd., Conception Bay South, Nfld., A1W 4B1.


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# Jewish groups warn community of possible attacks

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

B'nai Brith Canada has released a security alert that warns Jewish communities across the country of an increase in anti-Semitic incidents and of Hezbollah "sleeper cells" that may be planning attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets around the world.

Ruth Klein, the national director of the League of Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, said that in two incidents last month, an Orthodox synagogue in Montreal received a bomb threat and that members of the same shul had stones thrown at them outside the synagogue after evening prayers.

B'nai Brith also reported that a Jewish family was sent a decapitated pig.

"There is a tremendous amount of fear in the community when these things happen. If there is any publicity, they fear they may be targeted again," Klein said. "The family has allowed that the incident be talked about, but they are so concerned, they don't want even the city they live in mentioned. This was a particularly nasty incident. [The pig] was left in their backyard. It was very gruesome."

Len Rudner, the director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, also reported an increase in anti-Semitic incidents.

"Since the beginning of July, which roughly corresponds with the first kidnapping by Hamas, the increase in tension in the [Middle East], the second kidnapping, and Israel's military response to that, I think it is fair to say that we have seen, nationally, an increase in incidents," Rudner said.

The B'nai Brith security alert, which was released last week, also warned that "according to sources in Israel, Hezbollah sleeper terror cells outside Lebanon have been put on standby and may be planning attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets throughout the world."

"Within Israeli intelligence and the RCMP as well, there are fears that sleeper cells might choose this particular period of time to revenge attacks," Klein said.

She added that "Hezbollah has been implicated in the past, for example, for the bombing in Argentina of the Jewish community centre" in Buenos Aires in 1994, when 85 people were killed and 240 wounded.

Rudner said one reason to think Canada is a targeted country is that it's one of the countries that Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has described as "evil," along with the United States, Spain and Britain.

Of these four countries, Canada is the only one that has yet to be hit by a terror attack.

"One could say that from that point of view, that we are on a list. For those who believe that the war being waged by Islamic terrorists is a war against democracy, one could say that all democracies are on the list," Rudner said.

"What this says to me is that we all have a responsibility to act as if we are on a list, whether there is a list or not."

Klein said that last month there was a rally in Montreal where people were photographed waving Hezbollah flags.

"We have to realize that the support may be wider with this group, which is outlawed in Canada, than maybe we thought before," she said.

Both Klein and Rudner agreed that the only thing the Jewish community can do is be alert, take necessary precautions and work with police.

Klein said B'nai Brith has called the police after receiving threats in the form of e-mails, letters and phone calls. One of the threats was from someone who said that "a good Jew is a dead Jew."

***B'nai Brith says Hezbollah sleeper cells may be a threat; one family received a decapitated pig***

"We have advised Jewish community organizations to be particularly vigilant, to ensure their security procedures are in place and to be in contact with their local police representatives to make sure special attention is paid," Rudner said.

"When you see something that strikes you as being peculiar – for example, maybe a car or a truck parked in front of a synagogue at a time or a place that really seems unusual, call the synagogue and ask them if they know anything about it," Rudner advised.

"It's better to make a phone call and be told it's nothing than not to make a phone call and wonder if you should have done something."

"Be alert," Klein said, adding that B'nai Brith has produced a pamphlet titled "Twelve Warning Signs," which outlines things to watch out for, such as people photographing, sketching or surveying buildings; an increase in false fire and security alarms; and e-mails or calls requesting details about a building, personnel or schedules.

"We've talked to synagogues and other Jewish organizations about extra checks at the premises and people should just keep their eyes open," she said

For those who wish to report anything suspicious, call B'nai Brith's community hotline at 1-800-892-2624 or the RCMP hotline at 1-800-420-5805.


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Israel at War

# *Haifa mayor stays strong despite relentless rocket attacks*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

As the residents of Haifa continue to suffer more casualties and destruction from rocket attacks launched by Hezbollah, Haifa mayor Yona Yahav is determined to stay strong to set an example for his community.

"The whole municipality is working in a very efficient way to serve the people and to provide all the services required," Yahav said from Haifa.

"We are working 24 hours a day and we are very prepared for this job because we have worked for the whole year in order to prepare ourselves, not for a shell of rockets, but for earthquakes.

"We are confident, and this confidence is being conveyed onto the people. This is helping the way people are behaving. We are a very strong community," said Yahav, who has been Haifa's mayor since 2003.

But despite the resolve of the 270,000-person community, there is no denying the negative impact that the war is having on every aspect of the city's well-being.

"Haifa is under attack, under fire. We have had up until now 60 rockets which caused destruction and we have had until now, 10 casualties," he said in an interview with *The CJN* last week after a man had been killed by the shrapnel of a rocket that landed next to his car.

"The economy is in a hole, most of the businesses are closed. And people are instructed to stay behind walls because the rockets that are being shot at us contain thousands of [ball bearings], which are being scattered around in a radius of kilometres," Yahav said.

"This morning I visited a funeral of one of my people, one of the inhabitants of this city. He drove innocently in his car along the road and a rocket exploded [near] his car," said the mayor, who just days earlier spoke with the Israeli consul general, Ya'acov Brosh, during a conference call at an emergency meeting arranged by the Toronto-based Haifa Foundation.

During the meeting, Yahav said that with the help of Canadians, he hopes he'll be able to provide his community during and after the Lebanese-Israeli war, with a summer day camp program for children in the shelters, aid for psychological treatments, and a capital loan foundation for small businesses, which have virtually shut down since the fighting began July 12.

"This city is usually full of life. During the summer, it is a very attractive place. You have very nice beaches, lots of cultural activities, festivals and carnivals and these kinds of activities are being robbed from the city and from at least half a million people," said Yahav, in reference to the fact that the once-bustling city resembles more of a ghost town, which is causing Haifa's economy to suffer.

But tourism, which is Haifa's number 1 economic resource, is not the only part of the economy that is suffering.

Many Haifa residents, Yahav said, can't or won't go to work.

"If he has a shelter in his workplace, he is permitted to leave home and go to work. If in his workplace there is no shelter, he stays either in Haifa, at home, or he may have left Haifa to go down south and stay in a hotel, or with family."

He said that of the 270,000 Haifa residents, roughly 20 per cent have left Haifa to avoid the danger of the rockets that continue to claim lives and injure others.

The physical destruction, however, could be worse.

"The destruction is relatively low for big buildings. But we have suffered the highest number of casualties."

As part of the plan to rebuild Haifa, Yahav is appealing to the international community to play an active role in restoring Haifa's reputation as a safe tourist destination.

"Immediately after the war, [Jewish organizations] should send delegations to Haifa because we have to reconstruct the tourism industry and economy," he said, adding that the more people participate, the quicker they should recover.

Yahav also hopes that if Haifa does receive aid from the international community, he'll be able to put it toward making improvements to rescue organizations such as Magen David Adom.

"I'd like to see our forces get more aid to make them more efficient in carrying out their job," he said.

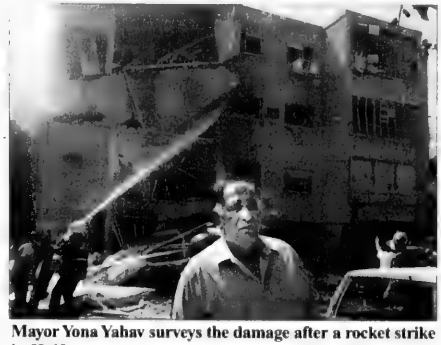
More importantly, he hopes people from around the world will continue to voice their opposition to Hezbollah.

"The international community can exert efforts to dismantle Hezbollah because as long as Hezbollah stays armed, within the near future, we will suffer again the bombings."

Yahav said that he is thankful for the support his city has received from the Canadian Jewish community.

"The backing of the community shows that we are one people."

For more information, e-mail Maya Goldenberg at haifafund@rogers.com.



**Mayor Yona Yahav surveys the damage after a rocket strike in Haifa.** [Israel Sun photo]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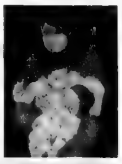

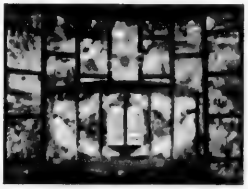

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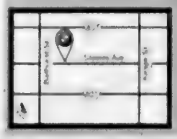

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Israel at War

# Cotler and CJC blast Arbour's comments on Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, Canada's former justice minister, has challenged suggestions by a senior Canadian United Nations official, Louise Arbour, that Israel may have broken international law and committed war crimes during its current military offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Ed Morgan, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, declared that Israel is adhering to guidelines set down by international law, while David Matas, a Winnipeg-based human rights lawyer, described Arbour's comments as "wrong."

Arbour, the United Nations' high commissioner for human rights and a former Canadian Supreme Court justice, touched off the controversy on July 19 when she expressed grave concern about the intense fighting, which has so far killed some 400 Lebanese and more than 50 Israelis.

In an apparent reprimand of Hezbollah's bombardment of northern Israeli towns and cities, Arbour said, "Indiscriminate shelling of cities constitutes a foreseeable and unacceptable targeting of civilians."

But in an oblique reference to Israel's retaliatory air raids and artillery and tank barrages, Arbour observed: "Similarly, the bombardment of sites with alleged military significance, but resulting invariably in the killing of innocent civilians, is unjustifiable."

She added: "International law demands accountability. The scale of the killings in the region... could engage the personal criminal responsibility of those involved, particularly those in a position of command and control."

By contrast, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said that Israel's military response had been "measured."

Cotler, the MP for the Montreal riding of Mount Royal and a McGill University law professor currently on leave, characterized Arbour's remarks on Lebanon as "superficial," "simplistic," "uninformed" and "misleading."

In an essay submitted to the *CJN*, he wrote: "First, it is a postulate of constitutional law that a government's first duty – be it Canada or Israel – is the protection of its citizens. Second, and not unrelated, international law mandates the right, if not duty, of self-defence against aggression... and the reasonable use of military force for that protective purpose."

Cotler, a past president of Canadian Jewish Congress, said the "root cause" of the hostilities in Lebanon, as well as the Gaza Strip, is the unwillingness of Hezbollah and Hamas, and its supporters, to "recognize Israel within any boundaries."

Taking issue with Arbour's interpretation of international law, Cotler made two points: Israel has a right to attack military targets in cities "so long as every effort is made to reduce civilian casualties," and Israel can legitimately hit sites such as apartment buildings and bridges if they are part of "the infrastructure from which war is waged."

Cotler added that if Israel is prohibited from defending itself, "the whole of Israel becomes a 'sitting duck' for Hezbollah and Hamas' international criminality."

Blasting Hezbollah and Hamas, Cotler said that they are "legally and morally responsible for civilian casualties in Lebanon resulting from Israeli bombardments of areas containing missiles, rockets or the terrorists themselves."

Concluding his piece, Cotler observed, "In the end, Hamas and Hezbollah launched an unprovoked act of war against Israel, and Israel had no choice but to protect its citizens."

Morgan, who is also a law professor at the University of Toronto, said Israel's tactics in Lebanon and Gaza appear "to be closely modelled" on those developed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during its 1999 air war in the former Yugoslavia.

"Just as the Israeli aerial bombardment of targets in Lebanon is designed to defeat a terror organization and dislodge it from the civilian population of Lebanon, so the NATO bombing campaign was designed to defeat the Serbian forces and dislodge them from the civilian population of Kosovo."

Morgan said NATO's 1999 campaign, which was authorized by the United Nations and targeted power stations, bridges and the like, unintentionally caused the deaths of almost 500 civilians.

"The parallels are so close that Israel's military planners are following the guidelines set down by international law for legitimate anti-terrorism warfare.

"The United Nations' chief war crimes prosecutor, a position held by Louise Arbour herself during the Kosovo campaign, has determined that these military tactics do not constitute war crimes."

Morgan agreed that leaders should be responsible for acts over which they have command and control.

"The leadership of Hamas and Hezbollah should, therefore, be held legally accountable for the deaths and damage inflicted by the illegal conduct of their respective forces."

Matas, the senior honorary counsel of B'nai Brith Canada, charged that "false symmetry" permeates Arbour's statements. As he put it, "Hezbollah, which is attacking, and Israel, which is defending, are treated alike."

Matas said that Arbour offered "not a word about possible alternatives open to Israel to defend itself" and made "no reference to the use by Hezbollah of civilians as shields."

As a result, he said, "Arbour has made a gratuitous suggestion that Israel is violating international law, without legal or factual foundation and, at least in form, put Hezbollah and Israel on an equal footing."

Accusing Arbour of getting her international law "wrong," Matas said she is "insensitive to context – the unwarranted, unprovoked terrorist attacks by Hezbollah and Hamas against Israel, and the need for Israel to defend itself."

Matas said that while her comments are couched in the language of international human rights law, she appeals to "anti-Zionist states who tyrannize the UN human rights institutions."

"These states care little about human rights and a whole lot about delegitimizing Israel through criticism of imaginary human rights violations," he said.

"Though it is probably unrealistic to have expected her to defend Israeli behaviour, she could have said nothing. By pandering to the anti-Zionist lobby, she has acquitted herself improperly."

By suggesting that Israel may be guilty of major human rights violations, Arbour feeds Hezbollah's and Hamas' propaganda machines, reinforces their commitment to terrorism and envenoms the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said.

"I regret that she has fallen prey to the corruption of human rights promoted by anti-Zionist states. I regret even more that the UN, in this case the office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, continues to self-destruct when asked to deal with Israel."

Dan Gillerman, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, was quoted as dismissing Arbour's comments as "totally irrelevant."

In an op-ed piece in the *National Post*, Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz described her remarks as "bizarre" and her knowledge of international law "as questionable as her understanding of morality."

***Please see related essay by Irwin Cotler on page 35***

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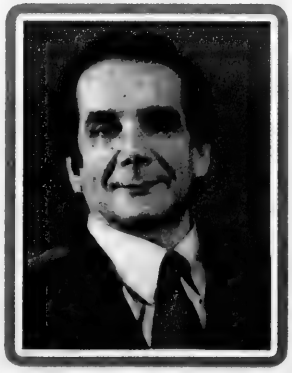

The Financial Times has just named Charles Krauthammer the most influential commentator in America. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Krauthammer has been honoured from every part of the political spectrum for his bold, lucid and original writing.

Born in 1950 in New York City, he grew up in Montreal and was educated at McGill University, then Oxford University and Harvard University Medical School. From 1975-78 he practiced medicine as a Resident and then Chief Resident in Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In 1978, he quit psychiatry and went to Washington to serve as a science adviser in the Carter Administration and, later, speechwriter to Vice President Walter Mondale. In 1981, he joined the staff of The New Republic where he was an essayist and editor from 1981-88. In the mid-eighties he began writing a weekly syndicated column for The Washington Post, which now appears in more than 100 newspapers, and a monthly essay for Time magazine.

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# Praise for Stephen Harper...

We give Prime Minister Stephen Harper a great deal of credit. Time and again, he has demonstrated the strength of will and the sheer personal courage of his convictions in resisting the near hysterical haranguing by the predictable herd of opponents that he return to a more "balanced" Canadian foreign policy toward Israel's dispute with its enemies.

In a recent op-ed piece in the *Globe and Mail*, Paul Heinbecker, the former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, bemoaned the fact that Harper actually supports Israel in its life and death struggle against Hamas, Hezbollah and their supporters. He urged the prime minister to "put Canadian interests above diaspora politics" so as not to favour "the cause of one group over another." The reference, of course, by Heinbecker to "diaspora politics," – i.e., pandering to the Jewish community of Canada – was the drawing away of his veil of bias.

But when the cause of one group is doctrinally – and one can add even ghoulishly – committed to the annihilation of the other, is a position that favours the right of the latter group to defend its life not the morally appropriate stance to take? Harper believes that it is.

And so do most Canadians. They understand instinctively, in a deep and elemental way, that despite animated, exorcised opinions such as Heinbercker's to the contrary, that Harper is correct when he stands *on principle* in supporting Israel against Hamas, Hezbollah and their sponsors. According to an Ipsos Reid-CanWest Global survey published on July 24, nearly two-thirds of Canadians – some 64 per cent – believe Israel's military response to Hezbollah's unprovoked attacks on July 12 has been either "completely" or "somewhat"justified."

We praise the prime minister for standing so resolutely on guard for Israel's right to live a free and democratic existence in the Middle East, one of the principles in which, to his everlasting credit, he steadfastly believes.

# ... and scorn for Kofi Annan

But we recoil in scorn for the way in which UN Secretary General Kofi Annan rushed to judge and condemn Israel, without waiting for all of the evidence, for having "deliberately" attacked the UNIFIL outpost in south Lebanon killing the four UN observers, including one Canadian. In the tense and suffering atmosphere of the ongoing war, his comments served only to incite more hostility and hatred toward the Jewish state. That, clearly, is not part of Annan's mandate, but yet it is sadly consistent with the United Nations' treatment of the Jewish state.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

The truce on the Israel-Lebanon border between Israeli and PLO forces remained shaky, as PLO fighters opened fire on a bus going to a kibbutz on the Israeli side of the international boundary. Adding to the tension in the area, Syria announced that it did not consider itself bound by the ceasefire.

Dry Bones
HEZBOLLAH IN LEBANESE HOMES
BY HIDING HEZBOLLAH FIGHTERS AND ROCKETS IN HOMES WE FORCED THE ZIONISTS TO KILL MANY OF YOU FOLKS.
BUT WE THINK WE CAN NOW DO EVEN BETTER!
WE'D LIKE YOU TO NOW START WEARING THESE
"SHOOT ME, I'M A TERRORIST" T-SHIRTS
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## Moral confusion

I was deeply saddened and disturbed by the recent comments of Conservative British parliamentarian, Sir Peter Tapsell, comparing Israeli strikes at Hezbollah targets in Lebanon to a war crime "gravely reminiscent of the Nazi atrocity on the Jewish quarter of Warsaw." It would seem that for Sir Peter, there is little difference between a country seeking to rid itself of an existential threat by bombing targets housing munitions and inadvertently killing civilians in the process, and the deliberate ghettoization, gassing and burning of innocents solely because they were Jews.

Confusion abounds in Her Majesty's Parliament it would seem. So too amongst like-minded individuals self-flagellating about Israel's "disproportionate response." An orgy of Orwellian agitprop is once again metamorphosing victim into aggressor and painting the Jewish state with the foul stigma of moral culpability.

Israel did not instigate this conflict. Israel responded to an act of war perpetrated against its sovereignty by a foreign terrorist group. To be sure, there are many innocent Lebanese who have suffered as a result of the Israeli campaign in Lebanon. But the relentless bombardment of images of destruction and human suffering must not be allowed to distract us, even for a fleeting moment, of where the blame for this dire and tragic situation lies: not with Israel, but with Hezbollah and their Iranian and Syrian puppet-masters.

In fact, Israel has behaved with suicidal forbearance, carefully circumscribing targets and taking pains to alert and avoid harming civilians while certain that such temperance would be used to the advantage of its enemies. And to what end? Hezbollah has continued to operate and deliberately hide its cache of munitions in civilian areas, hoping to maximize civilian casualties and parade pictures of maimed and bloodied women and children before the eyes of a war-sick world. Would that Sir Peter had found a few choice words to capture such depravity, cowardice and cynicism rather than demand that Israel buy the approval and goodwill of other nations at the cost of the lives of its own citizens.

I asked a friend last week to join me in a rally in support of Israel. "The way we're bombing Beirut's infrastructure! No way. I think we should lay low," was the reply. Beware the opaque miasma of moral confusion that gives us false reason to question the justness and necessity of our actions.

**Alain Murad**
**Montreal**

## Air Canada's kosher meals

I recently travelled with my wife and three children from Halifax to London, England, with Air Canada. I ordered kosher meals when I booked the flight some two months in advance of the departure date. The kosher meals were confirmed on my electronic reservation and appeared on my boarding pass when issued at the airport.

All proceeded without incident except that the requested kosher meals were not on board the plane. The flight attendants could do little except to note the incident and to promise that it would not reoccur on the return flight.

For the return flight to Canada from London, we had requested five meals but only four were on board. The four meals, however, had been prepared for Passover and were by this time some three months old.

This is not the first time that I have encountered problems with kosher meals on Air Canada. I present three possibilities: first is that all is well with Air Canada's service and that I have simply had a spate of bad luck; second is that these episodes are representative of a general sloppy approach to customer service and anyone who requests a special service is treated in a like manner; and third is the notion that there may be a disturbing pattern that cannot be explained satisfactorily through either bad luck or bad management.

Before arriving at any conclusion, assembling some data would be in order. Accordingly, I would ask readers to share with me any similar episodes that they may have had with Air Canada.

**Jack Novack**
**Halifax**
**Jack.Novack@dal.ca**

* * *

## OJA Ontario Jewish history grant

Some information was not included in the article "Grant awarded to document Ont. Jewish history," (*CJN*, July 13).

It should be noted that the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) is a department of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The article states that the OJA has not received a grant for 30 years. Actually, we have received at least 20 grants during the last 30 years. However, the OJA has not received a grant like this, which has allowed us to visit and produce histories and oral histories for these small Jewish Ontario communities, for 30 years. My predecessor, Stephen Speisman, launched a similar initiative 30 years ago. That project was funded by a generous grant from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

**Ellen Scheinberg**
**Director**
**Ontario Jewish Archives**

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# Readers respond to Israel at war

I am a former Liberal party supporter and pro-democracy community activist. Recently, I joined the Conservative Party of Canada.

I offer immense praise to Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his decisive and unequivocal language in defending Israel's right to simply defend itself. I haven't heard common sense and justice from a Canadian prime minister in years. Not just the Middle East but also Canada and the world, too, will be safer in these threatening times thanks to the leadership of our prime minister.

**Bruce Gilboord**
**Toronto**

* * *

It is gratifying and refreshing to have Prime Minister Stephen Harper express his unwavering support of Israel during the current conflict with Hezbollah and Hamas. He described the devastating attacks on Gaza and Lebanon as measured. What a far cry from the governments of former prime ministers Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin who, when speaking to Jewish audiences, contended they fully supported Israel and its right to exist and to defend itself. More times than not, this was followed by a slanted resolution by the United Nations against Israel, which was usually supported by Canada, or at best, Canada abstained. Finally, we have a government that recognizes the moral correctness of Israel's position and the terrorist evil that it is attempting to eradicate in Lebanon and in the West Bank and Gaza.

**Bert Raphael**
**Toronto**

* * *

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has strongly defended Israel's right to respond to attacks and kidnappings by Hamas and Hezbollah. The Harper government's firm support differs greatly from previous Canadian policy toward Israel, when Liberal governments tended to, at best, remain "neutral" in their position regarding the Middle East.

The current conflict was, as we know, initiated by Hamas and Hezbollah. This is no surprise.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, at the end of November 2002, in a broadcast on Lebanese television, said, "I encourage Palestinians to take suicide bombings worldwide. Don't be shy about it." He also promised a global terror campaign by Hezbollah itself.

A month earlier, then-prime minister Jean Chrétien had encountered Nasrallah at the Francophonie summit held in Beirut. Indeed, Chrétien's speech at the summit was delivered while Nasrallah was sitting in the front row. Chrétien made light of Nasrallah's presence, saying, "I didn't know. I didn't meet him. He was invited by the Lebanese government."

The Canadian Jewish Congress at the time passed a motion saying it was "appalled" by Chrétien's comments.

It would be hard to picture Harper in the same room with a Hezbollah leader. What a difference a change in the party that governs Canada can make!

**Henry Srebrnik**
**Charlottetown**

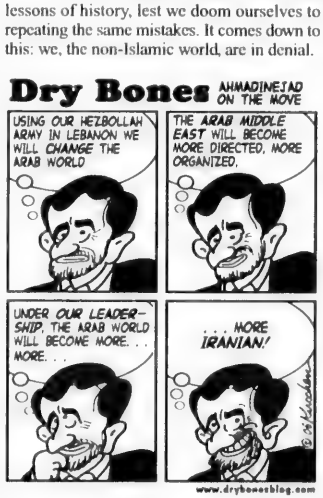
* * *

I think the time has come to draw lines in the sand.

I have been a pacifist all my life. I might, for myself, even choose death rather than renounce my pacifist values, but today, terrorists are aiming their guns at my children and grandchildren. We are being confronted by fanatics whose agenda is death: kill or be killed… and they gladly accept death and martyrdom for themselves.

New York, London, Riyadh, Madrid, Jakarta, Bali, Kabul, Baghdad, Mumbai… We are experiencing today the legacy of two men: the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khomeini and former president of the Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat. And the sporadic hypocrisy of some European nations.

It is useful at times like these to recall the lessons of history, lest we doom ourselves to repeating the same mistakes. It comes down to this: we, the non-Islamic world, are in denial.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AHMADINEJAD ON THE MOVE
USING OUR HEZBOLLAH ARMY IN LEBANON WE WILL CHANGE THE ARAB WORLD
THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST WILL BECOME MORE DIRECTED, MORE ORGANIZED.
UNDER OUR LEADERSHIP, THE ARAB WORLD WILL BECOME MORE... MORE...
... MORE IRANIAN!
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If the Muslim extremists are right and jihad, martyrdom, revenge and destruction or conversion of the whole world to Islam are a legitimate part of Islamic agenda, then we, the rest of the world, must declare unequivocal, unrestrained war on Islam.

If they are wrong, then the worldwide Muslim community has an obligation – both to itself and to us – to eradicate its own extremists. If they don't, can't or won't, then we have no choice but to do it ourselves – unfortunately, at a very high cost to innocents.

I will weep for all the innocents on all sides, but their suffering is a consequence of Islam's inability to look after the rot within. The number of innocents is growing and will continue to grow. The longer we wait, the higher will be the ultimate toll. I abhor war. But if I must, I accept it with resignation. It takes two to make peace.

I firmly believe the Islamic extremists are wrong, but that is just one man's opinion: it is not for me to answers that question. Either way, the choices are clear.

**Barukh G. Freesman**
**Toronto**

* * *

Now the peace movements of Canada, the United States, Great Britain and France are walking proudly side by side with Lebanese marchers and the marchers are never asked this question: which flag do you pledge allegiance to? The flag of Lebanon has at its centre a tree, which represents life. The one of the Hezbollah has a clenched fist with a semi-automatic rifle. I thought that peace groups were against all arms. Why then are they walking alongside those who swear allegiance to the clenched fist brandishing a semi-automatic?

Why is the peace movement not asking that the government in Lebanon attack Hezbollah to purge itself of the terrorist problem? Instead, Israel is being used to clean up Hezbollah.

Jews are being used as the unofficial police force of the Mideast. A thankless job that no one wants to do – let the Jews do it, let them clean up, and instead of saying thank you, criticize them, humiliate them and be against them… Why? Because it is easier to play the game of the ostrich than to be courageous and see life as it is.

**Celine Leduc LaSalle**
**Montreal**

* * *

The dismantling of the Iranian proxy, Hezbollah, would be a major blow against global terrorism, the rogue states Syria and Iran, and possibly even Iran's nuclear plans. But if Hezbollah emerges intact as a fighting force, Israel and the global war on terrorism will suffer significantly. Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states issued a rare condemnation of Hezbollah, as they fear the ramifications of its strength. Much of the Middle East has been engulfed by Islamic radicalism. Israel must remain strong as democracy's bulwark against the Islamic tide.

**Harry Grunstein**
**Hampstead, Que.**

* * *

I just got off the phone with the latest of my concerned friends and relatives who have called me because they are concerned for my safety. I, along with an entire country, am sad, frustrated and longing for peace.

I am sitting in my Tel Aviv apartment with the news blaring, listening to a reporter interviewing victims of the missile attack on the train station in Haifa this morning. My boyfriend just informed me that his cousin, one of the eight people working in the Haifa train station, was killed. He was murdered because he worked in a city that is close enough for the Hezbollah to attack. I was about to take a train to Haifa today to visit my cousin, but now I won't go.

Much of the international news media that I have been following online is calling for Israel to stop its attack. In Israel, the politicians from almost all the parties are strong in claiming that they will not be bullied into submission. This latest battle started with the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah. Hezbollah refused to return the soldiers, so Israel attacked their bases in Lebanon. Israel is being very clear that it is not attacking Lebanon, but the Hezbollah terrorist organization cells there. Citizens on both sides are suffering and wondering when will there be peace.

Growing up in Montreal, I always heard about the battles that went on with Israel and its Arab neighbours. I have been here for several months studying and doing research for my McGill University master's degree. It has been amazing, calm and fun – that is until now. Now I am being informed by the news media that I should check my apartment shelter and make sure that I have water there. This whole situation seems unreal. I, along with the entire country, am wondering how long will this go on and when there will finally be peace.

**Tania Korin**
**Tel Aviv**

* * *

The Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims is deeply saddened and disturbed to see the Middle East engulfed in flames of madness once again. We are struck by the callous disregard among those who are fanning the flames for the humanitarian cost of their actions.

What is most shameful is that those who could put a stop to this madness are unwilling to do anything while innocent lives are being lost. Efforts for ceasefire are being dismissed as too early in the game or as conditional on the actions of the "other" who is at fault.

What the regional players in this sad drama need to understand is that their actions are likely to achieve results that are totally opposite to their stated objectives. Future generations will have to pay the price for the short-sightedness of the current decision-makers. An ungovernable Lebanon is the best gift anyone can present to terrorist organizations of any stripe. Hezbollah and other extremist groups would want nothing more than an anarchistic land filled with homeless citizens who are consumed by hatred for those who have killed their loved ones. Hamas is strengthened by the mistreatment and dire conditions experienced by Palestinian civilians.

If the conflicting parties are sincere about protecting their populations and eliminating violence, they must accept the geo-political reality that both Israel and Palestine must have viable states and they must recognize that no matter how much brute force they use, in the end, they will still have to talk. The parties also need to abstain from the fiery rhetoric that on a daily basis dehumanizes the "other," exacerbates the climate of fear and invites retaliation.

We urge the United Nations to send an international force with appropriate powers to restore and maintain a ceasefire on the Lebanese and Gaza borders.

**Shahid Akhtar**
**Barbara Landau**
**Co-chairs, Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims**

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TRIAL BALLOONS
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SECURING THE LEBANESE BORDER
... WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FIGHTING FORCE
... LED BY THE FRENCH!
SO WHICH IS IT GOING TO BE?
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# Bigotry in the guise of piety

Before current allegations of sexual harassment involving him appeared in the Israeli media, the news that Israeli President Moshe Katsav refuses to address Reform rabbis as "rabbi" hit the headlines.

*Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto*

In response, the head of the North American Reform movement, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, decided that enough was enough. When the delegates to the recently held Zionist Congress were invited to the president's residence, Rabbi Yoffie boycotted the event.

Katsav complained that Rabbi Yoffie went to the media and blasted him at a Jewish Agency meeting, even though it was Katsav who first said on TV that he doesn't acknowledge Reform rabbis as being rabbis.

It has since been reported that the president will address them as "Reform Rabbi," whereas Conservative rabbis will be addressed in the proper manner. This is a baffling distinction, for Israeli Orthodoxy usually treats both with the same discourtesy.

By shortchanging Reform rabbis, Katsav is offending 1½ million Jews in the Diaspora. As it's inconceivable that he believes that Israel neither wants nor needs the loyalty and support of the Reform movement, one has to conclude that bigotry in the guise of piety got the better of him.

There has been speculation that Israel Meir Lau, Israel's former Ashkenazi chief rabbi, may succeed Katsav. Therefore, questions are now being asked about how he, an exponent of Israeli Orthodoxy, would relate to non-Orthodox sectors of the Jewish world. Will bigotry in the guise of piety get the better of him, too?

Katsav is setting a bad precedent. His decision endangers Israel-Diaspora relations and, at the same time, diminishes his stature. For whatever his personal views may be, he was elected to serve all of his country's citizens and to represent Israel to the world in general, and the Jewish world in particular. Snubbing Reform rabbis is an affront to an influential sector of the Diaspora and a growing minority in Israel.

There was a time when Reform Jews would take such treatment lying down. Their commitment to Israel was greater than their sense of self-worth. But that's no longer the case. Though their commitment has not diminished, their sense of self-worth has grown. Rabbi Yoffie's symbolic boycott reflects this more assertive approach.

Whereas in years past Reform Jews were prone to style themselves as victims of Orthodox political machinations in Israel (and in smaller communities around the world), this is no longer true. Reform has come of age. It expects that its presence and growth in the Jewish world, especially in the United States, will also be respected in Israel.

Katsav and his successors better take note if they want to be true to their mission and serious about working for the good of the Jewish people.

# My Ethiopian journey

From May 7 to 11, I travelled with my father to Ethiopia and Israel on a UIA Federations Canada mission called Keeping the Promise. The purpose was to see how Ethiopians – and especially Falash Mora hoping to travel to Israel – live, as well as to gain more understanding of the role of the Jewish Agency and Israeli Embassy inside Ethiopia, and envision new ways that Diaspora Jews can help Ethiopian immigrants to Israel during their long absorption process.

*Eric Goldberg in Halifax*

Like the historic operations of Moses and Solomon, Operation Promise, an initiative of the Jewish federations of North America, promotes the return of Ethiopian Jews to Israel and their absorption into modern Israeli society.

The contrast between Israel and Ethiopia became immediately apparent upon our arrival in the capital, Addis Ababa. Compared to the modern Tel Aviv skyline, the primitive bamboo scaffolding seen throughout Addis evoked a past millennium.

Our small group of 15 people was made up mainly of Jewish community leaders and professionals. I was one of two students on the trip. Micha Feldman, our group leader, had been in charge of the Jewish Agency's operations in Ethiopia in 1991 and organized the evacuation of some 14,000 Ethiopian Jews during Operation Solomon. His knowledge of Amharic, the Ethiopian language, as well as his his empathy toward the local people and his fascinating stories about Israeli diplomacy and heroism enriched our experience.

Our group was astonished at the conditions in Ethiopia, a country where male life expectancy is 47. Right outside our hotel was a shantytown where large families lived in small dung huts and children ran eagerly to their dilapidated school. The Grade 4 class there sang us English songs and proudly spoke of becoming doctors and teachers, much like Canadian kids would. We could only hope that one day their dreams will come true, despite their forlorn conditions.

The highlight of our short journey involved the Falash Mora, and specifically the 80 olim who would go with us to Israel.

Travelling to Gondar, the mountainous region where Ethiopian Jews traditionally resided, we witnessed first hand the work of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). In the middle of a desolate village, a Star of David was on the doorway of a compound where hundreds of families are interviewed daily as part of the process that will eventually put some of them on a plane to Israel.

Thousands of others who have sold everything to move to Gondar with the hope of going to Israel can only sit and wait. In this isolated place, we were amazed to find grown men putting on tfillin for the first time and tallits being woven in small huts. When we left this enclave, we were treated to an off-tune but invigorating version of *Hatikvah*. And as we proceeded on to an area with a synagogue, feeding area and medical centre, hundreds of kids began to follow us, and for a few minutes, we felt as though we were leading them on a road of hope.

The day we left for Israel was my 19th birthday. As we met "our" olim at the Israeli Embassy, I was surprised with a birthday cake. We watched the children eat the cake, which we later learned was worth three months wages for the average Ethiopian. Tears rolled down all of our cheeks when we discovered that the children had never tasted anything so sweet, and that they considered the day of their departure to Israel to be like a second birthday.

Later that night, we rejoined the olim as they were waiting to go to the airport. Dressed in JDC- donated clothing, many were overcome with exhaustion, emotion, and fear. Most had waited eight years, some even more, for the chance to go to Israel. One boy, who asked me for batteries for his new camera, was an orphan on his way to meet his grandparents, who had left Ethiopia prior to his birth. I couldn't imagine how I would feel having to uproot myself from my home at age 15 and travel to a strange land that I knew very little about.

Our promise is not only to bring these people to Israel, but also to hold their hands as they are slowly absorbed into their new society.

To witness our olim tightly grasp the Israeli flag when they disembarked from the plane in Israel personified for me the Jewish value of *"Kol yisrael areyvim zeh lazeh"* ("All Jews must care for one another"). Operation Promise challenges us to do more, specifically within Israel. We should not allow these new Israelis to lose any of their love for our land. As we strive to ensure that their grip on the Israeli flag stays tight, we realize that our own grip becomes tighter

*Eric Goldberg lives in Halifax and is entering his second year at McGill University. He is studying history and economics.*

# The joy of travel

This summer, I did something that I have not done for quite a few years – I travelled. The purpose of my trip was to attend my sister's wedding in Jerusalem. Now, since long-distance travel is not something I do often, unless you consider a 1½-hour bus ride a long distance, I tried to look at the entire process from a somewhat fresh viewpoint

*Gershon Richter in Winnipeg*

Everyone knows that before leaving, you have to make lists of items you can't live without, find all those items, and then put them in a suitcase. For most people, this is isn't difficult. A normal person would pack some clothes and toiletries. But not very surprisingly, my family situation was not entirely normal

Even though we would only need three suitcases for the three of us travelling, we also had a small mountain of things that my sister wanted us to bring her from Canada. Again not surprisingly, a small mountain of things packed into regulation size suitcases weighing no more than 50 pounds each becomes a small mountain of regulation size suitcases

After carting the luggage from the taxi into the airport and checking it all in, we discovered that the flight we had arrived two hours early for would be leaving an hour late. Although no official explanation was given, I assume that when the baggage handlers saw the amount of luggage we had brought, they needed an extra hour to throw around the suitcases until something inside them rattled. This is a good thing, because it is my understanding that any luggage that can't be broken is "accidentally lost."

The delay from Winnipeg followed us to Toronto. After disembarking in one terminal, we had to get to the British Airways counter, which happens to be in another terminal, at the farthest possible distance from where we entered it. After a frantic run, we reached the ticket counter, only to be told that boarding for our flight had closed just a few minutes before.

A nice British Airways employee took pity on us and radioed for permission to let us on the plane. Thankfully, after 20 slow minutes, we were allowed get on and even seated in a higher class than our original tickets were for. A long and comparatively uneventful flight to London followed.

London's major airport, Heathrow, looks more like a massive mall than an airport. Having some time to waste, my little brother, who is obsessed with shoes and sunglasses, borrowed my camera and proceeded to take pictures of all the shoes and all the glasses in the entire airport – or at least it seemed that way when we tried to review the pictures. We finally proceeded to the correct gate, where most of the people were recognizably and sometimes comically stereotypically Jewish. Not too long afterward, boarding began.

After everyone boarded, carry-ons were carried on, and the seatbelt light was lit, the flight attendant announced that as a result of weather problems over Germany, take-off would be delayed 50 minutes. For those 50 minutes, we would all get to sit in the plane as we taxied at the speed of a bicycle toward the runway where we would, eventually, take off.

While waiting, people naturally reclined their seats. One man, who had apparently never flown before (or perhaps never in coach), complained to the flight attendant quite vocally that when the person in front of him reclined, he had no room. He didn't seem to notice that he was in a plane full of people in an identical situation. The flight attendant happily moved the person who was reclining up a class to ensure that nobody reclined in that seat. Minutes later, a man who had "upgraded himself" was moved back and into the now empty seat. He reclined

The rest of the trip was pretty much a blur. I seem to have a low threshold for tired boredom, and I barely recall what happened, except to say that the food and the television were both predictably "airplane." Exhausted from sitting in one spot, we arrived in Israel. Further adventures will have to be recounted another time

The Kirshner File

# Israel battles Islamic radicalism on two fronts

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The two-front war Israel is currently waging in southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, areas the Israeli army unilaterally evacuated in 2000 and 2005, respectively, is unlike any it has ever fought.

In previous wars –1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982 – Israel faced threats from either Arab nationalist regimes or armed secular Palestinian militias. But in this conflict, triggered by the the naked aggression of Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel confronts a highly motivated, well-equipped and exceedingly dangerous enemy: Islamic radicalism, backed by Iran and its ally, Syria.

As Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said, Israel faces an "axis of terror" emanating from Gaza, Lebanon, Tehran and Damascus. Viewed from this perspective, the focus of the Arab-Israeli dispute has shifted radically and may never be the same again. This new enemy, whose openly stated goal is Israel's annihilation, is admired throughout the Muslim world, which seems convinced that Israel is a transitory phenomenon, a latter-day Crusader state.

Drawn together in an alliance of convenience, Iran – a staunchly Islamic state – and Syria an ardently secular one – are engaged in what can only be described as a proxy war against Israel. The crisis – which has exposed Israel's home front to the harshest realities of warfare since the 1991 Gulf War - suits them both. It distracts attention away from Iran's budding nuclear program, the subject of an increasingly rancorous, still unresolved United Nations debate. Syria, on the other hand, can breathe a sigh of relief that its complicity in last year's assassination of Lebanon's prime minister, Rafik Hariri, will be shunted aside.

What is also worth noting is the reaction of the Arab world. The Arab media has ritualistically excoriated Israel as the villain of the piece, notwithstanding the fact that Israel is defending itself. But important Sunni Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which fear Iran's growing influence in the region, have accused Hezbollah of adventurism.

The destabilizing role that Iran and Syria have played in this crisis is clear beyond a doubt.

Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has repeatedly shown himself to be a vicious opponent of Israel's existence, as well as an outright Holocaust denier, has backed Hezbollah to the hilt, as has his less extreme predecessor, Mohammed Khatami, who recently likened it to "a shining sun that illuminates and warms the hearts of all Muslims."

Iran, which turned on Israel in the wake of the 1979 Islamic revolution, has supplied Hezbollah with financial and logistical support, but more important, with the short-range and long-range rockets that have rained down on Israeli cities in the Galilee since the outbreak of the war on the northern front on July 12. All told, Iran is estimated to have sent Hezbollah upward of 12,000 rockets, one of which severely damaged an Israeli naval vessel and killed four of its sailors.

Iran's influence is also keenly felt in Gaza and the West Bank. At a time when western governments, including the United States and Canada, have boycotted Hamas for its refusal to recognize Israel, accept previous Palestinian agreements with Israel and cease terrorism, Iran has promised to funnel $50 million (US) worth of aid to Hamas. And by all accounts, Iran, through proxies such as Hamas and Hezbollah, has intensified its efforts to undermine a possible renewal of the diplomatic process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Syria, like Iran, has praised Hezbollah's kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers. The Syrians, under the leadership of Bashir Assad, have extended logistical assistance to Hezbollah. Iranian shipments of rockets, from the Katyusha-122 to the Fajr-3, are flown directly to Damascus and dispatched overland to Hezbollah. In addition, Syria has given Hezbollah long-range rockets. The projectile that killed eight Israeli railway workers in Haifa, a prime Hezbollah target since the commencement of hostilities, was sent by Syria, which has fought several wars with Israel.

Many Lebanese, particularly Christians, are weary of Syrian meddling in Lebanon's affairs and believe that Syria is partially responsible for Israel's retaliatory raids in Lebanon, yet they hold their tongues in fear of Syria's retribution. But in a rare departure from form, Nayla Moawad, the Lebanese minister for social affairs, has publicly blamed Syria for triggering the crisis in collusion with Tehran.

Whatever the case, Syria has remained relatively silent as Israel has imposed an air and sea blockade on Lebanon, bombed Hezbollah targets and hit Lebanon's infrastructure in a so far unsuccessful attempt to wean the Lebanese government and population away from Hezbollah. Syria, however, has warned Jerusalem that it will join the war should Israel launch a full-scale ground offensive. Last week, Israel's cabinet decided to forego a full-fledged invasion. For its part, Iran has threatened to intervene should Israel attack Syria.

Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz has said that Israel has no intention of occupying Lebanon, having learned the hard and bitter lessons of the 1982 invasion and the 22-year occupation that ended in May 2000 with Israel's hasty unilateral pullout from southern Lebanon. But last week, as Israel fought fierce and costly battles with Hezbollah in the strategic hilltop town of Bint Jbail after storming the village of Marun al Ras, Peretz and Olmert announced that Israel intends to set up a narrow security zone there until the arrival of international peacekeepers, whenever that may be.

The current United Nations force in southern Lebanon, UNIFIL, which was established following Israel's first invasion of Lebanon (Operation Litani) in 1978, has been largely ineffective in terms of preventing terrorism, and may yet be disbanded and supplanted by a beefed-up international force.

Hassan Nasrallah

With its withdrawal from Lebanon six years ago, Israel had every reason to think that its border with Lebanon would be more or less quiet. After all, the United Nations certified Israel's pullout. But Hezbollah – which emerged from the ashes of the 1982 war and then fought the Israeli army in Israel's self-declared security buffer – proceeded to claim that the withdrawal was incomplete. Hezbollah insisted that Shebaa Farms, a small area captured from Syria by Israel in the Six Day War, was really Lebanese land. Syria and Lebanon agreed with Hezbollah's position.

And so, less than five months after Israel left southern Lebanon, Hezbollah carried out the first of what would be numerous attacks on Israeli forces in Shebaa Farms. Hezbollah seized three Israeli soldiers, whose bodies were returned in a swap four years later.

Last November, Hezbollah tried to kidnap more Israeli troops, and while this abduction failed, Hezbollah never stopped shelling Israel's outposts in Shebaa Farms. Prior to last month's flareup in Lebanon, Hezbollah managed to kill a dozen Israeli soldiers and six Israeli civilians, yet Israel's response was comparatively muted.

But the incident on July 12, during which Hezbollah crossed the border, killed and kidnapped Israeli soldiers and shelled Israel, was, as Olmert declared, "an act of war" that would bring on "a very painful response."

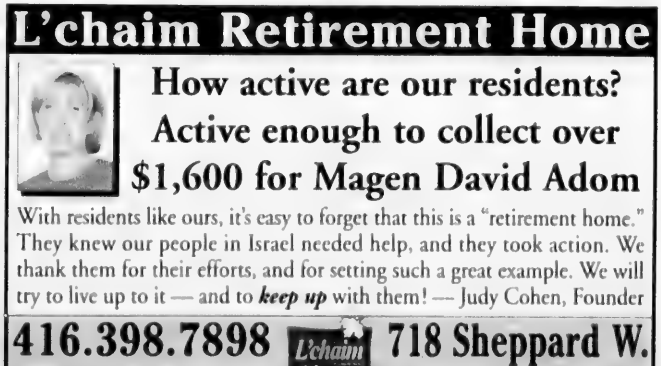
Israel's current offensive in Lebanon, Operation Change of Direction, is far bigger militarily and more politically ambitious in scope than either Operation Grapes of Wrath (April 1996) or Operation Accountability (July 1993). As one of its leaders has admitted, Hezbollah did not expect such a ferocious reaction, having assumed that Israel's response would be limited. But having been bloodied by Hezbollah's brazen raid, Israel is determined to change the status quo by restoring its military deterrence, pushing Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon once and for all, weakening its military wing, forcing it to disarm under UN Security Council resolution 1559 and persuading the ethnically divided Lebanese army to patrol the northern border. Whether Israel can achieve all these objectives is debatable, since the Lebanese government lacks the will and the strength to crack down on Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, in Gaza, Israel's goal is two-fold: to downgrade Hamas' power and to suppress the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel, particularly Ashkelon and Sderot. To date, Israel has not accomplished these goals in Lebanon or Gaza. Hezbollah has already fired 1,700 rockets into Israel, at a rate of about 100 per day, wreaking death and destruction, and unfortunately, Israel lacks the means to stop the onslaught. Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, has threatened to extend the range of the barrage to Tel Aviv, and in the meantime, the Qassams launched from Gaza keep flying.

The United Nations has called for an immediate ceasefire, but Israel, strongly supported by the U.S., wants more time, at least two weeks, to try to smash Hezbollah's capabilities.

The Bush administration has been very supportive because Israeli and U.S. interests coincide. Washington and Jerusalem are both committed to the post-Sept. 11, 2001, war against global terrorism, and the United States has a score to settle with Hezbollah, which, in 1983, killed 240 of its marines and blew up its embassy in Beirut.

Nonetheless, after Israel's bombing of a building in Qana, which claimed the lives of some 55 Lebanese civilians, Washington is under intense pressure to halt the fighting and give diplomacy a chance.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Israel at War

# Hezbollah/Hamas aren't just Israel's problems: former consul general

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

It's the responsibility of the international community "to contain international organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas," said Israel's former consul general to New York, Alon Pinkas.

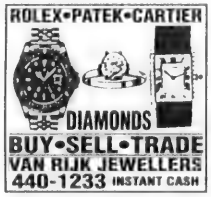
"If the world wants the Mideast to be friends with Israel not from a moral standpoint but from an economic and political standpoint – the world has to contain international organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas. It's not just in Israel, it's your problem, too," he said.

Pinkas, consul general from 2000 to 2004, was speaking at a session of the UJA Leadership Retreat and Emergency Campaign held in Barrie, Ont., on July 25.

He said Israel was sucked into the current conflict by Hezbollah. In order to establish a lasting peace, "Israel has tried negotiations, mediations. We have occupied. We have tried being the bullies, we have tried being the underdogs, and nothing worked."

Israel didn't take Hezbollah threats to kidnap Israeli soldiers seriously enough, he noted

Pinkus was part of the negotiating team for UN Security Council Resolution 1288, under which Israel left Lebanon in May 2000.




UN Security Council Resolution 1559 of 2004 called for the disarmament and dismantling of Hezbollah as a militia, for Syria to cut ties with Hezbollah, and for Hezbollah to stay away from the Israeli border – all motions that were never implemented.

"If we do not separate from the Palestinians because we are tied up in Lebanon, nothing will make Hezbollah happier. Nothing will make Iran, their manipulator, mentor and sugar daddy happier. Nothing. It's that simple," he said.

"They want us involved in Lebanon so that in 2015 the Palestinian and Israeli populations will be so entangled, that the Palestinians will say, 'You know what we want to see happen? One man, one vote – one bi-national state.' And then what are we going to do? If we disenfranchise them, we're not democratic. If we enfranchise them, we're no longer a Jewish state."

Pinkas added that "if there is one thing that unites these two competing strains [Hezbollah and Hamas] of the Islamic world, it's Israel."

He said that Israel's existence serves as a constant reminder to many countries of Middle East of their inadequacies, deficiencies and failures and of the fact that Israel's GDP is the highest in the region.

Pinkas described Hezbollah as being "undeterrable."

"We [assumed] that Hezbollah wouldn't launch missiles into Haifa because what we could do to them far outweighs what they could do to us. That was wrong. They couldn't care less about what we could do to them because we bomb civilian targets, infrastructure, and there'll be inevitable civilian casualties," he said.

"These people [the Lebanese] dislike Hezbollah, but they'll hate us for bombing [their country]."

Pinkas said Hezbollah feels as if it is competing on an equal footing with Israel's army, the strongest in the region.

"As we speak, an excess of 2,400 rockets have been fired into Israel and a million Israelis are living in and out of bomb shelters," he said.

Speaking of Iran, Pinkas said Israel does not have the capability to destroy Iran's nuclear program, as it is decentralized and underground, but that Israel "may be able to set it behind technologically."

He added that "the world may come to an end [through nuclear destruction] before it comes to an end from global warming."

Other highlights of the UJA retreat included a presentation by Ethiopian-Israeli Moshe Vobo about Sparks and Science, a science education program for Ethiopian olim high school students, and the speaker Hershell Ezrin, of the Canadian Council of Israel and Jewish Advocacy.

The UJA Emergency Campaign aims to raise $20 million to support Israel. At the time of writing, $8 million was raised.

# Canadian-born IDF pilot 'was a mensch'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Thousands of people in Israel attended the funeral for Canadian-born Thom Farkas, the 23-year-old Israeli Air Force pilot who was killed last week in a helicopter crash.

His aircraft went down north of Safed, about 15 kilometres south of the Lebanese border, on July 24, when Farkas and his co-pilot joined another helicopter to provide backup for ground forces. They were still over Israeli territory when they were hit by what may have been friendly fire. The Israel Defence Forces was investigating.

His uncle, Rick Kojfman, a Toronto resident who travelled to Israel when he heard the news, said in a phone interview from Israel that with the entire town of Caesarea – Farkas' hometown – coming to the funeral to pay tribute, the family needed a military escort to get in and out of the cemetery.

Farkas was born in Toronto and moved to Israel with his family when he was seven.

Every summer, however, he returned to Canada to stay at Kojfman's Muskoka cottage. "He was due to come again this year, but the air force cancelled all leaves. He loved Canada. It was the place of his birth and he remained attached."

Kojfman said he can't put in words the extent of the family's loss. "To lose someone on the threshold of life is beyond imagination. I cannot describe it, and I wouldn't want anyone else to experience it in order to understand.

"Not only his family, the entire town is devastated. He was a favourite son. Hundreds of people come to his shivah every day."

He described Thom as special, smart, talented and handsome. "He was a 23-year-old boy. He wasn't one of those guys that lived for flying. The last thing he wanted was to be in a war. He wasn't looking for a battle. He was more into playing his guitar, and spending time with his family and friends. Those are the things he valued.

"He had an extraordinary passion for life. He joined the army because it is mandatory. He had plans to finish college and travel after the army," said Kojfman.

Thom's great aunt, Bilha Szerman, said from her Toronto home that he was her treasure. "I can't even express what is in my heart. It is breaking to pieces. I wish I could talk [more] but the tragedy has [overcome] me."

Szerman, who fought along with her husband in the Israeli War of Independence, said Thom was a fighter, but "not the kind of fighter you think. He was a fighter for life

"He was good-hearted, he was a good son, a good nephew, a good person. He was a mensch."

Farkas also leaves his parents Anat and Doron, a captain for El Al Airlines, and two sisters, ages 17 and 11.

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Israel at War

# 'Israel's response is just,' Halifax rally told

By JOEL JACOBSON
*Atlantic Correspondent*

**HALIFAX** — More than 225 people waved small Israeli flags and heard impassioned speeches as they gathered in Halifax late last month to show solidarity with Israel as the conflict with Hezbollah and Palestinians in Gaza escalated.

The July 20 "Israel Unity Town Hall Meeting" at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, promoted by the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC), heard politicians and members of the Jewish and Christian communities stress their support for Israel's defence of its borders and its will to free its soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah and Palestinian forces a few days earlier.

Kings-Hants MP and Liberal party leadership candidate Scott Brison gave a very pro-Israel speech.

"I'm here as a friend of the Jewish people, not as a politician," he said. "Hezbollah started this conflict. They can end it by returning the soldiers and disarming. I support Israel in defending itself for this unprovoked attack."

Brison said he has spent time in both the Jewish communities of New York, where he lived and worked for a year or so, and in Israel, which he has visited.

"I am impressed with the resiliency of the Israelis. If more Canadians could spend time there, they'd see how wonderful Israelis and Israel are."

He stressed that only stable governments in the Palestinian territories and Lebanon will eliminate terrorism. "We [Canadians] are a free people. We respect and defend basic rights. We share beliefs of freedom, democracy and basic human rights. I stand by Israel and pray for peace in the Middle East."

Eric Malloy, the Nova Scotia representative for Bridges For Peace, a Jerusalem-based Christian organization dedicated to supporting people in Israel, said, "I'm honoured to stand alongside my Jewish friends here and in Israel. The world has branded Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorists. Israel's response is just. We stand side by side with the Israelis while praying for Palestinians and Lebanese to find peace."

AJC board member Jim Spatz read a message from Canada's minister for foreign affairs, Peter MacKay. "Hezbollah must take the first step toward peace. Canada demands an end to the attacks on Israel while urging Israel to exercise the utmost restrain and avoid citizen casualties and destruction of infrastruoture."

The crowd, which included more than 120 youths on hand from Camp Kadimah, located about 100 kilometres from Halifax, sang Israeli patriotic songs and heard a communal prayer of hope.

AJC president Mark Rosen informed people in the packed auditorium that "this conflict would not have occurred if Hamas had turned to state-building with the return of Gaza, instead of using their home as a base for terror, and if Hezbollah had been disarmed, as required under UN Security Council resolution 1559."

He noted there is no rejoicing in the destruction of Lebanon's infrastructure or in its citizens' hardships.

"Hezbollah and Hamas want to maximize civilian casualties on both sides by use of weaponry to create terror and maximum injury and then hiding from retaliation among the civilian population," he said.

# Hezbollah 'will never, ever' reach its goal

**Continued from page 3**

The rally, organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canada-Israel Committee, featured an address by Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto. He outlined his government's objectives in the current conflict with Hezbollah: to secure the release of the kidnapped soldiers and to remove the missile threat that currently has "over one million Israelis [living] as hostages... in their own society. This cannot be acceptable to any rational human being."

**MC Robert Lantos was cheered when he praised Prime Minister Stephen Harper.** *[Jessica Freiman photo]*

Although Israel has been attacked many times during its 58-year history, Brosh said, the enemy is different this time, "declaring clearly that its utmost objective is to totally obliterate the State of Israel... [and] to establish an Islamic republic in what is now Israel. We shall make sure that they will never, ever come even close to this goal," he said, to loud applause.

Brosh reminded the crowd that in the period before the kidnapping of the soldiers by Hezbollah and Hamas last month, in the less than 10 months following Israel's pullout from Gaza, Hamas has fired more than 800 missiles at Israeli cities and villages.

As well, during the past six years, the Lebanese government "failed to adhere to international demands... to deploy its own army along the international border with Israel. Instead the government of Lebanon has enabled Hezbollah to... amass an enormous cache of sophisticated weaponry for the purpose of attacking Israel."

What Hamas and Hezbollah will never understand, Brosh said, is that "when a democratic society feels that it faces a threat that will try to kill innocent civilians, this society will stand as one person, and cut the arm which will try to hit it."

The evening's keynote speaker, retired Canadian Maj.-Gen. Lewis Mackenzie, an experienced peacekeeper who has served in the Middle East, echoed Brosh's sentiments.

"This is Israel versus terrorism," Mackenzie said, "because, unfortunately, the government of Lebanon is not in a position to control a significant element within their own country. It [Hezbollah] controls a lot of territory and about 10 per cent of their people."

In order to help Israel, rally organizers suggest participating in radio call-in programs, monitoring the media for biased reporting, and calling the prime minister to thank him for his stand on the conflict. To contact Harper's office, call 613-992-4211.

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- Work with committees to plan and execute fundraising events, including an annual Gala.
- Coordinate, prepare for and participate in meetings with potential donors.
- Cultivate relationships with donors and make presentations as required.
- Research and identify prospective mid to large size donors.
- Identify foundation and grant opportunities, and complete grants applications.
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**Qualified applicants please send a confidential résumé & cover letter by 5pm, August 18th, 2006:**
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# Deaths of two Israeli soldiers touch Toronto hearts

## *Young soldiers left lasting impression*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

The death of two Israeli soldiers killed recently while protecting the country from Hezbollah has profoundly affected the lives of members of Toronto's Jewish community.

On July 19, Staff Sergeant Yonatan Hadasi z"l, 21, from Kibbutz Merhavia, was one of two Special Forces soldiers killed in action in Lebanon while preventing Hezbollah guerillas from crossing the border into Moshav Avivim.

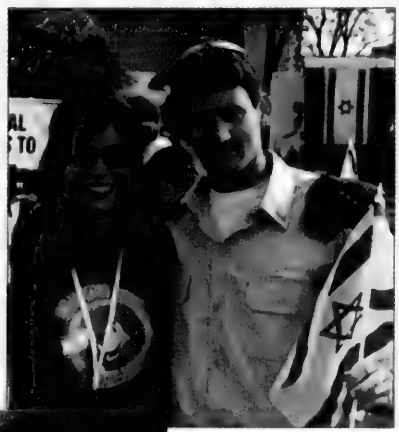
The next day, Major Benjy Hillman z"l, 27, a commander in the elite Egoz unit, was killed in combat during a confrontation with Hezbollah on the Lebanese front.

Both soldiers had strong ties to Toronto.

A career soldier, Benjy, who had married his sweetheart of six years just three weeks before his death, was in Toronto last year to take part in the annual UJA Federation Walk with Israel.

Yonatan was a popular participant on the February 2006 CIE (Canada-Israel Experience) Taglit *birthright israel* Mifgash program.

Mifgash, which means encounter, connects *birthright israel* participants with eight Israeli soldiers for five days. Often the highlight of the birthright program, Mifgash creates a strong bond between the Canadians and Israelis who, quite often, come to realize they have much more in common than they had imagined.



*Sara Zagdanski shares a smile with Major Benjy Hillman z"l at last year's Walk With Israel.*

*Staff Seargent Yonatan Hadasi z"l (left) with a friend during a February 2006 birthright israel trip.*

"According to Yonatan's parents, Mifgash with the Canadian kids was an extremely powerful and meaningful experience in his life," says Lorne Klemensberg, director, Israel Programs, CIE in Israel, who recently travelled to Kibbutz Merhavia in the Jezreel Valley to pay respects to the slain soldier's family.

"His mother and father told me that Yonatan found real meaning in connecting with Jews his own age from across Canada and Mifgash gave him a real perspective on what he was doing in the army. It was all the more moving when Yonatan's mother told us that he planned to travel to Canada to reunite with his new Canadian friends after he finished his service."

Torontonian Steve Glowinsky was one of three leaders of that 2006 *birthright israel* trip that introduced Yonatan to his new Canadian friends.

"That something like this could happen was always in the back of my mind; but you're still never quite prepared for those fears to become a reality," says the 24-year-old veteran of four *birthright israel* programs. "On this particular trip, the Mifgash program was by far the most successful I've ever been part of, thanks in no small way to Yonatan. He was such an outgoing, joyful, energetic guy with a tremendous sense of humour. The kids on our trip connected with him instantly. The fact that they won't be able to build a relationship with him in the future, is a real tragedy. We'd all be lucky to have Yonatan as a friend."

Sara Zagdanski, co-chair of the Walk With Israel for the past two years, housed Major Benjy Hillman when he appeared at last year's event. She immediately bonded with the charming and charismatic 27-year-old.

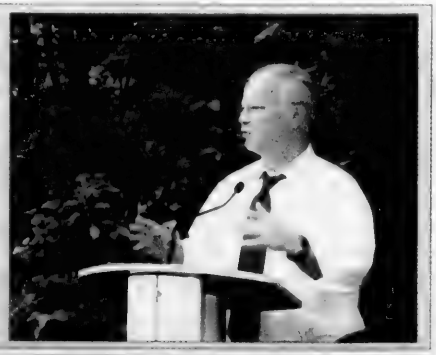
"We had the privilege and honour to host Benjy in our home for 10 days last year when he was here for the Walk," says Zagdanski. "This was his first trip to Canada. We spent so much time together and he quickly became a treasured part of our family; a big brother and friend to our kids, and like another son to us. I spoke to him a couple of weeks ago, only to find out two days later that he was killed. I am devastated by the loss.

"Benjy was a special neshema, a sweet and humble person with a quiet strength and confidence that was so reassuring," adds Zagdanski. "It's impossible to believe he is gone. He commanded his soldiers with such conviction and respect, devoted to them all, to his country and to his faith. He felt a deep responsibility to them and would not leave them at such a critical time, even if it meant delaying his honeymoon. He lived by the belief that the highest level of kedushah (holiness) is to die for Am Yisrael. While his death is a source of anguish and pain, his modesty and his humanity will remain an inspiration. The time we spent with Benjy was a blessing and we know now, as we knew then, that our lives were touched by a true hero of Israel. Let's pray for an everlasting peace for Israel so that Benjy's death, and those of all the soldiers, will not have been in vain."

## Leaders briefed on new campaign

UJA Federation leaders received a preview last week of the organization's new Israeli Emergency Campaign 2007 at UJA's leadership retreat hosted by Janis & Kenny Finkelstein at their cottage. The retreat, chaired by Bev Lyons and Mark Waldman, featured, among other speakers, Alon Pinkas, former Consul General of Israel in New York (pictured at right) who spoke openly and honestly about the current crisis now facing Israel.

"The bottom line is that deterrents do not work, it is a western concept and Hezbollah couldn't care less about what price the Lebanese civilians pay. Israel now has to create different options and alternatives that may not be that comfortable," he said. "Israel is here to stay and it should be the world's job to contain terrorist organizations and in the end it will be our job to rethink the Palestinian issue, and be creative about it. We need to think outside the box."



**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

## Young Judaea efforts go on despite outbreak of war

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

As part of an annual Canadian Young Judea Biluim Israel trip, 141 Jewish teenagers from across Canada headed to Israel in early July with great optimism and hope. None of them could have anticipated the situation that was about to erupt virtually days after their arrival. With courage and conviction all 141 participants not only decided to remain in Israel when others were leaving, but used their time to interact with Israeli teens giving them a diversion during the crisis.

The decision to remain in Israel was not taken lightly, but after careful consideration the leadership of Canadian Young Judaea, Canada Israel Experience and the participant's parents all came to the same conclusion; it was safe for the teens to remain in Israel and carry on with their program.

*Participants from the Young Judaea Biluim Israel trip spend some time with their Ethiopian counterparts in Kiryat Moshe.*

"The support from all the organizations and the strong parental support has been unbelievable," says Canadian Young Judea national director Risa Epstein. "I am just so proud of our kids and their parents. It's been just amazing."

A portion of the teens' preparation for their Israel trip was to raise $12,000 for underprivileged Ethiopian immigrant teenagers living in Kiryat Moshe. Unexpectedly the Biluim Israel participants had an even greater impact on the Kiryat Moshe teens than they had originally anticipated. Beyond donating money to the program, they spent time with their Israeli counterparts, playing sports, eating and taking their minds off of the difficult situation facing the country.

"After being at Kiryat Moshe for a day it made me realize the importance of helping others," David Tock, a trip participant and Toronto resident said. "It helped me see how easy it is to make a difference."

"It is important that Canadian Young Judaea is more than just a tour," said Josefa Michaelson, another trip participant. "We were able to make a difference half way around the world."

The trip which returns to Canada on August 8th has been adapted to remove excursions to the north because of the current crisis and the obvious risks. The trip has focused on assuring the safety and comfort of participants.

"It has been so meaningful for these teens to be in Israel at this time, said "Lorne Klemensberg, Director, Israel Programs, Canada Israel Experience. "And to know that the Jewish community back home is so supportive, and all the leadership is behind us has been unbeleivable. This level of backing is unprecedented."

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# UJA Federation launches Israel Emergency Campaign

## *$6 million raised in less than an hour*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ & SHEILA KORNHAUSER
UJA Federation

As more than one million Israelis are forced to live in bomb shelters for most of the day because of Hezbollah rockets, UJA Federation has begun Israel Emergency Campaign 2007.

The goal is to raise an additional $20 million over and above the annual campaign total for the critical needs of Israeli residents who are on the firing line.

Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 - chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks – became this year's campaign replacing the one that had been planned before Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and the war began.

Last week at an emergency meeting held before the Stand With Israel community rally, UJA Federation's leading donors pledged $6 million to kick start the Israel Emergency Campaign. The rally attracted 8,000 Jewish and non-Jewish Israel supporters and many dignitaries including Vaughan Mayor Michael DiBiase and Councillor David Shiner.

"It was an unbelievable experience sitting in a room with our top philanthropic families, and listening to their passion not only for Israel but for the Jewish cause," says UJA Federation chair, David Engel. "Their understanding of the issues and the dangers and their commitment to Am Israel make me proud to be a part of this community."

Campaign contributions will fund both short term and long term needs of devastated Israeli residents mostly in the north but in some southern communities as well.

Short term needs include moving children to safer areas of the country, temporary shelter for stricken Israeli residents, trauma counselling, food and medical supplies.

Among the longer term requirements are jobs for the newly unemployed, rebuilding businesses and physical reconstruction of devastated towns.

"As we all know, life can change on a dime, and so it has again for Israel," says Rohringer. "Literally overnight, the entire northern region became a war zone, under constant terrorist rocket attack. Over one million Israeli citizens, many living in northern communities with whom we have a special relationship, are on the firing line each and every day. Not since 1948 have the people of Israel suffered this type of attack on such a widespread scale. Israel deserves our steadfast support."

"Our community leaders were unanimous in their feeling that a campaign of this magnitude is not only possible, but mandatory as well," says Waks. "Israel merits all our energy in its time of crisis. The world as we know it is on the shoulders of Israel and it's incumbent that the Jews of the Diaspora turn all their energy towards Israel, for everything we hold dear is in the hands of the IDF."

*Some 8,000 Jewish and non-Jewish supporters of Israel attended last week's Stand With Israel Solidarity Rally at The Toronto Centre for the Arts and Mel Lastman Square. The rally was held to show support for Israel during this difficult period which includes daily missile attacks as shown in the photo from Haifa, far left.* *(Photo above by Jen Arron)*

"It seems in every generation, Jewish leaders need to step up to the plate and be counted when it counts the most," says UJA Federation president Ted Sokolsky. "Unfortunately, this is a generation that has been tested so often in the last 15 years when it comes to standing tall for Israel. I have every confidence, that once again, this will be a generation that answers the call, that stands up and proudly proclaims their support of our homeland and of the right of free people to live in peace everywhere in the world. This is a community that never steps back from its responsibilities; that chooses to lead rather than follow; that chooses to stand as one with Israel at every turn in its history."

For more information, or to contribute to the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, please call the UJA Federation Hotline at 416.631.5705 or visit www.jewishtoronto.com

# A day in the life of northern Israel

*Rebecca Malka, 51, a native of Montreal, has been living in Israel since 1997 with her husband Sami, 53. She currently lives in the northern city of Nahariya, located just 25 km north of Haifa and only 10 kms from the Lebanese border, which has been victimized by Katyusha rocket attacks. A mother of two, and grandmother of three, Rebecca has been keeping a daily journal of life in the beleaguered city which she shares with her family on an ongoing basis. This is what life was like for Rebecca and her family on Thursday, July 13, the first full day of the Hezbollah terror attacks.*

**Thursday, July 13, 7:10 a.m. –**

It's clear that nobody is going to nursery school or summer camp today! It's 7:10 a.m. and we just heard a deafening explosion so strong that stores shake and car alarms are triggered. Fear. Pure Fear! The sirens are wailing away. You can differentiate between the ambulances, police and fire brigade sirens as each has its own distinct wail. A Katyusha has hit the main intersection of Nahariya. This is normally where kids play on swings and slides. It's lined with shady trees and home to the Holocaust Memorial, ironically, less than a hundred meters from the Nahariya Police Station. We are instructed to run to bomb shelters and take cover. At 11:00 a.m. we are told to return to the bunkers again. We go home instead. Later that evening, at 7:25 pm, five minutes before curfew, we hear loud, earthshaking, deafening booms, much worse than this morning. We see a great ball of fire spewing thick black smoke near our store. We know this was a serious hit. There is panic and screaming. The phone rings. My husband Sami answers. My daughter Ettie is hysterical. Her building has been hit. She wants us to drive there immediately. We have to take a different road since the explosion has blown up an electrical generator causing a power outage. Her husband Tzachi shows us the shrapnel which has shattered his bedroom shutters, screen and window, sending broken glass throughout the room, and embedding in the wall. And, remember, these are cement walls! The baby is crying, Chai, my three-and-a-half year old grandson is petrified and Ettie is shaking uncontrollably.

*(top) Tzachi and Ettie Itzchaick with 3 1/2 year old Chai. (left) Osher, their 5 month old baby. (Below) Rebecca and Sami Malka.*

Ettie is now in the mamad (bunker room) with the kids on the floor. For the next two hours we try to get in touch with the police – to no avail. We try security, City Hall, no answer. Ettie and Tzachi decide to get a hotel room in Tel Aviv far from the terror

The next day a Katyusha hits the Haifa train depot garage. This is the shape of things to come. The same episodes over and over with different names and locations. Helicopters. Fighter jets. Boom Bam! You begin to let the sirens tell you which part of the city has been hit most recently by Katyushas. The whole north is now in danger. Everything is closed. It's becoming a ghost town. I have a pain in my left ear from the first deafening explosion at 7:10 a.m. this morning and my heart is still racing....

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

# Canada's position being noted in world capitals

**Continued from page 1**

Rae urged the government to "make the case for UN peacekeepers on the border between Lebanon and Israel, accompanied by a firm timetable for a ceasefire and disengagement." He called Hezbollah and Hamas, aided by Iran and Syria, the biggest obstacles to peace.

Ken Dryden called on the government "to aid and support the efforts of the United Nations to bring stability to the region." He urged the government to work with the G8 countries and other partners to help stabilize the region and provide humanitarian relief. He supported Israel's right to defend itself but added Israel was expected to "make every effort to spare civilian lives and infrastructure."

Peace would only come when Israel's right to exist was recognized by all her neighbours and when Iran and Syria ended their support for Hamas and Hezbollah's violence, he added.

In his statements to *The CJN*, Harper said, "I don't think the Liberal Party has a coherent position on this."

He said Canada should not treat a democratic state like Israel the same as terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. (Hamas instigated the current crisis when it seized soldier Gilad Shalit on the Israeli side of the border with Gaza.)

It is unreasonable to engage in dialogue with Hamas and Hezbollah as if they were democratic states. "Hamas and Hezbollah resort to violence not as a tactic, but as a matter of principle," Harper said.

Asked if he stood by his comments that Israel's response to the Hezbollah attack was "measured," the prime minister said that statement was made early in the crisis, which has turned into "a full-blown conflict." Speaking before the attack on Qana, in which at least 54 civilians were killed, he said Israel has the right to respond to Hezbollah attacks and defend itself.

Harper said he had spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on three occasions since the crisis began. Twice Olmert called to apologize and express regret over the killing of Canadians in southern Lebanon. Harper believes Olmert wants a peaceful resolution of the conflict with the Palestinians, with Israel living side by side with a peaceful Palestinian state. However, he added, "that's not the goal of Hamas and Hezbollah."

Opinion polls released over the weekend suggest the Conservative Party has lost political support in Quebec, British Columbia and Atlantic Canada, likely as a result of Harper's position on the Middle East. His personal approval rating stood at 60 per cent, however, substantially higher than the party's 39 per cent level.

Harper said the government's position on the Middle East was "principled and in the best interests of this country. We're not concerned with opinion polls. We take what we feel is the right position."

***Liberal leadership candidates offer their views***

Israeli ambassador Alan Baker suggested the government's position on the conflict was "consistent with Canada's function as a serious country fighting terrorism in Afghanistan and standing with a state fighting terrorism.

"Canada's position is consistent with the position of the international community, which has been repeatedly calling for the dismantling and disarming of Hezbollah in south Lebanon. [It is] completely consistent with Canada's values of supporting the right of a sovereign state to act in self-defence against a terrorist organization that is part of the world Islamic jihadist attempt to destroy the state of Israel."

Graham's position, Baker continued, "is a continuation of the non-committal and un-useful position that was held by the previous Canadian government, which neither helped advance peace or prevented terrorism."

Canada's position is being noted in world capitals, the ambassador stated, adding the government is remaining firm despite criticism from former Canadian diplomats who argue "Canada take a balanced approach, which basically means sit on the bench and allow terrorists to bomb Israel."

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Canada-Israel Committee, the Jewish community's lobbying arm on Israel, said, "We are enormously appreciative of the support that the government has extended to Israel."

Canada has played an important role in international diplomatic fora, he said, noting that "Harper and Canada were critical and central to the crafting of the resolution" at the recent G8 meetings in Russia.

The invitation of Foreign Minister Peter McKay to diplomatic discussions in Rome is a significant development, he added.

Harper's response to Hezbollah's unprovoked aggression displayed "clarity" and contributed to the international debate about the crisis, Fogel continued.

Harper "is a very unequivocal kind of guy. He takes a position and he articulates it clearly and moves forward. You may or may not like it, but you know where he stands. The Liberals tend to foster, by design, a certain degree of what they call constructive ambiguity, a reluctance to be pinned down on a specific position."

That gives them flexibility and credibility with stakeholders, but Harper believes "there is a right and a wrong and he wants Canada on the right," Fogel said.

Fogel suggested Harper's position may help the Conservative Party peel away Jewish votes in an upcoming election.

Among the broader population, Fogel said Harper's stand reflects on his leadership abilities. "He is seen as a leader, not flip-flopping, vacillating or sitting in the corner."

David Bercuson, director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary, said Canada's position as articulated by Harper marks a qualitative shift from the Liberal perspective, which held that Canada's influence would be enhanced by calibrating positions of "quasi-neutrality or balance," even on the great strategic issues of the day.

"This government looks at the world from a very different perspective. It sees Canada involved in this developing global conflict between jihad and the western industrialized liberal societies... so the enemy killing our soldiers in Afghanistan is the same rocketing Israel with Katyushas."

Bercuson suggested a political calculation was part of the equation when Harper set out Canada's policy, but was likely not the determinative factor.

Canadian Jews in Toronto and Montreal, he said, historically "treat the Conservatives badly." Had the Liberals formed the government, they likely would have taken Graham's approach. Canadian Jews for whom Israel is important "ought to think twice" when they next vote, he added.

Aurel Braun, professor of political science at the University of Toronto, said Harper has clearly put Canada behind a fellow democracy facing international terrorism. "It is a stand on principle," he said, and "the best kind of political consideration is behind it. You're looking out for the best interests of the country."

Braun said Graham is misrepresenting the traditional Liberal approach to foreign policy, which under Pearson did not seek to remain strictly neutral between parties for fear of losing his ability to mediate.

Braun said Graham seems to be seeking "some mythical middle ground between terrorism and the fight against terrorism.

"The Jewish community does not need to be tied to one party or another," he continued. "Citizens of Canada, Jews included, may move away [from the Liberals] towards those willing to act on principle."

## Correction

The caption for the photo accompanying the story "Yacht club hosts disabled Israeli vets" (*CJN*, July 20) incorrectly identifies two people. Standing on either side of Israeli group leader Offer Alon (second from left) are Allen Weinberg and Linda Weinberg, who were misidentified. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Jewish Organization requires full time
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- Experience in data entry and book keeping
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*Only those selected for an interview will be contacted*

**Dr. Ira Schecter**
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Only paid Mazel tov announcements can be guaranteed to appear in a specific issue, when received by deadline, 10 days prior to publication date. All other items will appear on a first come - first served basis as space allows.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to:

*SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!*

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Please keep all announcements to 25 words maximum. Send your photos to:

The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., #205 North York, ON. M3B 3K4
**or email them to:**
cblackman@cjnews.com

**Happy 85th, Mom, on July 15 from your husband Paul, your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends.**

**Happy birthday brothers Aaron and Ryan Moskovitz. Much love, Marla & David Nudelman.**

**Happy anniversary Bonnie & Earl Moskovitz. Love, David, Marla and baby Zack.**

**Mazel tov Galit Rodan upon graduating Queen's University. May your future endeavours give you much satisfaction. With all my love, Mummy and the whole mishpachah.**

**Happy "Special" birthdays to Lil and Ron Jacobson. Best wishes from Shawn, Joshua Hunter, Eryn Hailey, Mark & Elisa, and Sheila.**

**Mark & Risa Ebedes celebrated their first wedding anniversary on July 10. Dear RE, Happy anniversary! Love, ME**

**Mazel tov Stacy & Jeffrey on your engagement. Ecstatic parents Ernie & Bev Pinkus, Saul & Ellen Magder. Proud grandparents Ben & Dorothy Pinkus.**

**Lyla Rose Epstein-Shapiro, July 3, 2006. Loving family Cheryl, Michael and sister Adda; Grandparents Paula & Stanley Epstein, Monica & Barry Shapiro, Gertrude Birchwood.**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Tuesday, Aug. 8, is the deadline for the Aug. 24 issue, Monday, Aug. 14, is the deadline for the Aug. 31 issue, and Monday, Aug. 28, is the deadline for the Sept. 7 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 3

**TISHA B'AV PROGRAMS**

**Anshe Minsk Congregation** will have *Shacharit* at 9 a.m. followed by *kinnot* and explanations. At 5 p.m., they will screen a Tisha b'Av video *Do You Know the Way Home?* from the Chafetz Chaim Heritage Foundation. *Minchah* at 8 p.m. 12 St. Andrews St. 416-595-5723.

**Torah in Motion**'s program begins at 8 a.m. with *Shacharit* at Yeshivat Or Chaim. Following davening, there will be introductions and explanations of selected *kinnot* led by **Rabbi Jay Kelman**. The afternoon program commences at 12:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with **Dr. Eddie Breuer**, **Rabbi Reuven Tradburks**, **Rabbi Eric Levy**, **Rabbi Benji Hecht** and **Dr. Elliott Malamet**. *Do You Know the Way Home?* a video by the Chafetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, begins at 7:30 p.m. *Minchah* at 2 p.m. For information contact 416-633-5770 or visit www.torahinmotion.org.

## Saturday, Aug. 5

**PARSHAH DISCUSSION**

**David Schaeffer** will discuss the weekly portion, Va'etchanan, at 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433.

## Sunday, Aug. 6

**GOD AND INTERMARRIAGE**

**Jack Botwinik**, author of *Chicken Soup with Chopsticks* and dating columnist for *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, will speak on "Does God Care If I Marry a Gentile?" sharing his struggles dating a Chinese woman and how his interfaith journey led them both to observant Judaism. 7 p.m. Congregation Beth Shalom West, 15 Chartwell Ave., Ottawa. No charge. 613-723-1800.

## Tuesday, Aug. 8

**GARAGE SALE**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, holds a garage sale every Tuesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through the summer with a selection of new and gently used clothing and shoes for the whole family, books, toys, games and housewares. 4700 Bathurst St. Proceeds support NCJW programs and services, including women's shelters, breakfast clubs and seniors enrichment programs. 416-633-5100.

**SUMMER SERENADES**

Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents "Summer Serenades," an evening of diverse music from jazz to Broadway featuring **Aviva Chernick**, **Lauren Schneider** and **Michele Tredger**. $10 at the door. 8 p.m. 3080 Bayview Ave. 416-221-3434.

**SUMMER CONCERT**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Tuesday Night Live, a series of concerts every Tuesday through Aug. 29 at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Tonight, The Entertainers from the Wagman Centre. 7 p.m., free admission. For information, call 416-395-7873.

## Other News

**BOOMERS' EXPERIENCE**

"Get Back: The Boomer Experience, Growing Up Jewish in the 1950s, '60s and '70s," an exhibit of nostalgic memorabilia and artwork that evokes memories for boomers is at the Baycrest Heritage Museum, 3560 Bathurst St. until Friday, Aug. 18. Free admission and tours. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2802.

**GOLF OUTING**

Join Temple Israel, London, for a day of golf and fun, Sunday, Aug. 27, at Westminster Trails Golf Club. $80 golf and dinner, $45 dinner only. 519-858-4400

**Continued on page 21**

Canadian Friends of
Haifa University

At this time of crisis in the Middle East, Canadian Friends of Haifa University stands with the community in solidarity with the State of Israel and its citizens.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with our friends and colleagues at the University of Haifa, who have been particularly hard-hit by the constant bombardment.

Even though the University of Haifa had to close its doors, and many of its students have been drafted to the army, the University continues to fulfill its social mission in the broader community. The Interdisciplinary Psychological Treatment Centre at the University of Haifa, headed by Dr. Rivka Yahav, wife of Mayor Yona Yahav, has opened a 24-hour 'Hot Line' staffed by a volunteer team of psychologists, social workers and art therapy specialists from the University community. All local residents of Haifa, as well as members of Israeli society at large in need of counselling or assistance, may call in.

We pray that the hostilities will end soon and that an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence, tolerance and mutual respect will prevail in the region.

Peter L. Biro
National President

Hetty Shapiro
National Executive Director

For more information, please contact Canadian Friends of Haifa University
(Toronto) 416.972.9400 (Montreal) 514.735.8500 info@haifa-univ.ca www.haifa.ac.il

What's New

**Continued from page 20**

***SOUTH PACIFIC***

Emunah Women invite members and friends to join them for a performance of *South Pacific* at the Avon Theatre in Stratford on Wednesday, Aug. 30. $118. For tickets, call 416-636-0036.

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

JACS Toronto, an organization dedicated to encouraging and assisting alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and their families and friends to explore recovery in a nurturing Jewish environment, is holding a Women's Spiritual Retreat, "I Love Myself Because…" Sept. 15-17 in Collingwood. For information, call 416-410-5227 or visit www.jacstoronto.org.

**HEBREW CLASSES**

Karen Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for the fall session of Hebrew language classes for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught in the morning and evening on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 5. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. To register, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

**PAGES OF TESTIMONY**

The Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto is assisting Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as they assemble the Pages of Testimony, a collection of the names and biographical details of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. So far, three million have been collected. If your loved one's name does not appear on the website, www.yadvashem.org, JIS can help include them in Yad Vashem's list. Call 416-635-5600.

**PROGRAMS FOR TOTS**

Adath Israel Congregation offers "A Special Time For Yeladim." Programs include Mommy and Baby Yoga, SNAP, Music and Movement. Register now. For a full listing of programs visit www.adathisrael.com and click on "tots" or call 416-635-5340.

**MELTON MINI-SCHOOL**

Registration is open for the Melton Adult Mini-School, a text-based course of study. Classes begin Oct 4, morning or evening. Call **Loretta Tanenbaum** at 416-789-7400 for information.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St., #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafes: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in 2 locations, BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext. 28.

Family To Family Project is looking for Canadian families who are interested in helping new immigrant families as they begin their lives in Canada. For information, call **Allison** at ext.28.

## FOR SENIORS

**The Association for Jewish Seniors** installation breakfast takes place Thursday, Aug. 17, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with entertainment by **Mickey Lewin**. Members free, guests $2. To reserve, call **Tammy Parker**, 416-635-2860.

**Chai Shalom** presents a multicultural concert with violinist **Michael Ziskind**, Monday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Reserve by Aug. 24. Members $6, non-members $8. Yearly membership $15. On Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2 p.m. Chai Shalom offers a trip to see *South Pacific* at Stratford's Avon Theatre. $75 including transportation. Call 416-633-3838 for tickets to both events.

**The Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dances begin again on Sept. 3; Casino Rama, Wednesday, Aug. 9; Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Aug. 29; Bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Come out for the Sunday Fitness Classes. Pilates, 9-10 a.m. Stretch and Strengthen, 10-11 a.m.

Boost Your Memory – enjoy trivia, games and riddles every Thursday at 11 a.m. Free.

Israeli Etrog Club, Tu b'Av party for Hebrew speakers, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m. All welcome. Call **Dvora** 905-763-2728.

Preventing and Dealing with Abuse and Neglect with **Judy Weiss**, Thursday, Aug. 10, 1 p.m. Free.

"Good Government: What Constitutes Good Government? Why Can't We Have More of It?" with **Hugh Innes**, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Summer Festival with special lunch, market and entertainment, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join the Bernard Betel Centre for High Holy Day services with **Cantor Ron Graner**. Members $75, non-members $85, add $15 for reserved seating.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

World Affairs Discussion, Mondays 3-4 p.m. Call **Melissa** at ext. 2297 for information.

Book and Munch Club: short stories are read aloud by group members, and then a discussion takes place. Bring your favourite stories and share your writers with the group. Wednesdays 12-1:15 p.m., in the Volunteer Lounge. Bring your lunch. Call **Monica**, ext. 2273, for further details.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Friday, Aug. 11 and Aug. 25, 1-3 p.m. in the Volunteer Lounge. Call **Melissa**, ext. 2297.

The Wagman Third Annual Barbecue will take place on Thursday, Aug. 10, between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Enjoy a hamburger, hot dog or veggieburger while being entertained by **George Grossman**. Tickets $8 for members, $12 for guests. For information, call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

This summer, the Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum, Toronto's hands-on Jewish children's museum for kids age 5 and under and their families, is running Wednesday Morning Circle Time and Thursday Morning Shabbat Parties. Both programs include song, dance, stories and more and run in the museum at 10:15 am. Free with museum admission of $2.50 per person. Museum members free. Call ext. 390 for more details.

Lunch 'n' Learn, Friday, Aug. 4,with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, 12-1 p.m. in room 202. No charge.

"Fray," an exhibit at the Koffler Gallery through Oct.13. Artists explore the implications of memory embodied in the design, materials and processes associated with textile traditions.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts is running classes and workshops over the summer in a number of areas including ceramics and stone, painting, printmaking, life drawing and portraits.

Limited spaces available for September for morning Tic Tac Two Program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers and senior kindergarten. For more information, call ext. 248, or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music offers Rock Band, Broadway All-stars Vocal, Boogie Babies & Jammin' Tots with Deborah, Opera Is Cool for Kidz with Judy, brass ensembles, cello ensembles, band. For information, call ext. 228.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

**HAIFA FOUNDATION: While in Toronto to appear in the play *Golda's Balcony*, Valerie Harper recently particpated in a Haifa Foundation event. The organization helps provide summer day camps for children in bomb shelters; assists fire brigades, Magen David Adom and medical centres; and is establishing a capital loan foundation for small businesses shut down by the current bombings. For information, call 905-707-5598. Seen, from left, are foundation executive director Maya Goldenberg, chair Toby Feldberg, Harper and Raquel Benzacar Savatti, director of State of Israel Bonds Women's Division.**

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26***

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

# OBITUARIES and Related Notices

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

## BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ada Silverman | Jul 8/06 | 21 Mayfair Avenue |
| Isaac Plotkin | Jul 9/06 | 784 Centre Street |
| Lola Weiss | Jul 9/06 | 65 Abbeywood Trail |
| Bertha Baker Levine | Jul 10/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Lee Pape | Jul 10/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Rachel Krebs | Jul 10/06 | 152 Lyndhusrt Drive |
| Yolande Sassoon | Jul 11/06 | 140 Theodore Place |
| Pamela Gottlieb | Jul 11/06 | 2550 Pharmacy Avenue |
| Rosa Blitz | Jul 12/06 | 55 Ameer Avenue |
| Sara Allison Shapiro-Ama | Jul 12/06 | 660 Briar Hill Avenue |
| David Berger | Jul 12/06 | 49 Green Acres Road |
| Nancy Groll | Jul 13/06 | 17 Magpie Crescent |
| Eli Posner | Jul 15/06 | 10 Martha Eaton Way |
| Jacquelyn Jay | Jul 15/06 | 19A Lonsdale Road |
| Jack Beitchman | Jul 15/06 | 15 Rockford Road |
| Cecil Gilbert | Jul 16/06 | 1166 Bay Street |

## Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Herz, Lisa | July 3/06 | Private |
| Rabinovich, Rosalyn | July 3/06 | 7905 Bayview Ave |
| Cukerman, Julia | July 4/06 | 150 Neptune Dr |
| Weinstein, Majer Nuchem | July 4/06 | 5935 Bathurst St |
| Bogorad, Daniel | July 4/06 | Private |
| Bernstein, Nora | July 5/06 | 745 New Westminster Dr |
| Gabriel, Salomon | July 6/06 | 421 Paliser Cres. S |
| Bitterman, Morris | July 6/06 | 11 Dorchester Dr |
| Hanauer, Mary | July 7/06 | 20 Jenkinson Grove |
| Wiseberg, Leonard | July 9/06 | 261 Maxwell St |
| Traurig, Michael (Mosze, Morris) | July 10/06 | 32 Mullholland Dr |
| Avtonski, Abraham Israel | July 10/06 | Private |
| Bartsch, Lorraine | July 10/06 | 2900 Bathurst St |
| Barg, Clara | July 11/06 | 4455 Bathurst St |
| Peer, Mordehai | July 11/06 | 1101 Steeles Ave. W. |
| Gutman, Karol | July 11/06 | Private |

### OBITUARY

**MARY WALSH, NÉE MINTZ,**

passed away on July 12, 2006, at the age of 89. She left behind her son Timothy, her daughter-in-law Victoria, her grandsons Anthony and Martin and Martin's girlfriend Thida Hing, all of whom loved her dearly, and a large number of good friends and relatives.

A memorial service will be held in the smaller chapel of The Mount Royal Funeral Complex, 1297 Chemin de la Forêt, Montreal, Que. at 3PM Friday, August 4.

Those who are unable to attend but who wish to have a eulogy read on their behalf can communicate it to: Timothy Walsh, 2155 Saint Jacques W., Mtl, Que. H3J-2T6, (514) 933-5094 walsh.timothy@uqam.ca <mailto:walsh.timothy@uqam.ca>

The Family of the late

**JAMIE VICKERY** ז"ל

Wishes to extend there sincere appreciations to all our friends and family for the generous donations, good wishes, love and support during this time of loss and great sadness.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**BERT MEYER COHEN** ז"ל

will take place

**Tuesday, August 8th, 1:00 p.m.**

**Holy Blossom Memorial Park**

Bumley Rd. South of Sheppard Section One

*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**ALAN OCKRANT** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, Aug. 13th, 11:00 a.m.**

**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**

Pride of Israel Section

*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The late

**GAIL KRASHINSKY** ז"ל

The Krashinsky and Shnabel families, Erica and Jay would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all their friends for their overwhelming support, thoughtfulness and caring.

Your kind expressions of sympathy and generous donations are greatly appreciated.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**HAROLD SOUPCOFF** ז"ל

will take place

**Friday, August 18th, 11:30 a.m.**

**Mt. Sinai Memorial Park**

9986 Wilson Ave

Beth Sholom New Section

*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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**SAPIR, Susan** ז"ל - In Israel, on Monday, June 19th, 2006, Susan passed away surrounded by her adoring family Daughter of Irving and the late Anne Strasberg, beloved wife of Rony and loving mother and mother-in-law of Gilad and Mika, Yael and Dana. Proud and loving savta of Noam Sapir Susan is very sadly missed by her sisters, Rhona Noble and her husband, Larry and Debby Ruben and her husband, Bruce Shapiro, as well as many relatives and friends. The funeral was held in Rehovot, Israel, on Wednesday, June 21st

If you wish, the family would appreciate memorial donations made to the Susan Sapir Memorial Fund at the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science Please call 416 733-9220 for more information

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Jewish Life

# Reach out and touch Israel

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

Loneliness is a curse. No one wants to be without a companion who worries about our welfare. We all have an existential need, to quote the old AT&T ad, to "reach out and touch someone."

I saw many examples of this lesson on a recent trip to Israel, where I was part of a delegation sent by the Montreal Jewish community. In visits to hospitals, shelters and shivah houses, I saw over and over again eloquent testimony to the power of the hug and the handshake.

One image burned into my mind is that of a father hugging his two daughters. Right after our group drove into Haifa, the air raid siren went off. We ran out of the car and took cover behind a tree. A couple, along with their two young daughters, were already there. The two girls were crying and shaking with fear. I watched as their father gently took them in his arms and hugged them tightly. In the comfort of a loving embrace, the girls slowly calmed down. Remarkably, even in this moment of crisis, a simple hug had made all the difference.

Elsewhere, we saw how handshakes and good wishes can have an impact. According to the rabbinic tradition, a visit can improve a sick person's health. At the Rambam hospital in Haifa, we visited Moshe, a 90-year-old immigrant from Ukraine. Moshe was injured after a wall in his house collapsed on him during a Katyusha attack. Moshe has no family left in Israel and was quite delighted to have visitors from halfway across the world. As we left his room, he had a twinkle in his eye, transformed by a simple visit.

Comforting mourners, another rabbinic commandment that requires the personal touch, is a dual responsibility. First, we come to offer our support to the mourners. In addition, we come to honour the dead. In one of the more difficult moments during the trip, we visited the shivah for Yaniv Bar-On, a soldier killed on the first day of the conflict, and met with Yaniv's parents, Carleen and Erol Bar-On. (Carleen is a former Montrealer who made aliyah many years ago.)

We came to offer our condolences and to show our respect for Yaniv. We read a copy of Erol's moving eulogy, one that he wrote through tears, about a son who was sensitive and sweet, a true patriot with a passion for life. Yaniv was a mensch and a good person, a military hero who gave his life for the State of Israel.

Yaniv was part of Unit 7, a unit started by Holocaust survivors. The survivors who founded the unit, did so to ensure a better future for the Jewish people. Through their sacrifice, they transformed Jewish history forever. They have left us an Israel that is truly a living miracle.

Unfortunately, this miracle still requires sacrifices. This time, it was Yaniv who had to make the ultimate sacrifice. That is why we came to his shivah, to show respect for a hero who gave his life for the State of Israel.

While we had come to comfort others, we were also inspired by what we saw.

We met with an American immigrant living in Tiberias, who told us how the people of the city were greeting the Katyusha attacks with a mixture of determination and stubbornness. Indeed, this attitude was on display wherever we went. At a grocery store in Tiberias, the owner proudly exhibited a sign that said, "We are not afraid." When we chatted with the owner, an avuncular elderly man, he reminded us that Israel had endured all of this before and would continue to thrive and grow.

In the centre of Tiberias, we saw the mayor standing on a street corner handing out Israeli flags, which were immediately taken by all passersby before they continued on, proudly clutching their flags. We came to Tiberias to comfort; we left inspired.

Saturday night in Jerusalem, I stopped in a store. The saleslady told me her brother had just got an "Order 8," which means he has to report immediately. She was worried about him, and asked me if I too was worried by the situation, and perhaps planning to go home early. I told her on the contrary, I had come because of the attacks, to show my support for Israel. This response stunned her momentarily, and she then repeated a few times, "I am so touched."

I realized then what Israel needs most. Yes, Israel needs our financial help and political advocacy. But most importantly, Israelis need us to "reach out and touch someone." Nothing can replace the personal connection. We need to call, to write letters, and yes, we need to visit Israel, to let Israelis know how much we really care.

*Rabbi Steinmetz, a regular columnist with* The CJN, *is the spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal. He was in Israel last week with Luciano Del Negro, the executive director of the Quebec-Israel Committee, (QIC), Rabbi Reuben Poupko and Gil Troy. The trip was planned and organized by the QIC.*


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Our condolences go out to the entire family. May they be comforted together with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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# The predictable condemners

**By ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ**

Guest Voice

The Hezbollah and Hamas provocations against Israel once again demonstrate how terrorists exploit human rights and the media in their attacks on democracies.

By hiding behind their own civilians, the Islamic radicals issue a challenge to democracies: either violate your own morality by coming after us and inevitably killing some innocent civilians, or maintain your morality and leave us with a free hand to target your innocent civilians.

This challenge presents democracies such as Israel with a lose-lose option, and the terrorists with a win-win option.

There is one variable that could change this dynamic and present democracies with a viable option that could make terrorism less attractive as a tactic: the international community, the anti-Israel segment of the media and the so-called "human rights" organizations could stop falling for this terrorist gambit and acknowledge that they are being used to promote the terrorist agenda.

Whenever a democracy is presented with the lose-lose option and chooses to defend its citizens by going after the terrorists who are hiding among civilians, this trio of predictable condemners can be counted on by the terrorists to accuse the democracy of "overreaction," "disproportionality" and "violations of human rights."

In doing this, they play right into the hands of the terrorists, causing more terrorism and more civilian casualties on both sides. If instead this trio could, for once, be counted on to blame the terrorists for the civilian deaths on both sides, this tactic would no longer be a win-win situation for the terrorists.

It should be obvious by now that Hezbollah and Hamas actually want the Israeli military to kill as many Lebanese and Palestinian civilians as possible. That is why they store their rockets underneath the beds of civilians; why they launch their missiles from crowded civilian neighbourhoods and hide among civilians. They are seeking to induce Israel to defend its civilians by going after them among their own civilian "shields." They know that every civilian they induce Israel to kill hurts Israel in the media and the international and human rights communities.

They regard these human shields as *shahids* – martyrs – even if they did not volunteer for this lethal job. Under the law, criminals who use human shields are responsible for the deaths of the shields, even if the bullet that kills them came from the gun of a policeman.

Israel has every self-interest in minimizing civilian casualties, whereas the terrorists have every self-interest in maximizing them – on both sides. Israel should not be condemned for doing what every democracy would and should do: taking every reasonable military step to stop the terrorists from killing their innocent civilians.

Now that some of those who are launching rockets at Israeli cities have announced that they have new surprises in store for Israel that may include chemical and biological weapons, the stakes have gotten even higher.

What would Israeli critics regard as "proportioned" to a chemical or biological attack? What would they say if Israel tried to pre-empt such an attack and, in the process, killed some civilians? Must a democracy absorb a first strike from a weapon of mass destruction before it fights back? Would any other democracy be expected to do that?

The world must come to recognize the cynical way in which terrorists exploit civilian casualties, They launch anti-personnel rockets designed to maximize enemy civilian casualties, then they cry "human rights" when their own civilians – behind whom they are deliberately hiding – are killed by the democracies who are trying to prevent further acts of terrorism.

The very idea that terrorists who use women and children as suicide bombers against other women and children, and shed crocodile tears over the deaths of civilians they deliberately put in harm's way, gives new meaning to the word "hypocrisy." We all know that hypocrisy is a tactic of the terrorists, but it is shocking that others fall for it and become complicit with the terrorists.

Let the blame fall where it belongs: on the terrorists who deliberately seek to kill enemy civilians and give their democratic enemies little choice but to kill some civilians behind whom the terrorists are hiding.

Those who condemn Israel for killing civilians being used as human shields and swords for the terrorists actually cause more civilian deaths and make it harder for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank.

How the world reacts to Israel's current military efforts to protect its citizens will have a considerable impact on future Israeli steps toward peace. Prior to the recent kidnappings and rocket attacks, the Israeli government had announced its intention to engage in further withdrawals from large portions of the West Bank.

But how can Israel be expected to move forward with any plan for withdrawal if all it can expect in return is more terrorism what the terrorists regard as "land for rocket launchings" – and more condemnation when it seeks to protect its civilians?

*Alan Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University and the author of* Preemption: A Knife that Cuts Both Ways. *This essay first appeared in the* Jerusalem Post.

# A prayer for the soldiers of Israel

**By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON**

Through A Sephardi Window

This again is a time of crisis, a time when we find ourselves searching the media for any update or morsel of news.

Whether tuning in electronically or turning the printed pages, one is immediately inundated with all forms of analysis and editorials. These will invariably range from the frank to the frustrating, the well-informed and the blatantly anti-Israel.

In this space, rather than placing my own thoughts as a (needless) addition to all of the other endless ones, I ask you instead to read the following. Only I do implore you not just to read these words, but to pray them.

You see, to "hope for the best," is not a sufficient solution. In fact, it is not really a solution at all. While each of us has our own particular means and ways to respond and support, and we should certainly vigorously continue to pursue every single one of these venues, all of us can offer our prayers to God.

Prayer, especially at a time of crisis is essential. Said with a pure heart and in unison as a people, as brothers and sisters, it has a tremendous and dynamic energy; its effect is guaranteed. Already, in all synagogues and yeshivot worldwide, the regular services are concluding with a special recital of tehillim. Some have been incorporating the *Avinu Malkeinu* of the High Holy Day season as well.

We can all turn to God as one on this.

The following is a translation of the traditional prayer for the welfare of the Israeli soldier as set forth by the office of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. Although it appears in the prayer books, with the suggestion that it be said with the Ark open while taking out the Torah, it can really be said anywhere and any time:

"He, who bestowed his blessing on our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, may He too now bestow His blessing upon the Israeli Defence Forces who stand guard over our land and the mountains of God. From Lebanon and onto the Sinai, from the Mediterranean and onto the plains, indeed anyplace where they may be found, be it on land, sky or sea. Please God, hand over the enemy that has risen upon us and smite them.

"May the Holy One, blessed be He, guard and save our soldiers from all harm and pain, from any form of accident or sickness. May He send His blessing of success to all of their efforts. May He subjugate their enemies beneath them and crown them with the crown of salvation and victory. And fulfil and realize through them the verse, 'For it is the Lord your God who shall go out along with you, to wage for you the battles against your enemies, to spare you.' And let us say amen."

Jewish Life

# Al Gore warms to a serious subject

***An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It* by Al Gore, published by Rodale (paperback).**

**Books**
***Bernard Baskin***

Here's the ominous forecast of almost all of the world's scientists who have studied the matter: if human beings continue to exploit fossil fuel resources without reducing carbon emissions or capturing and sequestering them before they warm the atmosphere, the eventual effects on climate and life may be comparable to those at the time of mass extinctions.

Yes, life will survive, but it will do so on a transformed planet. For all foreseeable human generations, it will be a far more desolate world than the one in which civilization developed and flourished during the past several thousand years.

Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore's impressive, scrupulously researched book (which compliments the similarly titled and engrossing documentary film) is replete with essential graphs, maps, statistics and stunning colour photographs and illustrations. When sunlight enters the atmosphere, it warms the Earth and is then sent back into space as heat radiation. Greenhouse gases trap this heat in the atmosphere and thereby warm the Earth's surface. Carbon dioxide – produced mainly by burning fossil fuels, such as oil and coal – is the most important greenhouse gas made by human beings. Methane – "natural gas" that escapes into the atmosphere from coal mines, oil wells, rice paddies, landfills and animal feedlots – is also an important greenhouse gas.

Actually, no one knows how resilient our biosphere is or how much damage it can absorb before it stops functioning – or at least functioning well enough to keep the human species alive. There is not one life-support system on which the biosphere depends for its existence – healthy air, water, soil, temperature, and the like – that isn't severely threatened. The world economy has grown by more than six times in the last 50 years and is continuing to use up the world's resources at a dizzying pace, creating unabating pollution and waste, and increasing the enormous inequalities within and between nations.

There are now more than half a billion cars on this planet. Can it accommodate this number? Not only do they create a greenhouse effect, but they're also a source of local air pollution, congestion and noise. Some people have suggested we should change the name of our planet to Polluto.

The rapid melting of the polar ice cap and parts of Greenland has increased more then 50 per cent in the past 25 years. If half of Greenland and half of Antarctica melted or broke up and slipped into the sea, sea levels worldwide would increase by between 18 to 20 feet. Many parts of the globe would be submerged under water and the maps of the world would have to be redrawn.

In addition to rising sea levels, global warming creates severe changes in temperature, as well as floods, drought and hurricanes.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol to cut global greenhouse emissions has been ratified by 132 nations. Among developed nations, only the United States and Australia have refused to sign. The United States produces about 25 per cent of the gases associated with global warming (Canada produces about 2.3 per cent), and its refusal to meet goals set by Kyoto to reduce those emissions makes it difficult for other countries, including Canada, to stick to their goals.

Unfortunately, our spaceship Earth didn't come with an instruction guide. And major obstacles must be overcome: inertia, greed and resistance to change by worldwide and interrelated industrial, economic and political establishments that are all beholden to fossil fuels. What can the concerned individual do? Gore offers a variety of suggestions: conserve energy at home; switch to sources of energy provided by wind, sun and the heat of the Earth; reduce emissions from cars and other forms of transportation; and take political action.

*An Inconvenient Truth* is a coherent and forceful account of an urgent and complex problem by an alarmed former vice president of the United States. The problems it highlights must be confronted and overcome before universal disaster befalls us.

# Tehillim/Psalms – Part 1

**By MARK MIETKIEWICZ**

*From the depths I called You, HaShem*
*O Lord, hear my voice.*
*May your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleas.* – Psalm 130

Whenever Jews have found themselves at a turning point in their lives, there is one Jewish book they have reached for to express their grief, thanks and joy: Tehillim, the Book of Psalms.

In the 150 chapters of Tehillim you can find references to all the emotions of the human condition. But right now, as Israelis cope with death and injury, Jews around the world are reciting psalms on their behalf. If you are familiar with Tehillim– and especially if you are not – you will find new insights waiting for you on the Internet.

There are many online versions available in both Hebrew and English. The Mechon Mamre site not only provides Hebrew and English but also has a link to an audio so that you can listen to each chapter being recited. **[http://tinyurl.com/ggbec]** If you have trouble displaying Hebrew fonts on your computer, you can read and print out the entire Hebrew text through a series of graphics. **[www.midrash.org/tefilloth/tehil lim/]** And the version at Tehillim Hotline lets you search for any word in Tehillim. **[http://tinyurl.com/ovumq]**

Should you decide to print out any part of Tehillim, please respect the sanctity of the material.

Although the beauty of Tehillim can be appreciated at face value, you can understand so much more with a commentary such as Rashi's which Chabad.org provides in its entirety in English. **[http://tinyurl.com/hyj7p]** (The link to the commentary may be a bit hard to find. Click on any chapter of Tehillim and near the top right of the page, you will see a link to Rashi's commentary.)

Many people turn to Tehillim when they face a serious challenge, and the range of poetry is so wide that different chapters are recommended for various occasions. Tehillim Online provides a list: **[http://tinyurl.com/hrmt6]**

- While travelling: "under his wings shall you find refuge; his truth shall be your shield…" (Psalm 91:4)
- Recovery from illness: "Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak; O Lord, heal me; for my bones shudder." (Psalm 6:3)
- Thanksgiving for a miracle: "He saved me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me." (Psalm 18:18)

There are many other recommendations including psalms for finding a shidduch and for healthy children.

What is the source of Tehillim's power? Rabbi Y.D. Webster explains that what is critical is believing that everything that one has ultimately comes from God "and not from one's own power. Shirah [song] is the ultimate expression of a recognition that has so permeated the heart that it is aroused to give outward expression." **[http://tinyurl.com/lm5b4]** Rabbi Amy Scheinerman adds that "while the rest of the Tanach speaks of the experience of a nation in its covenant with God, the Psalms speak from the depths of individual souls searching for the Divine in their individual lives." **[http://tinyurl.com/ocaov]**

But how do you thank God while you are experiencing serious illness? Rabbi Nancy Flam turns to Psalm 150: "Praise God's mighty deeds; praise God according to God's abundant greatness." Rabbi Flam explains that she affirms and praises "God as the One who makes miracles every day, according to the laws of the physical universe and the human spirit… Praise of God is not about me or my condition; it is about the reality of God." **[http://tinyurl.com/mzpgk]**

As Psalms are being recited privately, in women's groups and as part of synagogue prayer, you may want to download the material provided at the Artscroll website. You'll find a free excerpt from Artscroll's interlinear Tehillim in which each line in Hebrew is followed by an English translation. You can download five chapters (20, 83,121,130 and 142) that are traditionally recited at times of crisis. **[http://tinyurl.com/pmtbe]** As the material points out, the recitation of the Tehillim is usually concluded with this brief plea which has all too much resonance at the moment. "Our brothers, the entire House of Israel, who are found in distress and captivity, who are situated whether at sea or whether on land – may the Omnipresent One – have mercy on them and remove them from distress to relief, from darkness to light, from subjugation to redemption, now, speedily, and in a time that comes soon – and let us say: Amen."

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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# Anti-Semitism and terrorism intimately linked, says speaker

**By JESSICA FREIMAN**
*CJN Intern*

Canada and the rest of the world are facing "an anti-Semitism-terrorism nexus" that is "without frontiers" and threatens humanity, said Shimon Samuels, director of international relations for the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The 2001 UN World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, was the origin of this new anti-Semitism, Samuels told the crowd at a June 29 town hall meeting presented by *The CJN* and the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC).

"This was a conference that brought together people in order to discuss racism. Racism was never discussed," he said.

At the final session of a preparatory committee for Durban, held in December 2001 in Geneva, Samuels learned of a 10-year plan proposed by some members of the committee that mimicked the program used to isolate apartheid South Africa in the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

**Shimon Samuels**

This time, the object was "to apply all the same measures to the last bastion of apartheid, the State of Israel," he said.

The first step in the eight-point plan was an educational program portraying Israel throughout the world as an apartheid state. Next, a legal campaign would seek to have Israeli reservists vacationing outside Israel arrested and charged with crimes against humanity.

The third step would be lobbying for the repeal of Israel's Law of Return for Jews, to be followed by a fourth step, a law of return for Palestinian refugees.

"Number 5 was re-launching the Arab boycott, which had disappeared, and number 6 is what we are living today: the embargos," Samuels explained.

Promoting a "rupture of diplomatic relations" with Israel would be the next step. Finally, penalties would be imposed on countries and NGOs that refused to co-operate with these diplomatic efforts.

"The vectors were clearly marked out, even in 2001: to use the Internet, the universities, the NGOs, the churches and the trade unions," he said. "And this is now coming to fruition."

Although he was reluctant to describe any country in today's Europe as having an "officially anti-Semitic policy," Samuels stressed there is a feeling of vulnerability among the continent's Jews.

To force the French government to be proactive against anti-Semitism, the SWC issued a travel advisory stating, "Anyone who visits France who by God or by practice is identifiably Jewish should take extreme precautions."

Needless to say, "the government went ballistic," said Samuels. Ultimately, once France took firm measures to fight anti-Semitism, the SWC rescinded its travel advisory.

"But the problem was and still is filtration," said Samuels. "[French] teachers [who are] mandated by law to teach the Holocaust are intimidated by North African majorities in their classes and will not do so."

Anti-Semitic attacks continue to proliferate in France and elsewhere, said Samuels. He spoke of an 81-year-old Jewish woman who had recently left the intensive care unit of a major Paris hospital and got into a taxi to go home.

"She noticed that the [driver was a] woman wearing a headscarf, driving very fast. She protested to the [driver], 'I'm a Holocaust survivor. Please, I have a bad heart, slow down.' The [driver] smiled at her and said, 'I'm taking you to my son who will kill you, dirty Jew.'

"At a red light, she managed to get the door open and, [as she was] screaming, a young man pulled her out," Samuels said. "We verified that the story was true. That's part of our job, to see that these are not made up. These are true."

Paraphrasing the late Simon Wiesenthal, he added: "What starts with the Jews is a barometric measure of society. It never ends with the Jews."

Speaking after Samuels at the town hall meeting, Leo Adler, national affairs director of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, said Canada is now at risk.

"Canada is under siege. Terrorism has hit us. We didn't recognize it when it struck in 1985 with Air India," Adler said, referring to the bombing of a plane off the coast of Ireland.

"Over 300 Canadians died as a result of Canadian terrorists planting a bomb. We have to recognize that Canadians are capable of terrorism. Canada is not immune."

In his talk, Samuels, who was born in England after World War II, noted that the 30-mile width of the English Channel is what saved his family from the Holocaust.

"Today, thousands of miles of Atlantic waters are worthless. What happens in Canada is an integral part of the same struggle [in Europe]. We're part of an anti-Semitism-terrorism nexus. We have to face it together. It is without frontiers."

This nexus is powerful, Samuels said, because it uses the Internet for hatemongering.

"Simon Wiesenthal said that the Holocaust was the meeting point of ideology and technology, and it is the technology that today provides the common ground," he said.

Samuels added that the SWC tries to work with other groups to fight hatred. "The Internet is an area of common ground because it's not just Jews who are scapegoated: Muslims, Christians, women, homosexuals – you'll find them all [targeted] on the Internet.

"So what starts with the Jews doesn't end with the Jews, but endows us with a responsibility: to act as an early warning system to sensitize the ears of our neighbours to the sounds of impending danger."

He said the danger now taking shape in the form of Iran is not just a threat to Israel and to Jews. Among Persian Gulf states, "there is grave concern that a country that has earthquakes annually at seven on the Richter scale, where their nuclear installations are supervised by Russian management – those who brought us Chernobyl… that any [earthquake] under nuclear installations could destroy marine life in the Gulf for centuries," Samuels said.

"There is not a happiness in the Arab world with Iran. I think that this, again, gives us an area of common ground."

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# שישאר בינינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**מה קורה**

הדברים בישראל זזים כל כך מהר, שאין בכלל סיכוי שמדור כמו זה יוכל להגיב על ארוע זה או אחר. מה שמתברר בגדול זה ששטח ישראל איננו מוגן מטרור. בעידן שבו כל טרוריסט שונא יהודים יכול לשים טיל על הכתף ולהוריד אותו על חיפה-קשה להאמין שצבא סדיר יכול לעשות משהו ישיר. אבל מה שצה"ל יכול לעשות זה להפוך את החיים בלבנון לבלתי נסבלים בצורה כזאת שלבנון תעשה את מה שעשה חוסיין בשנת 1970 : הוא גרש את אש"ף סופית אחרי שחיל האויר הפך את החיים בבקעת הירדן לבלתי אפשריים. עם כתיבת שורות אלה- פתאום לבנון מוכנה להציב את צבאה בגבול ישראל, דבר שלא הסכימה לו טרם ההפצצות בשטחה.

ישראל היא ארץ דמוקראטית, ואפילו בימים אלה נשמעים בה קולות שטוענים שזו היא "מלחמת ברירה" ולא מלחמת אין ברירה, ושהעילה למלחמה, חטיפת חיילי צה"ל, איננה מצדיקה את התגובה והסבל העצום של האוכלוסיה.

לנו לא נותר אלא לתמוך, להסביר, לצלצל ארצה , לעודד. וכשאני רואה תמונות בעיתונות של הפגנה ליד הקונסוליה הישראלית, ובה קבוצת יהודים מוחים נגד התוקפנות הישראלית, בא לי להקיא על הנייר. איזה עם דפוק אנחנו אם יש בינינו כאלה אנשים.

**סרטים לקיץ**

הנה שני סרטים מאוד שונים, שכל אחד מהם עשה לי טוב על פי דרכו:

לפני מספר שנים כתבתי כאן מלים לא כל כך חמות על הלהיט-ספר "דה וינצ'י קוד". הספר ממש לא הרשים אותי. אחר כך הופיע הסרט והשמץ קשות כגירסה משעממת של הספר, והיה די בטוח שלא אכבד אותו בצפייה. והינה נוצרה ההזדמנות תשעת הפנוי והלכתי לסרט, ומה-זה -הופתעתי: סרט מצוין, שנושא היטב את העלילה, ומשפר פלאים את הספר. אני יודע שדעתי הפוכה מכל מה שכתבו בעיתונות. אבל העיתונים לא מכירים אתכם, אחי הישראלים, ואני כן מכיר.

סרט יפה, עשוי בטוב טעם, ומספר סיפור היסטורי מעניין על אשתו וביתו של ישו. אבל שישאר בינינו. שמונה בסולם קורן.

*A Prairie Home Campaign* הוא סרט מקסים על מופע הרדיו האחרון בסנט פול, מינסוטה, שבו קבוצה של זמרי קאנטרי פולק מציגים את הצדדים המצחיקים, הנוגעים ללב, המלהיבים והמעציבים של אחורי הקלעים של מופע רדיו מן הסוג הישן. שורה ארוכה של שחקנים ידועים עושה את הסרט הזה לפנינה. ומפליאה מכולם, כמו תמיד, היא מריל סטריפ, הפעם כמצחיקולה אמיתית . והמוסיקה-רק בגללה שווה ללכת. וקחו איתכם מישהו שאתם אוהבים. עשר בסולם קורן.

**מה זאת אהבה**

תודה לויוה על הקטע הנפלא הבא.

" היה בוקר עמוס במרפאה המקומית. בשעה 8:30 נכנס למרפאה איש זקן בשנות השמונים לחייו ואמר שהוא ממהר מאוד כי יש לו פגישה דחופה בשעה 9:00 בבוקר, וביקש שיוציאו את התפרים מבוהן ידו. ראיתי שהזקן מסתכל כל הזמן בשעונו והחלטתי לטפל בו. הוצאתי את תפריו וחבשתי לו מחדש את הפצע. תוך כדי טיפול שאלתי אותו לאן הוא ממהר, והוא אמר: "אני חייב לבקר את אשתי במחלקה סיעודית ולאכול איתה ארוחת בוקר". שאלתי את האיש מה מחלת אשתו והוא ענה שהיא מאושפזת כבר שנים עם מחלת אלצהיימר. בתום הטיפול שאלתי אותו אם אשתו תדאג אם הוא יאחר קצת, והוא ענה שכבר חמש שנים היא איננה יודעת מה קורה ואיננה מזהה איש, גם לא אותו. התפלאתי מאוד ושאלתי אותו: ואתה הולך כל בוקר למרות שאיננה יודעת מי אתה? האיש חייך, הניח ידו על ידי ואמר:

"היא איננה יודעת מי אני, אבל אני יודע מי היא ומה היא היתה" יצא מהמרפאה לדרכו.

בשמעי את דבריו, התאפקתי שלא לפרוץ בבכי וכל גופי רעד. אמרתי לעצמי שזו האהבה שאני רוצה בחיי."

Greater Toronto Area

# *Canada will face same threats as Israel, speaker says*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

This country's lax immigration system is inviting terrorist organizations to flourish here, and with 50 such groups already on our soil, "what Israel is living is assuredly coming to Canada," David Harris told the Ze'ev Jabotinsky memorial last week.

Nearly 400 people gathered at the Sephardic Kehilah Centre in Thornhill to honour the 66th yahrzeit of Jabotinsky – a right-wing Zionist leader, politician, soldier and poet – and to hear Harris, the director of the Terrorist Intelligence Program INSIGNIS Strategic Research Inc., and the senior fellow for national security at the Canadian Coalition for Democracies, deliver a lecture titled "Confronting Terrorism at our Doorstep."

While foreign and homegrown terrorism are two imminent major threats, Canada has "been inviting disaster for years," Harris said.

"Take just one aspect of this foreign element. We maintain immigration and refugee numbers... without any regard for our economic well-being," he said, adding that he recognizes that immigrants have built and strengthened Canada and will continue to do so.

"But at a time when extremist Islam is inborn within Canada and the liberal pluralist world, we continue to bring in 230,000 immigrants a year, the highest per capita rate in the world."

While this trend benefits parts of Canada's economy and culture, "it opens dangerous possibilities for the rest of us," he said.

"I can't see how Canada can credibly screen this many newcomers – one million people every four years – and 60 per cent are landing in this very city. We only have at most a few thousand security officers doing the screening, and what, for example, do assurances about screening mean when somebody comes from say, Iran, creator of Islamic extremism's bloodthirsty, unwontedly Jew- and West-hating monster Hezbollah?"

He noted that recently, Iranian-born Canadian photographer Zahra Kazemi was beaten to death by an Iranian official who was never charged.

"I think the only consequence to the assailant was a place on the Iranian delegation to the United Nations," he said.

"So how meaningful is it when western security immigration services conclude that a perspective Iranian immigrant or refugee is of no concern because that person's country of origin reports no criminal record back home?"

Harris said this is one of the factors that has turned Canada into the terrorist haven it is today.

"This reveals... why, CSIS says, we have about 50 terrorist organizations on our soil and why we, therefore, are the second-most terrorist-entering country in the world after the United States."

Harris said political correctness has complicated the situation in Canada.

"Unfortunately today, what is sometimes called political correctness has been used to confirm a kind of untouchability on those who [promote] doctrines no less egregious than those associated with white supremacism."

That's why Harris sees the Canadian public as the third major terrorist threat. Canadians pride themselves on openness and pluralism, yet he said they're naive about the dangers associated with being too tolerant and trusting.

"For proof, test your own performance. How often have you... dared [ask] yourself, what sort of bar exists to prevent radical Islamists from being employed in our military, police, defence, and foreign affairs?"

He said that at the rate Canada is going, extremists will soon be at the controls of our nuclear power plants, airliners and emergency services.

"As Israel, our sister democracy, entered its most recent fight for its life, there have been unembarrassed gatherings in this country by Hezbollah sympathizers," Harris said.

"We see explicit displays of support for Canada's Hezbollah enemy before the Israeli consulate here in Toronto, and all of this despite the fact that under the Criminal Code of Canada, Parliament has banned Hezbollah and Hamas [as terrorist organizations]."

Harris concluded his lecture by saying that even non-Jews, such as himself, should be concerned by Canada's "troubling" security situation.

"[As] a war is imposed upon us by Islamic fascism and Islamic terrorism, we are all Israelis now. We are all Jews now," he said.

Before Harris took to the podium, Rose Lax, chair of Betar-Tagar and Likud Canada, presented four awards for campus activism to students Josh Rosenblum, David Levine and Jason Portnoy, and to former teacher Shirley Anne Haber, who heads the Speakers Action Group.

Israel's consul general in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh, also debriefed the crowd about the situation in Israel, and he outlined Israel's objectives in its current conflict with Hezbollah.

"The first [objective] is to release the kidnapped soldiers and the second one is the removal of the threat of missiles attacking Israeli citizens," Brosh said.

"Israel doesn't seek war and certainly, not this war. Israel has proven in the past again and again that we take risks for peace. It is now our objective and in our best interest to see our neighbours thriving and strong," he added.

"However, the government of Israel has its primary objective, as every government has, of protecting its citizens to ensure their safety," he said, adding his gratitude to the Canadian government for supporting Israel at this critical time.


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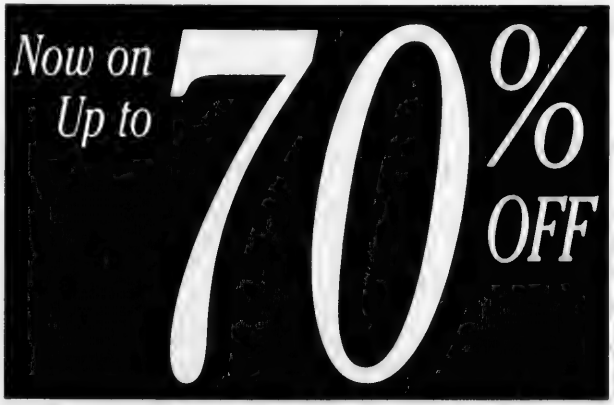


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# Shul hosts panel on Darfur

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — With the world focused on Israel's war with Hamas and Hezbollah, other crises have slipped from the headlines.

None are more serious than the government-supported genocide against black African Muslims in the western Sudanese province of Darfur, where up to 400,000 people have died and another 2.5 million have been forced to flee to refugee camps in neighbouring Chad.

On July 23, Winnipeg's Congregation Etz Chayim hosted a panel on Darfur, the third time in the last two years that it has hosted such a program. The latest event was organized by soon-to-be rabbinical student Matthew Gindin, who took part in a similar awareness-raising program in Boston this past spring organized in part by his teacher, former Winnipegger Or Rose.

"It is imperative that the international community pursue a number of activities to let those responsible know that we are watching, caring, and are acting," said Gindin, the moderator for the evening.

Panel members included Etz Chayim's Rabbi Henry Balser; Christian Butera, a survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; Akim Kambamba, a refugee from southern Sudan; and Michael Muyen, identified as one of the "lost boys of Sudan".

Muyen, one of 600 orphaned Sudanese boys from south Sudan who were brought to Canada in 1998, provided a brief overview of the fighting that convulsed Sudan almost continuously from independence in 1955 until a peace deal was signed a few years ago. That conflict was between the Arab/Muslim dominated government in the capital Khartoum in the north and black African Christians and animists in the south.

Muyen described how, after his parents were murdered, he escaped to the bush with other orphaned boys and eventually made his way to a refugee camp in neighbouring Ethiopia. In 1991, after four years in Ethiopia, the refugees were forced to flee again when Ethiopia's military dictator was overthrown and victorious rebels wanted to send the refugees back to Sudan. He found refuge in Kenya before coming to Canada.

"Sixty years ago, people vowed that they would never allow genocide to happen again," Muyen said. "But genocide is still taking place."

Kambamba, who came to Canada 20 years ago after escaping from a Sudanese prison, noted that while there are several thousand African Union forces assigned to protect the Darfur refugees, they are poorly equipped and too few in number to adequately patrol Darfur, which is about the size of France.

"We are still waiting for the United Nations to take action," he said.

In response to a question from the audience, Kambamba noted that China, India and Russia all have interests in Sudan and oppose outside intervention.

Butera, who was 11 in 1994 when an estimated one million ethnic Tutsis were murdered by Hutu extremists, noted that there has been "a greater public response to what is happening in Darfur."

Rabbi Balser observed that Jewish law commands Jews to take action and not stand idly by when a neighbour is in trouble. "We have the power of our voices," he said. "Governments take action when they hear our voices."

Gindin urged the audience to write to MPs, newspapers and the government of Sudan, as well as to join groups working for Darfur and to donate money to help refugees.

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# Winnipeg's only kosher butcher loses its hechsher

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — The Vaad Ha'ir of Winnipeg's move last month to pull its certification from Winnipeg's only kosher butcher has left the city without a supply of fresh kosher meat.

Both Omnitsky Kosher Foods and the Vaad are talking optimistically about resolving the situation, but in the meantime, observant members of the community have been scrambling to find alternative sources of fresh meat, largely from suppliers in Montreal and Toronto.

It's the second recent blow to kosher consumers, coming on the heels of an announcement that the Bathurst Street Market, Winnipeg's only all-kosher grocery store and deli restaurant, would close at the end of July due to poor sales.

As well, even if a deal is reached to allow Omnitsky to resume selling kosher meat, supplies would have to come from outside the province, as the Vaad says there will be no more kosher shchitah performed locally. No reason for that decision was given, but the two shochets who slaughter all of Winnipeg's kosher meat are in their 80s, and one is in poor health.

The showdown between the Vaad and Omnitsky had been building for a few years. The butcher shop has been in business in north Winnipeg since 1922. Sasha (Sam) Gehkt, who immigrated here from Russia several years ago, bought the business in 2000.

It has always been the practice at the store to kasher meat on request, but not as a matter of course. All the meat in the shop had been slaughtered by Vaad shochets, and the shop would complete the kashering process by salting and de-veining the meat. But for the past few years, the Vaad had been urging the Omnistsky, without success, to kasher all of its fresh meat.

Vaad president Don Aronovitch said the Vaad most recently sent Omnitsky a letter to that effect in May, but received no response from Gehkt.

"It wasn't until we took action and removed our certification on July 14 that Mr. Gekht responded," Aronovitch says.

When contacted by *The CJN*, Gekht said he wouldn't comment while talks are underway to resolve the dispute, and as of press time last week, no deal had been reached.

The Winnipeg Vaad has been trying for the past 10 years to raise the standard of its WK hechsher to a level that would make it acceptable again nationally and internationally.

The WK's problems go back to the mid-1980s. It had been the tradition that the Vaad Harabbanim, the rabbinical arm of the Vaad Ha'ir that supervises kashrut, was made up of three Orthodox rabbis. In the mid-1980s, a split developed in the community over the creation of a Winnipeg eruv, with two teaching rabbis in favour of creating the boundary and two congregational rabbis opposed. When the eruv was created over their objections, the congregational rabbis declared their colleagues to be in violation of Shabbat and hence not to be followed in matters of Jewish law. When one of the teaching rabbis was elected to the Vaad Harabbanim, the congregational rabbis declared that the WK was no longer a valid hechsher.

The WK's problems were compounded in later years when the Vaad could no longer muster three Orthodox rabbis to monitor kashrut. One Orthodox rabbi remained as Winnipeg's only kosher supervisor, but he led a congregation that voted to adopt mixed seating, leaving his Orthodox credentials in question for some people.

In 1996, the predecessor of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg commissioned Justice Roy Matas to prepare a report on the problems of kashrut in the community and recommend steps to remedy the situation.

When Aronovitch, a community leader, assumed the Vaad's presidency in 2000, he set out to raise the standard of kashrut in Winnipeg to one that would be universally recognized.

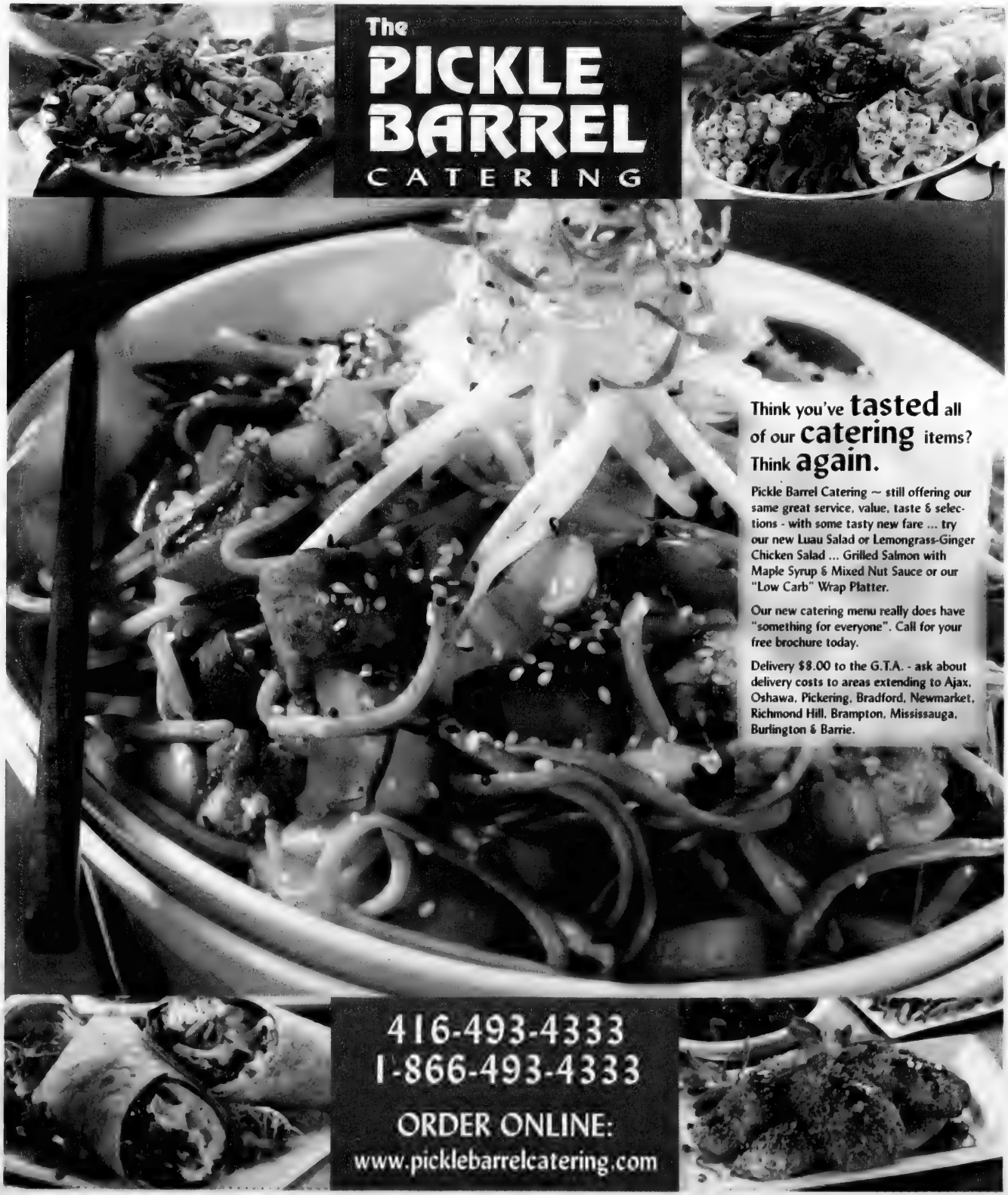
Under his leadership, the Vaad created a new heschsher, MBK, which was meant to gradually replace the WK and which enjoyed the support of all Orthodox rabbis in the city. However, one of the community's key licensees balked at the new kashrut conditions, and the MBK only became the hechsher at one hotel and a limited number of shuls.

Aronovitch and the Vaad then decided to work on strengthening WK. Last February, the Vaad hired a new rabbi, Mitchell Cohen from Ottawa, as a consultant to oversee kashrut in the city. Rabbi Cohen started the position full time on Aug. 1 and has moved to the city.

"We are working aggressively to discharge what we feel is a huge responsibility to ensure that the Winnipeg Jewish consumer has a source of fresh kosher meat," Aronovitch said of the current situation. "We anticipate this issue being resolved within a few weeks and we are confident that there will not be a material impact on the Jewish community, its synagogues or its other institutions.

Aronovitch added that "we can assure that politics and monetary reasons played no role whatsoever" in the dispute with Omnitsky.

"Another concern voiced was that this action was the result of 'Orthodox pressures.' Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. "The Vaad Ha'ir's historic transition of its kashrut standard from traditional to COR-equivalent has the 100 per cent support of all synagogue leadership and their rabbis. The drive to effect the conversion for the past 10 years has been 100 per cent a federation initiative – definitely not that of the Orthodox community."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# Focus on Lebanese death toll obscures Israelis' experience

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

Since July 12, when Hezbollah attacked Israel, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two, media coverage of the ensuing conflict has been as intense as the fighting itself. Although the non-stop barrage of reports in the Canadian electronic and print media make instant analysis difficult, a few key trends have emerged.

When Israel launched its first strikes on Hezbollah, the media almost uniformly viewed Israel's actions as justifiable self-defence. But once Israel bombed the Beirut airport and other Lebanese infrastructure in a bid to stop weapons from reaching Hezbollah, some media reports reflected the growing international criticism of Israel's military response. This became even more apparent as Lebanese civilian casualties rose and UN Secretary General Koffi Annan alleged that Israel was using "excessive force."

However, editorial support for Israel continued in the leading English-language Canadian dailies, including the *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star*, as well as the *National Post* and other CanWest papers. Several editorials did urge Israel to choose its targets carefully and to minimize innocent civilian casualties, but all major papers (with the exception of Francophone ones, especially *La Presse*), were sympathetic to Israel and highly critical of Hezbollah and its backers, Syria and Iran.

During the first week of fighting, Canadian media reported on the barrage of Hezbollah rockets falling on Israeli cities as far south as Haifa. But as the conflict continued, the focus shifted to the destruction of Hezbollah assets in Lebanon and the resulting humanitarian crisis, especially the attempts of thousands of Lebanese Canadians to flee the fighting. Reporters interviewed scores of Lebanese Canadians, many of whom criticized Israel's military response and the alleged failure of the Canadian government to provide for their fast and efficient evacuation.

While media outlets maintained officially that "balanced" coverage was being achieved, in conversation, many journalists admitted that even though Israelis were suffering under Hezbollah's constant rocket attacks, the destruction and deaths have been greater in Lebanon, and this is where the media have been focusing more of their attention. This is not to minimize, however, the reporting from Israel that journalists such as Laurie Graham and Adrienne Arsenault have done for CBC television, or the reports that Martin Himel has prepared for Global and Murray Oliver's work for CTV.

On CBC's *The National* (July 25), anchor Peter Mansbridge said: "If there's been a common thread through our coverage these past two weeks, it's been people trying to flee the violence." Clearly, this coverage focused more on the people of Lebanon than on the inhabitants of northern Israel, even though hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been forced to flee south or hold out in shelters.

Much of the television footage was predictable: scenes of death, injury, dislocation and devastation, all of which are staple items for the camera.

Analysis – *why* this conflict is happening – was left to print editorials and op-eds, along with the occasional television interview. But especially on TV, Israel's reality was too often not reflected in news coverage.

For instance, in Mansbridge's July 25 interview with Fawaz Gerges, a professor at Sarah Lawrence College and the author of *Journey of the Jihadist: Inside Muslim Militancy*, Gerges admitted that "many Lebanese were critical of what Hezbollah did," but he immediately added: "They argued that the timing was wrong. They argued that Lebanon could not really confront mighty and powerful Israel."

Gerges' implication is that Lebanon has a just grievance against Israel, omitting the fact that Israel withdrew from Lebanon six years ago to an internationally recognized border, thus eliminating any grievance. In fact, it is Hezbollah – along with its backers, Iran and Syria – that is initiating and perpetuating the hostilities, seeking to destroy Israel.

Gerges also tried to distance Hezbollah from Iran. While acknowledging that Iran and Syria supply and support Hezbollah, he insisted that Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, operates independently. But while Nasrallah may make some tactical decisions, he is in lockstep with Iran's leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to whom Nasrallah, by his own admission, is committed as his source of authority.

Gerges was both right and wrong when he reiterated Nasrallah's claim: "This is not our war, this is not Lebanon's war, this is *umma*'s war, the Muslim community's worldwide war."

He was wrong to ignore the growing rift between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, but right in the sense that Nasrallah, like his Iranian backers, is indeed bent on worldwide domination, starting with the destruction of Israel and the slaughter of Jews. And that's the real story the media should pursue.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*


Class Environmental Assessment Study

**Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan**

Notice of Study Completion

The City of Toronto has completed its Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to identify a preferred method(s) for managing stormwater runoff in the Earl Bales Park drainage area. Opportunities for increasing stormwater source controls are limited because most of the catchment area already meets the City's enhanced targets, while conveyance controls were limited by the clay soils. The components of the preferred alternative include the construction of a large stormwater pond in the valley of Earl Bales Park to meet provincial water quality objectives for urban stormwater runoff, various ravine restoration measures, water substitution for golf course irrigation and snowmaking, and preservation of local terrestrial habitats.

The project was undertaken in accordance with the requirements for Schedule 'B' projects under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000). A Study Report has been prepared which describes the problem, the assessment of alternatives and the preferred alternative as well as the public consultation process and its results. This Notice places the report on public record for a 30-day review period. Subject to comments received as a result of this Notice, the City of Toronto intends to proceed with this project. The Study Report is available for review at the following locations:

**North York Central Library**
5120 Yonge Street
(Reference Desk)
Tel: 416-395-5535

**Earl Bales Community Centre**
4169 Bathurst Street
(Site Office)
Tel: 416-395-7873

**Urban Affairs Library**
Metro Hall, Main Floor
55 John Street
Tel: 416-397-7241

Please call to confirm hours of operation.

Interested parties should provide written comments within 30 calendar days from the date of this Notice. Comments should be addressed to:

Ms. Josie Giordano, Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto,
Metro Hall, 55 John Street, 19th Floor, Toronto, ON M5V 3C6
Tel: 416-338-2859
Fax: 416-392-2974
TTY: 416-397-0831
E-mail: jgiorda@toronto.ca

If concerns arise regarding this project, which cannot be resolved in discussions with the City of Toronto, a person or party may request that the Minister of the Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (referred to as a Part II Order) which addresses individual environmental assessments. The Minister must receive requests for a Part II Order by August 28, 2006.

Please send requests to: The Honourable Laurel C. Broten, Minister of the Environment, 12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5, Tel: 416-314-6790, or Fax: 416-314-7337. A copy of the request for a Part II Order must also be sent to the City of Toronto at the address listed above. If there is no request for a Part II Order received by August 28, 2006, the City will proceed with the implementation of the preferred solution as presented in the Study Report.

This Notice issued July 28, 2006

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# Israel to suspend activity over Lebanon for 48 hours

By HERB KEINON
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Israel agreed to a 48-hour suspension of aerial activity over southern Lebanon after it bombed the Lebanese village of Qana on Sunday and a number of children died, a U.S. official said.

The attack marred U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's weeklong mission to halt the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

The agreement to suspend the over-flights was announced by U.S. State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli. But he said Israel has reserved the right to hit targets if it learns that attacks are being prepared against them.

"The United States welcomes this decision and hopes that it will help relieve the suffering of the children and families of southern Lebanon," Ereli told reporters travelling with Rice.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office confirmed the report.

Despite the ceasefire, there were reports that the Israeli Air Force carried out strikes Monday in southern Lebanon. The army said the strikes near the village of Taibe were meant to protect ground forces operating in the area and were not targeting anyone or anything specific.

Israel also said it would allow a 24-hour period where all residents of southern Lebanon who wanted to flee northward would be able to do so, in co-ordination with the United Nations.

A U.S. State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Rice had been working on such an agreement for some time before the attack on Qana, Lebanon, last weekend.

**Condoleezza Rice**

Ereli said Israel will co-ordinate with the United Nations to allow a 24-hour period of safe passage for all residents of south Lebanon who want to leave the region.

"We expect that Israel will implement these decisions so as to significantly speed and improve the flow of humanitarian aid," he added.

**Continued on page 33**

# Olmert expresses regret over deaths in Qana

By YAAKOV KATZ
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — In the deadliest attack since Israel started its offensive against Hezbollah on July 12, 57 civilians most of them children – were killed on Sunday in a building in the southern Lebanese village of Qana, apparently as a result of an Israeli Air Force missile strike.

While the entire Israeli political echelon expressed regret for the results of the strike, IAF Chief of Staff Brig.-Gen. Amir Eshel said Sunday night that the three-storey building had been struck by the missiles a little after midnight and that it only collapsed seven hours later, at nearly 7 a.m.

Eshel refrained from specifying what had caused the structure to collapse seven hours after it was hit, but senior IAF officers said Sunday night that the explosion could have been caused by an unexploded missile or by a Hezbollah-planted explosive device.

"It could be that there was something in the building that caused the explosion," Eshel said.

He said that nearly 150 Katyusha rockets had been fired from the Lebanese village over the past 20 days. Hezbollah had hidden rocket launchers in civilian buildings in the village, Eshel said. Video footage he presented at a press conference in Tel Aviv Sunday night showed rocket launchers being driven into the village following attacks on northern Israel.

The dead were old people, women and children from four families, whom residents said had gathered to spend the night on the ground floor, where they felt they were safe from Israeli attacks. The bodies of at least 27 children were found in the rubble, said Abu Shadi Jradi, a civil defence official at the scene.

In 1996, Israel was forced to suspend Operation Grapes of Wrath against Hezbollah after Israel Defence Forces artillery shells killed more than 100 civilians seeking refuge in a UN building in the village.

A high-ranking IAF officer said the IDF had warned Qana residents to evacuate the village in anticipation of air strikes on Katyusha launchers. The officer said the air force had been targeting the village for the past three days and that on Saturday night it struck 10 targets there. He said the building hit Sunday was chosen as a target after intelligence indicated that Hezbollah guerrillas were hiding inside, where Katyusha rockets and launchers were also hidden.

"We warned the residents that we would be attacking there," the high-ranking officer said. "We work under the assumption that the villages are empty and that whoever is there is affiliated with Hezbollah."

The IAF did attack targets in the village at 7 a.m. Sunday, Eshel said, but these buildings were 500 metres away from the building where the civilians were killed.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert expressed deep regret for the harm inflicted on the civilians in Qana.

"I, along with Israel and the IDF, express deep regret at the death of civilians in Kfar Qana," said Olmert. "There is nothing further from our intent than when we hit civilians everyone understands that. When we do harm civilians, the whole world recognizes that it is an exceptional case that does not characterize us."

Olmert said the area was a focal point for the firing of Katyusha rockets at Kiryat Shmona and Afula. He said that from the outset of the current violence, "hundreds of rockets have been fired from the Qana area."

Defence Minister Amir Peretz also profoundly regretted the fatal strike, saying, "This is a tragic incident that is the result of a war against Hezbollah, which is operating from civilian areas and knows full well that by so doing it is endangering lives." The defence minister ordered the IDF to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident.

IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz also expressed sorrow over the loss of innocent life. "We were operating in a place from where Katyushas are being fired and we distributed notices to residents. Unfortunately, people who assembled in the area, whom we were unaware of, were harmed," said Halutz.

Nevertheless, Halutz said, the IDF would continue to fight to protect northern Israel and to bring calm to the region. "The terrorist organizations are taking cover among populated areas," he said. "We will continue to fight, causing the minimum harm to civilians."

UIA Federations Canada
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**National Jewish Campus Life** (NJCL) provides and deploys resources to foster excellence, involvement, and communication within and for the Canadian Jewish Campus Community.

Reporting to the CEO of UIAFC, the Director will consult with the NJCL Committee and work collaboratively with the CEO of the Canadian Council For Israel & Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) in developing and implementing its national campus-based strategy. This strategy aims at educating students by strengthening Jewish identity and leadership skills, with a strong focus on the development of advocacy skills and programs representing Jewish and Israeli issues and concerns. The director will work with diverse groups of campus opinion-makers.

The Director of NJCL works in collaboration with senior Canadian Jewish Professionals, lay leaders, Jewish Campus professionals, and student leadership on campus. The Director must have the capacity to engage affiliated and unaffiliated Jewish students in order to engage them in the Jewish agenda, educate them regarding the salient issues, as well as train and prepare them to assume an activist role on the college campuses.

The successful candidate will possess strategic and analytical skills, strong interpersonal and motivational skills, ability to inspire and engage the student population, supervisory/management experience, capacity to work in coalitions and partnerships, excellent oral and written skills, ability. The position requires frequent travel.

Interested candidates should forward their application in confidence to Pam Widrich at pwidrich@uiafed.org, or by fax to 416 636-9897 by August 15, 2006.

National Jewish Campus Life *is a department of* UIA Federations Canada njcl

# Seattle Jews in shock after shooting spree

By JOEL MAGALNICK
*JTA*

**SEATTLE** — The Harborview Trauma Center near downtown Seattle served as a de facto Shabbat gathering place last Friday evening as Jews from around the city met to console each other after an afternoon shooting at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle that left one person dead and five injured.

Meanwhile, representatives from the area's Jewish organizations scrambled to make sense of the shooting and determine next steps for keeping synagogues and service agencies operational and secure.

The Seattle area's two Conservative congregations cancelled services Friday night, but most other synagogues were determined to hold Shabbat services – though with added police presence.

"You can't let hatred stop holiness," Rabbi Jonathan Singer of the Reform Temple Beth Am told his congregation Friday night, according to the *Seattle Times*.

Jews from around the city expressed disbelief and sorrow.

"It was shocking," said David Sabban, a former federation employee. "I remember when we would do our safety discussions there was always this scenario, if this guy came in with a gun and started shooting people, what would you do? It just happened so suddenly, in an instant."

Streets around the Seattle federation's office were closed for hours as police and Seattle's SWAT team searched for a possible accomplice to the gunman, identified as Naveed Afzal Haq, 30, originally of Pasco, Wash., a small city about a four-hour drive from Seattle. Haq's last known address was in Everett, another small city 20 miles north of Seattle, though he disappeared from his residence there about two weeks ago, the *Seattle Times* reported Friday.

On Saturday, King County District Court Judge Barbara Linde set Haq's bail at $50 million (US).

The shooting began at approximately 4 p.m. Friday, when Haq reportedly took a teenaged girl hostage and forced his way through the first-floor security door, and immediately walked upstairs to the federation reception desk, where he began his rampage.

## *Security increased in Toronto*

The first floor houses the JTNews, the federation-owned Jewish community newspaper and the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center. Those offices have separate entrances, but can be accessed through the federation's front lobby with a security code.

Witnesses in the building said Haq identified himself as an American Muslim upset about America's presence in Iraq and the current Israel-Lebanon conflict.

Citing a statement of probable cause, Associated Press reported that Haq told a 911 dispatcher, "These are Jews and I'm tired of getting pushed around and our people getting pushed around by the situation in the Middle East."

Based on that exchange, police are treating the shooting as a hate crime.

"He said he wanted the United States to leave Iraq, that his people were being mistreated and that the United States was harming his people," Seattle police chief R. Gil Kerlikowske told reporters Saturday. "And he pointedly blamed the Jewish people for all of these problems. He stated he didn't care if he lived."

Pam Waechter, 58, the director of the federation's community campaign, died at the scene. Waechter had worked in various capacities at the Seattle federation for nearly a decade, and at Seattle's Jewish Family Service social service agency for seven years before that.

Waechter was "really sort of a model for everybody else," Sabban said. "Pam was one of the sweetest people I ever worked with... She was great at her job and just a really wonderful person."

The surviving victims, all women, are Christina Rexroad, 28, a bookkeeper; Layla Bush, 23, receptionist and office manager; Cheryl Stumbo, 43, the federation's director of marketing, all of whom were upgraded to serious condition as of 5 p.m. Saturday. Carol Goldman, 35, a co-ordinator for the federation's community campaign, and Dayna Klein, 37, the director of planned giving, were reported as being listed in satisfactory condition. Klein, who was shot in the arm, is credited with convincing Haq to speak to 911 operators, who persuaded the gunman to put down his weapon and surrender, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported.

Another employee sustained minor injuries from jumping from her second-floor office into a dumpster in the alley behind the federation building. She was treated at a Starbuck's a block away, where federation employees who escaped the shooting through a back door gathered and spoke to police. The blood of one shooting victim sat in a pool outside the shop's front door as police rolled out yellow tape to secure the area.

At a vigil in a park overlooking Puget Sound on Saturday afternoon, some 50 community members, some of them current or former employees of the federation, gathered to pray and speak about the incident. Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum of the Kavana spiritual community put Friday's shootings into the context of the Nine Days, the current period that culminated this week with the Tisha b'Av fast day that commemorates the destruction of the Second Temple, as the most tragic in Jewish history.

Several attendees at the vigil expressed hope the shooting could be an opportunity to build better relations with the local Muslim community, an idea set forth Friday by at least one local Muslim leader.

What happens next for the federation and the Jewish community at large remains to be determined. Though it isn't unusual for the federation's gates to be closed on a Saturday, the sidewalk in front was filled with flowers and cards from well-wishers. The building has been sealed for the time being, though there was no police presence outside the federation on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday, leaders of nearly every Jewish organization in the region gathered to regroup, set strategies for safety, and figure out where to go next.

Meanwhile, in the Toronto area, community leaders announced that a more visible security presence at Jewish institutions will be put in place immediately in response to the Seattle attack. Security has been stepped up at several buildings.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said they're implementing a pre-existing security plan, which includes ongoing contact with police and national security officials. A security advisory has already been sent to shuls, agencies, schools and camps.

"We grieve for our colleagues in Seattle and we extend the deepest condolences to Pamela [Waechter]'s family," said federation board chair, David Engel. "Here in Toronto, we are confident that our police forces are doing all they can to protect our institutions and our offices will be open... to conduct business as usual."

Ontario chair Joel Richler said CJC has "been prepared for this since the hostilities in the Middle East began and we will be increasingly vigilant."

Congress also extended its condolences to the victims of the Seattle attack. "We are heartsick about what has happened. We stand in solidarity with our friends and colleagues in Seattle, together with their families and loved ones, at this difficult time," said CJC president Ed Morgan. "As fellow Jews, and as citizens of a democratic nation, we abhor and condemn this type of hate-filled violence."


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# Rice cancels plans to visit Lebanon

**Continued from page 31**

While Sunday's Israel Air Force missile attack on Kfar Qana has made Rice's diplomatic efforts to gain a sustainable ceasefire more difficult, it will not change the parameters of that agreement, both Israeli and U.S. officials said Sunday.

Rice heard of the attack during a meeting in Jerusalem with Defence Minister Amir Peretz. She discussed the incident later with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in their second meeting in two days.

After the meeting with Peretz, Rice reiterated that although she wanted to see a ceasefire in place as soon as possible, "the parties have to agree to a ceasefire, and there have to be certain conditions in place." She made clear that the day's events did not change her position that an immediate, unconditional ceasefire is not the answer.

"We have to realize that we cannot have a circumstance in which there is a return to the status quo ante, in which there is a zone in southern Lebanon where a terrorist can… create the kind of devastating circumstances that we see today," she said. "And we would not be very responsible if we were not attending to those circumstances as well as working as urgently and as quickly as we can to get the fighting stopped."

Government officials said that while the Qana incident would not likely affect the continuation of the current military operations – something that both Olmert and Peretz made clear Sunday – it would undoubtedly be a turning point in the world's perception of the conflict.

Rice is working on putting together an overall agreement for Lebanon that would include a multinational force that would take up positions in southern Lebanon and help the Lebanese government implement UN Security Council Resolution 1559, which calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah and for moving the Lebanese army to south Lebanon.

The United Nations Security Council, meanwhile, held an emergency session Sunday, with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan repeating his call for an immediate ceasefire and expressing "deep dismay" that previous calls for a ceasefire had not been heeded.

IDF infantry leaving Lebanon. [Israel photo]

The composition of the multinational force was discussed at the Olmert-Rice meeting, and was one of the issues that two high-level Washington envoys – Elliott Abrams and David Welch – worked on in Israel for several days.

Sources in Olmert's office said the territorial dispute over Har Dov (Sheba Farms) did not come up in the discussions with Rice, although the issue did figure prominently in talks she held with Olmert last week. At the time, the United States "counselled" Israel to negotiate a possible withdrawal from the area as part of a long-term arrangement for Lebanon.

The issue was also reportedly raised in Rice's meeting with Peretz Sunday morning, before the Qana news broke. Peretz told the cabinet Sunday that he was fundamentally opposed to linking this issue with a ceasefire, because then Hezbollah would be able to claim this as a victory. He said the current operation had nothing to do with this issue.

The chief of military intelligence, Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin, said while Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora wanted to include Har Dov in an overall agreement as a way of showing that Lebanon gained something from the current conflict, Hezbollah was paradoxically opposed, because if this issue were resolved then the organization's reason for existence – fighting Israel's "occupation of Lebanon" – would cease to exist.

Rice cancelled a planned visit to Lebanon on Sunday, saying, "In the wake of the tragedy that the people and the government of Lebanon are dealing with today, I decided to postpone my discussions in Beirut."

Diplomatic officials said among the reasons behind the cancellation were security concerns and the feeling that with emotions running high in Lebanon, it was not the right time for Rice to be driving through the streets of Beirut.

Rice, during her press conference, deflected a question that blamed Israel for scuttling her diplomatic efforts, saying she was fully aware when she came that "I am working on this issue in the midst of ongoing military operations. I am quite aware that there are many dangers associated with military operations. I might note that there are, of course, rocket attacks continuing against Israel, as well."

Asked whether she was disappointed that Israel did not listen to her repeated pleas for caution, Rice said, "I think we all recognize that this kind of warfare is extremely difficult, because, in fact, it is warfare within territory in which civilians are residing. It is extremely difficult. And it unfortunately, it has awful consequences sometimes, and these are awful consequences."

Rice met with Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni twice, and was scheduled to meet Peretz again on Monday. Her morning talks with Livni focused on how to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon.

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# 'Only a nation that can defend its freedom truly deserves it'

*The following is excerpted from an address by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to the Knesset on July 17.*

Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Knesset:

At the outset, I offer condolences, on my behalf and on behalf of the government, the Knesset and the entire nation, to the families of the victims – both civilian and IDF [Israel Defence Forces]. I also send best wishes for recovery to the wounded, and a huge embrace for the families of those kidnapped and the boys themselves.

Over the past few weeks, our enemies have challenged the sovereignty of the State of Israel and the safety of its residents – first in the southern sector, then on the northern border and deeper into the home front. Israel did not seek these confrontations. On the contrary, we have done a lot to prevent them. We returned to the borders of the State of Israel, recognized by the entire international community. There were those who misconstrued our desire for peace – for us and our neighbours – as a sign of frailty. Our enemies misinterpreted our willingness to exercise restraint as a sign of weakness.

They were wrong!

The State of Israel has no territorial conflict, neither on our southern border nor on our northern one. In these two areas, we are sitting on the recognized international border – both vis-à-vis the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip, and in Lebanon. We have no intention of interfering in their internal affairs. On the contrary, stability and tranquillity in Lebanon, free of the rule of foreign powers, and in the Palestinian Authority, are in Israel's interest.

We yearn for the day when peace will prevail between us, for the mutual benefit of our peoples from both sides of our common border.

The campaign we are engaged in these days is against the terror organizations operating from Lebanon and Gaza. These organizations are nothing but "sub-contractors" operating under the inspiration, permission, instigation and financing of the terror-sponsoring and peace-rejecting regimes, on the axis of evil which stretches from Tehran to Damascus.

Lebanon has suffered heavily in the past when it allowed foreign powers to gamble on its fate.

Iran and Syria still continue to meddle from afar in the affairs of Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority, through Hezbollah and Hamas.

Even if last Wednesday's criminal attack [on July 12] against an IDF patrol was carried out without the consent of the Lebanese government and without the assistance of its military, this does not absolve it of full responsibility for the attack which emanated from its sovereign territory, just as the fact that the chairman of the Palestinian Authority opposes terrorism against Israel does not relieve him and the Palestinian Authority of their responsibility for the attack carried out from their territory against our soldiers in Kerem Shalom. They are both fully responsible for the safety of our soldiers who were taken hostage.

Radical, terrorist and violent elements are sabotaging the life of the entire region and placing its stability at risk. The region in which we live is threatened by these murderous terror groups.

It is a regional – as well as a global – interest to take control and terminate their activity.

We can all see how the majority of the international community supports our battle against the terror organizations and our efforts to remove this threat of the Middle East.

We intend to do this. We will continue to operate in full force until we achieve this. On the Palestinian front, we will conduct a tireless battle until terror ceases, [kidnapped Israeli soldier] Gilad Shalit is returned home safely and the shooting of Qassam missiles stops. And in Lebanon, we will insist on compliance with the terms stipulated long ago by the international community, as unequivocally expressed only yesterday in the resolution of the eight leading countries of the world: the return of the hostages, Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser and Eldad Regev; a complete ceasefire; deployment of the Lebanese army in all of Southern Lebanon; expulsion of Hezbollah from the area, and fulfilment of United Nations Resolution 1559…

On both fronts, we are exercising self-defence in the most basic and essential sense.

**Prime Minister Ehud Olmert**

We are at a national moment of truth. Will we consent to living under the threat of this axis of evil or will we mobilize our inner strength and show determination and equanimity?

Our answer is clear to every Israeli, and it echoes today throughout the entire region. We will search every compound, target every terrorist who assists in attacking the citizens of Israel and destroy every terrorist infrastructure everywhere. We will persist until Hezbollah and Hamas comply with those basic and decent things required of them by every civilized person. Israel will not agree to live in the shadow of missiles or rockets against its residents.

Citizens of Israel, there are moments in the life of a nation when it is compelled to look directly into the face of reality and say: no more! And I say to everyone: no more!

Israel will not be held hostage – not by terror gangs or by a terrorist authority or by any sovereign state.

In the life of a nation, there are moments of transcendence, of purification, when political and sectarian disputes which separate us are replaced by a sense of mutual responsibility… and primarily our eternal love for our people and our land. This is such a moment!

All of us – Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze and Circassians – now stand as one person, as one nation, subject together to the same hatred and malice, and fighting against it in consensus and partnership. When missiles are launched at our residents and cities, our answer will be war with all the strength, determination, valour, sacrifice and dedication which characterize this nation.

There is nothing we want more than peace and good neighbourly relations – in the east, north and south. We seek peace, we pursue peace and we yearn for peace. At the same time, there is nothing we reject more than an attempt to harm us and make us give up our right to live here, in our land, in security and peace.

On behalf of the people of Israel, on behalf of all the residents of the country, I came here today to announce to the world: we seek neither war nor direct confrontation, but we will not be deterred from them when the need arises. Only a nation that can defend its freedom truly deserves it. We are entitled to our freedom, and when necessary, we know how to fight for it and defend it.

The strength of the State of Israel relies on the strength and capability of the IDF. This strength is the main guarantee to preserving and defending our lives on this land…

I want to extend from here my heartfelt gratitude – and that of the government and the people of Israel – to the IDF soldiers and commanders, the security services, the Israel police, the rescue forces, the firefighters and the other security forces…

The strength of a nation is measured not only by its military capabilities. The strength of a nation is measured by its welfare and morality, its strong and solid economy, its modern and developing market, its export of technologies and products for the most advanced world markets and its ground-breaking academic research. In all these, each and every one of us has good reason to be proud.

But above all, the strength of a nation is measured in times of trial, when the home front becomes the front, when the citizens of the country show admirable fortitude, patience and stamina, and allow it to operate against its enemies.

I had the privilege of witnessing these inner strengths in the years when I was mayor of Jerusalem. For years, our capital was subject to the most murderous terror attacks. The resilience, patience and restraint of the residents of Jerusalem and all the citizens of Israel are exemplary.

I recall a conversation with Rudy Giuliani, who was mayor of New York during the terror attacks of September 2001. I called to offer encouragement to him and the residents of New York following the collapse of the Twin Towers, and he replied: "Ehud, if the New Yorkers can withstand it like the Jerusalemites do, then we will defeat terrorism…"

Even in these days, hundreds of thousands of Israelis stand at the front line of fire, like soldiers in the battlefield, fighting for our life and honour.

It is clear to us that the circumstances imposed upon the residents compel us to address their special needs in all aspects. The government will lend immediate assistance, everywhere.

The government of Israel, under my leadership, derives strength from the stamina of the Israeli public. We are a brave and determined nation. I am proud today – perhaps more than ever before – to be an Israeli citizen.

Thanks to you, our enemies come up against a united nation, which fights together, shoulder to shoulder. We do not surrender and we do not panic. We believe in the justice of our cause, because there is no battle more just or moral than ours – a battle for the right to a peaceful and normal life, like any other human being, any other nation and any other state.

We fight for the right of children like Omer Pisachov, may his memory be blessed, a seven-year-old from Nahariya, who wanted to visit his grandmother Yehudit Itzkovich, may her memory be blessed, and enjoy the Sabbath dinner she prepared.

We fight for the right of citizens like Shmuel Ben-Shimon, may his memory be blessed, a 41-year-old from Yokne'am who left every morning for work in the railway garage in Haifa to support his wife, Natalie, and their small children;

We fight for the right of citizens like Monica Lerer, may her memory be blessed, a 50-year-old from Nahariya, to drink coffee on the terrace in the country to which she immigrated from Argentina.

We fight for the right of girls like Ella Abukasis, may her memory be blessed, a 13-year-old from Sderot, to play the flute and read books, as Ella enjoyed doing.

We fight for everything that everyone in the enlightened world takes for granted and never imagined that they would have to fight for – the right to a normal life.

It is a difficult battle! It may become even more difficult. It is a painful test, and we may have to bear more suffering. Such a battle is never easy. It is strewn with pain and suffering, sacrifice, and casualties.

But, we have no intention of giving up our desire to live a normal life. We will not apologize for this desire, and we do not need anyone's approval to defend ourselves.

Citizens of Israel, this is a difficult time of trial for all of us. The State of Israel has withstood much more complex trials – and triumphed.

We have always known how to mobilize our inner strength, equanimity, wisdom and patience, in order to overcome our enemies.

Finally, I wish to speak on a more personal note to the families of Shalit, Goldwasser and Regev, the families of the soldiers who are held hostage by Hamas and Hezbollah.

You, and mainly your children – our children are always on my mind.

Last Wednesday, only five days ago, at 10 a.m., Aviva and Noam Shalit sat in my office. They, and I, want Gilad home more than anything. While we were discussing the situation, I – and Aviva and Noam – received the painful news that Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser and Eldad Regev had been kidnapped.

On their departure, Noam and Aviva left a picture of Gilad, taken close to the date of his kidnapping.

Unfortunately, pictures of three boys now stand in my room. Many times during the day, I look in their faces, into their eyes, and embrace them in my heart. I do not forget them for one minute. They were there on our behalf and for our sake. We will do everything and make every effort to bring them home. We will do this, but not in a pattern that will encourage more kidnappings.

There is almost no one who can understand the place you are in. Even when we do not talk directly, I feel and hear what you want to say to me, and I embrace you with love, understanding and agreement.

The place I am in compels me, ultimately, to make fateful decisions, for life, and sometimes even for death.

I have no strength other than that which you have bestowed upon me.

I have no courage other than that which God, my faith in the justice of our cause and my sense of supreme responsibility have instilled in me and have prepared me for these fateful moments.

I see before me the kidnapped boys, those standing in the front line and in the line of fire, those brave and determined ones who are fighting today and who could – God forbid – be the target of tomorrow's kidnapping.

We will defend all of them; on behalf of all of them we will fight, and with all of them before our eyes – the civilians in the line of fire, the kidnapped fighters and their families – we will continue, without hesitating, without capitulating and without fretting, until our goals are achieved.

We will triumph!

# Israel, terrorism and the laws of war

**By IRWIN COTLER**

Opinion

Louise Arbour's comments on international law as it applies to Israel's military actions in Lebanon are as superficial as they are simplistic as a matter of law, and uninformed and misleading in their appreciation of and application to the facts.

First, it is a basic postulate of constitutional law that a government's first duty – be it in Canada or in Israel – is the protection of its citizens. Second, and not unrelated, international law mandates the right, if not the duty, of self-defence against aggression, and the reasonable use of military force for that protective purpose, whether in response to an armed attack from another state or a terrorist act.

In the case at hand, the triggers for the present hostilities include the abduction of Israeli soldiers and the intentional and unprovoked rocket and missile bombardment across international boundaries of Israeli cities, towns and villages by Hezbollah and Hamas. The root cause is the unwillingness of these terrorist entities and their supporters, like Iran, to recognize the legitimacy of Israel within any boundaries. By their own avowed declarations, they are sworn to the destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews wherever they may be – aided and abetted by their sponsors, Iran and Syria.

Accordingly, the declarations of Arbour, the United Nations' high commissioner for human rights and a former Canadian Supreme Court justice, to the effect that international law "prohibits the bombardment of sites with military significance but resulting invariably in the killing of innocent civilians" is wrong as a statement of international law, and dangerously wrong in the application of that alleged international law principle to the facts at hand.

First, it is legitimate under international law to attack military targets located in cities, as long as every effort is made to reduce civilian casualties. Second, targets located in cities including even apartment buildings, bridges and infrastructure – are legitimate military targets if they become the infrastructure from which war is waged, whether they are used to store and launch rockets and missiles, or to house and shield the terrorists themselves, or, as in the case of bridges, to transport both the terrorists and their weapons.

Indeed, Arbour's statement of the law is not only simplistic as a matter of law, but dangerously so in this instance. For if Israel is to be prohibited from exercising its right of self-defence to counter the indiscriminate bombardment of its citizens, the whole of Israel becomes a "sitting duck" for Hezbollah's and Hamas' international criminality. It would transform international law – and Israel's constitution or that of any democracy– into a suicide pact, with Hamas and Hezbollah able to commit war crimes with impunity.

Fortunately, the basic principles of international treaty and customary law respecting the reasonable use of force to repel aggression make it clear that the intentional co-mingling of combatants with civilians – or the embedding of combatants in civilian areas such that an attack on combatants would necessarily entail an excessively large number of casualties – is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. Hezbollah and Hamas are in violation of the laws of war when they launch missiles and rockets from villages and homes in order to immunize themselves from Israeli reprisals.

Accordingly, Hezbollah and Hamas are legally and morally responsible for any civilian casualty that results from any Israeli bombardment of areas containing missiles, rockets or the terrorists themselves, as long as the Israeli intention is for the purpose of protecting its civilians and Israel makes every effort to limit the civilian casualties in its response.

Admittedly, the right of self-defence in the response of Israel (or any other democracy) to such acts of aggression is not unlimited. The principle of "reasonableness" and "proportionality" in response still applies even when terrorist organizations like Hezbollah intentionally and indiscriminately target Israeli civilians and commit the war crime of using their own civilians as human shields. But then the test of "proportionality" for Israel (or any other democracy) – and the question of whether there has been excessive injury to civilians – must be assessed in the context of the intention and actions of both the aggressor and the responding state, including:

- The intentional and unprovoked acts of war across international boundaries by the terrorist organization to begin with;
- The use by the terrorist organizations of civilians as human shields to immunize themselves from an Israeli response;
- The avowed and publicly declared intention to destroy a state (Israel) and kill as many of its citizens as possible;
- The support for these terrorist organizations by states like Iran, which help recruit, train, supply, finance, harbour and instigate the terrorist movements, and which have their own genocidal ideology;
- The fact that terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah act as proxies or surrogates to the strategic objectives of Syria and Iran and which, in the case of Iran, include not only "wiping Israel off the map" but changing the map of the Middle-East itself;
- The intended and anticipated moral and strategic gains for Israel, which include better protecting from rocket and missile attacks more than two million Israelis – and with Tel Aviv in central Israel, protecting the country's entire population of seven million – must also be factored into any judgments about the "proportionality" of Israel's operations against Hezbollah.

It is painful and tragic to see hundreds of thousands of civilians fleeing the war zone; and the death of any innocent, Israeli, Palestinian or Lebanese, is a tragedy. But it must never be forgotten that there would have been no terrorist Hezbollah if UN Security Council Resolution 1559 had been complied with and enforced. There would have been no need for an Israeli response and no civilian casualties on any side if there had been no unprovoked act of aggression across international boundaries by both Hezbollah and Hamas to begin with. There would have been no Hezbollah capacity for an indiscriminate missile and rocket bombardment of the Israeli civilian population were it not for the Iranian and Syrian supply of some 15,000 of these deadly missiles and rockets to Hezbollah alone. There would have been nowhere near the number of Palestinian and Lebanese civilian casualties if Hamas and Hezbollah were not embedding themselves in the civilian population and using the civilians as human shields. And, as a matter of fundamental principle, there should no moral equivalence between the terrorist intention to maximize civilian casualties and the Israeli intention to minimize civilian casualties.

**The carnage from rockets aimed by Hezbollah at residential areas of Haifa.**
**[Isranet photo]**

This discourse about the laws of war may, in the light of individual tragedies and civilian deaths, appear to be insufficiently sensitive to the human tragedies involved. Indeed, the "laws of war" may appear to be a contradiction in terms. But the very notion of laws of war and the theory of just wars presuppose that wars will still be fought, but that they must be fought justly.

In the end, Hamas and Hezbollah launched an unprovoked act of war against Israel. Israel had no choice but to respond to protect its citizens. The question is whether that response is just, and the answer has to be one rendered with full appreciation of the principles of international law and the facts and circumstances of the present conflict.

*Irwin Cotler is the member of Parliament for Mount Royal and professor of law (on leave) at McGill University.*


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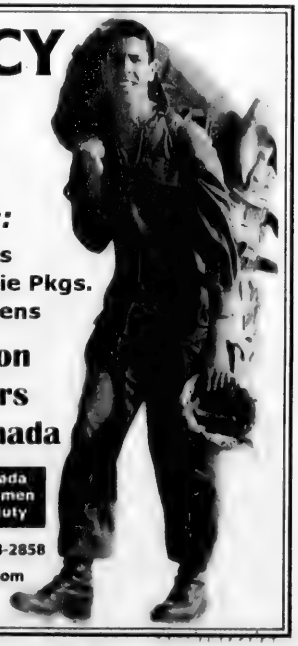


# Toronto businessman helps Falash Mora make aliyah

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** — As dozens of Falash Mora immigrants line up in front of giant airport X-ray machines that will scan their belongings, they file past a 60ish silver-haired man who is quietly taking in the scene.

Some of the young adult Falash Mora are wearing western-style suits. So are many of the boys, while the girls are dressed in their frilly best. The older Falash Mora are garbed in traditional white robes and headdresses; one man's gnarled hand grasps a wooden rod as a biblical patriarch might have done.

The white-haired man who is watching this modern- day exodus is unknown to the olim now, but when they arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport after a 4½-hour flight, they will learn that Walter Arbib is the man primarily responsible for chartering the plane that brought more than 100 of them to Israel.

Clearly moved by what he is witnessing, Arbib said simply, "If you don't see it, it's hard to understand it."

A benefactor to numerous charities, he said being in the airport with the olim and travelling to Israel on the same plane means more to him than simply writing a cheque. "Here, you see something alive… Here, it's tangible. You see them dressed like they're going to a wedding."

Arbib, president and co-owner of Toronto-based SkyLink Aviation, a charter airline and logistics company, sponsored the flight in conjunction with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Keren Hayesod's Italy office.

Earlier Arbib had partnered with Lelei Lelaulu, president of Counterpart International, to bring $400,000 in AIDS pharmaceuticals to the Mother Teresa Orphanage in Addis Ababa. The orphanage is home to 400 children, from newborns to kids aged 17, all of whom are afflicted with the HIV virus.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, many of the Falash Mora immediately drop to their knees on disembarking and kiss the ground. It is a sight that moves those greeting them, among them many young soldiers who break into welcoming song as the new olim enter the terminal.

Arbib, who has witnessed the scene, explained his reasons for financing the flight. "Being a Libyan Jew and being an immigrant myself, I felt it was the right thing to do. I was impressed by how strongly they [the Falash Mora] try to return to their Judaism."

Raised in Tripoli, Libya, Arbib recalled a happy childhood and youth that came to an abrupt end with Israel's victory in the 1967 Six Day War. Forced to flee an enraged mob that tried to burn down their home, the Arbib family left Libya for Italy, which had once colonized the north African country. As a refugee, Arbib recalls fondly the warm Italian welcome and the help afforded by Keren Hayesod, which made the transition to a new life easier.

The experience left him with an abiding sympathy for immigrants, he said.

In 1969, he moved to Israel and launched a travel agency. In 1987, he immigrated to Canada and started SkyLink in partnership with Surjit Babra. Over the years, Arbib has lent his aircraft to a number of charitable endeavours including delivering medicines to Afghanistan, Darfur, Indonesia and Iraq – even the Palestinian territories. He often works in conjunction with Counterpart, a U.S.-based organization that obtains pharmaceuticals at bargain prices.

In late spring, Arbib was approached by the Israeli consul general in Toronto, Cobie Brosh, who asked if he'd be interested in participating in a charitable endeavour to support the Mother Teresa Orphanage in Addis Ababa. Arbib agreed, and within two weeks, Counterpart had obtained antiretroviral drugs in Holland.

SkyLink shipped the meds on a regularly scheduled flight, and Arbib, along with his family, travelled to Ethiopia to make the official presentation.

While touring the orphanage, Arbib was so moved by the plight of a young Ethiopian that he spontaneously pledged $8,000 to provide surgery for a five-year-old at Hadassah Hospital in Israel.

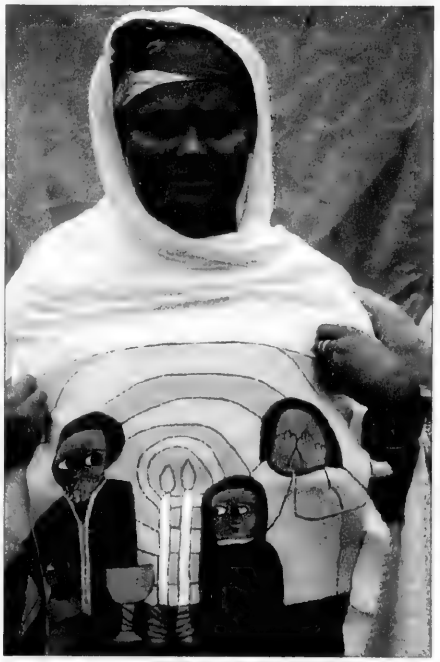
Arbib's wife, Edie, said, "Children get the best care at Hadassah Hospital. If we can save his life, why not?"

Asked why he chose this particular charity, Arbib deflects the question and credits the Jewish communities in Toronto and Italy, saying attributing the donation to them will give it greater impact and create better understanding between peoples.

As for the Falash Mora, he sees them as "observant Jews" who are "stubborn in learning Hebrew." There are a large number of them who need help, he said.

Even in Israel, Ethiopian Jews benefit from Arbib's help. The Museum of Libyan Jews he opened in Or Yehuda has initiated after-school programs for local Ethiopian children. Some of the programs were funded by $17,500 in birthday gifts he received and which he asked to be channelled through UJA Federation for the programs.

UJA Federation has also agreed to raise $2.5 million over three years – half the Canadian total – towards Operation Promise, a $160-million North American federation effort to assist in the aliyah and integration of Falash Mora in Israel as well as aid Jews in the Former Soviet Union.



**A Falash Mora woman shows off hand-made Judaica she sells to visitors. [Paul Lungen photo]**

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According to Saturday's *Globe and Mail*, last week Arbib and Babra transported more than 6,000 Lebanese Canadians from Cyprus to Canada. SkyLink had planes waiting in Cyprus before the evacuees from Lebanon had even arrived by boat, the article said.

Arbib told the *Globe* his company would keep flying evacuees until everyone who wants to flee the region is home.

*With files from Frances Kraft.*

# *Ethiopia-Israel ties go back millennia*

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** — Among the wood carvings, lapis bead jewelry, colourful scarves and coffee-serving utensils you can purchase in a typical Ethiopian souvenir shop, you're likely to find some sort of visual depiction of King Solomon greeting the Queen of Sheba.

Ethiopians are intensely conscious of their ancient history and proud of their connection to the Holy Land. Its longtime leader, Emperor Hailie Selassie, was long known as the Lion of Judah.

As Ethiopia lore has it, the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon and later gave birth to a son, Menelik. Menelik and his mother are believed to have returned to Ethiopia with 12,000 Israelites, bringing with them many typical Jewish practices.

Boys are circumcised on the eighth day, only kosher animals are consumed and many Ethiopians adopt Old Testament names such as Solomon, Leah, David and Rachel. A typical Ethiopian invocation is, 'May the God of Israel bless you," said Rick Hodes, a doctor with the Joint Distribution Committee who first came to Ethiopia in 1985.

Stars of David can be found as a decorative motif in Ethiopia, and they are common in pictorial depictions of the meeting of Solomon and Sheba. Raiders of the lost Ark might be interested to learn that Ethiopians believe the Ark of the Covenant resides in a church in Axum, in the north of the country, not far from the Jewish heartland of Gonder.

Israeli Ambassador Ya'acob Amitai notes that Ethiopians cite the unique bond between Israel and Ethiopia, and many believe they are chosen people.

**Israeli Ambassador Ya'acob Amitai**

In the past, the emigration of Ethiopian Jews was problematic, but today's government in Addis is not blocking Falash Mora from leaving. However, "this issue is perceived by them, to put it mildly, as not in a positive context," the ambassador stated.

As for the current state of relations between Israel and Ethiopia, Amitai said: "In the last few years, bilateral relations have improved." Several high-ranking officials have visited each other's countries and trade had increased, although the overall number of $60 million (US) is modest.

Both Israel and Ethiopia believe there is a special bond between the two countries and "special links between the two peoples," Amitai said.

"These are not empty diplomatic phrases," he emphasized.

It is not seen as reflecting positively on Ethiopian life, and the government is also concerned about the émigrés moving to Arab territories, he added.

On a positive note, the government in Addis sees the Ethiopian Diaspora in the United States and Israel as assets, serving also as a potential source of investment and for improving cultural ties.

The government of Ethiopia has pushed the idea that those Falash Mora who have sold their land and given up their property to move to compounds in Gonder and Addis in the hope of one day moving to Israel should be compensated if they do not move to Israel. "We did not reject the idea of compensation," Amitai said. "We spoke in terms of a one time, final compensation…"

"Negotiations are open, but they could last long," he added. — *P.L.*

# JNF Canada attends 'Vision Negev' summit

By JENNY HAZAN
*Israel Bureau*

**BE'ER SHEVA** — Green is certainly not the most prominent colour of Be'er Sheva's landscape. That's why, amid the brown of the stone and sand, you might think you're seeing a mirage when you first set eyes on a new 900-acre stretch of green parkland along Nachal Be'er Sheva.

But the Montreal Oasis Park is no illusion, and it's there thanks to the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF).

The park, which will soon include walking and biking paths, hiking trails, benches, a promenade along Nachal Be'er Sheva (the Be'er Sheva River), and even man-made lakes, is one of three major projects that make up JNF Canada's contribution to JNF's larger "Vision Negev" program, which aims to encourage immigrants and Israelis to move to the Negev by making it a more hospitable place to live. The details of the plan were revealed and discussed at the JNF World Leadership Conference, which took place in Be'er Sheva July 10 to 14 and included JNF representatives from some 20 countries.

Sharon Marcovitz-Hart

JNF Canada's five-member delegation to the conference was led by president Sharon Marcovitz-Hart, and included executive vice-president Joe Rabinovitch of Montreal and JNF Canada Israeli emissary Rami Kleinman.

"Vision Negev" is a multimillion-dollar plan created by JNF in co-operation with the Israeli government to build five large parks in the Negev towns of Dimona, Ofakim, Yerucham, Sderot and Be'er Sheva.

Be'er Sheva's Montreal Oasis Park is the first to be nearing completion. "It really is an unbelievable undertaking," said Marcovitz-Hart.

"It's a beautiful, green oasis in the middle of the desert's brown scenery. Everyone is excited about it. The whole atmosphere of this conference has been one of pioneering excitement," she added.

"The only way to get people to move to the Negev is to make it appealing to them," she said. "These developments will go a long way to achieving that goal."

She noted that the goal is not new.

"Even in Ben Gurion's time, we realized that without the Negev, we would not have an Israel," said Marcovitz-Hart, adding that the Negev, which covers 60 per cent of the country, is only populated by eight to nine per cent of its people. The centre, on the other hand, accounts for about 18 per cent of Israel's size, but houses 75 per cent of the population. "In the next 15 to 20 years, Israel's centre might become the most densely populated place on the planet," she said. "It is extremely overpopulated right now."

The current focus of "Vision Negev" is the Nachal Be'er Sheva area, which JNF estimates will take another 10 years and a total of $250 million (US) to finish. Although the park's infrastructure, its grass and trees have been put in place, there's still a lot to do.

The current project is divided into 10 to 15 sub-projects. Now that the foundations have been laid, Canada's biggest job is done. But it's still responsible for two more sub-projects: an amphitheatre designed to seat 8,000 audience members, and a visitor's centre, to be created by transforming Be'er Sheva's old Turkish train station into "Beit Eshel," which will serve as the entry point to the whole park.

"This project will totally transform Nachal Be'er Sheva," Rabinovitch said. "The hope is that this will be an anchor to attract more people to the Negev in general, and to Nachal Be'er Sheva in particular."

Ensuring that the Negev has a Jewish population preserves the integrity of the State of Israel, Marcovitz-Hart said.

"We have to open up new areas for people to live," she said. "The Negev is Israel's future."

But the problem is that there is a huge socio-economic gap between the standards of living in cities in the centre of Israel and in Negev development towns.

In the early 1990s, the Israeli government learned that giving people large subsidies for houses was not enough to entice them to move to the Negev. In addition to housing, there are lots of other things that people need: infrastructure, jobs, industry, economic development, educational facilities, cultural institutions, recreation sites and green spaces.

"Green spaces are especially important in the Negev, where you don't have a lot of green," Marcovitz-Hart said. "These parks are like lungs for these people."

# *Family has heard nothing of Ehud's fate*

**Continued from page 1**

Eldad Regev, he delivered the bad news to his parents in South Africa and his younger brother, Gadi, who was travelling in India.

One part of him had been hoping Ehud would not be among the soldiers taken prisoner. "From the stories we [heard], we knew it wasn't the most pleasant environment to be in," he said.

Like his son, Yair's father, Shlomo, first heard about the incident from media reports, and he, too, immediately thought the worst, knowing Ehud, an infantry reservist, had been posted in his Humvee in the area of the attack.

Shlomo, who works extensively in South Africa as a maritime shipping consultant – he's a former ship's captain – thought of how to tell his wife, Malka. With the advice of a rabbi and with a doctor present, he informed her about Ehud's capture.

Since that initial day, the family has heard virtually nothing more about Ehud's fate.

"We have not the slightest information," Shlomo said in a telephone interview from Nahariya. "Everyone is doing the utmost to get this information from Hezbollah, but till now, we have no information."

Though the family is briefed daily by the army – in addition Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni called almost every day for at least the first week and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert phoned twice – they are in the dark about possible back-channel efforts to rescue their son, along with Regev and Gilad Shalit, who was captured by Hamas infiltrators on the border with Gaza.

As the conflict with Hezbollah intensified and bombs rained down on Nahariya, Shlomo said the family remained confident the Israeli government "is doing the utmost to get our son back."

Despite initial concerns about his mother's ability to accept the news of Ehud's capture, "she is amazingly strong," Yair said. The family has gathered together to endure the crisis and many friends and family come by to lend them support.

The Goldwassers, who have visited Canada several times, have also received calls of support from friends in Toronto.

Meanwhile, as war raged in Lebanon and Katyusha rockets rained down on northern Israel, the Goldwassers have done just about all they can do to learn Ehud's fate.

They've met with secretary general of the council of the European Union Javier Solana, they've asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene, they have given numerous media interviews in Israel and abroad, and last week they travelled to France to solicit that country's assistance in getting some information about Ehud.

All to no avail. Solana, Shlomo said, admitted he doesn't have channels to Hezbollah, and the Red Cross could only promise to do its best to get information about Ehud and to pass along to him a letter and a Bible.

"At the moment, I want only one thing – the slightest information he is alive," Shlomo said. "From then on, we can find what we can do. We don't have accurate information, but the teams involved in this know he was captured alive and may be wounded."

Yair believes Ehud is getting good treatment. After all, Hezbollah "needs him as a card" to bargain for a prisoner exchange, he said.

Ehud, 31, is Shlomo and Malka's oldest son. He studies environmental engineering at the Technion in Haifa.

"He's an amazing person once you know him," Yair said. "He's involved in so many things and takes them to the next level."

A photography bug, he took his hobby and turned it into a source of income, doing wedding photography as well as serving as head photographer for the Technion's in-house magazine.

He's an avid cyclist who races mountain bikes and he learned how to sail yachts, Yair said.

Shlomo describes his son as "a very peaceful man. He is very far from being a man who is dealing with war and pain."

Nevertheless, he continued, he believes his son has the inner strength to deal with his captivity.

"If he's alive, he will cope with it," Shlomo said.

## Israel Briefs

***Sharon in intensive care***

Former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon was taken to an intensive care unit last week at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer to drain fluids from his body. His condition had deteriorated in previous days. He has been in a coma since suffering a massive stroke Jan. 4.

***Pride parade postponed***

Due to ongoing fighting on Israel's northern and southern borders, organizers of a global gay pride parade slated to take place Aug. 10 in Jerusalem have delayed the march indefinitely. "It's important for us to hold the march under safe and peaceful circumstances, and... due to the political circumstances in the region, that's not the case," said Hagai El-Ad, head of Jerusalem Open House, a gay and lesbian centre that's organizing the week-long WorldPride 2006. Police also said they might not be able to protect marchers from violent opposition from observant Jews, Muslims and Christians. The march, expected to attract 10,000 people, won't go on, but 40 related events will take place starting Aug. 6. A new march date will be set once fighting stops.

***Geography prof released***

Ghazi Falah, a dual Israeli-Canadian citizen and a former University of Toronto geography professor, was released from Israeli custody Sunday after being arrested for photographing military installations along Israel's border with Lebanon before hostilities broke out with Hezbollah. Israel said he was spying for Hezbollah, but never laid charges. He said he was in Israel to visit his sick mother in Nazareth and didn't realize he took photos of a military antenna while sightseeing July 8. Haifa District Court had ordered Israel to charge Falah, who works at the University of Akron in Ohio, or release him by July 30. Israel returned his camera with the pictures.

***HP buys software firm***

U.S. computer giant Hewlett-Packard said last week that it will buy Israeli software maker Mercury Interactive Corp. for $4.5 billion (US) in the largest ever acquisition deal in the history of Israel's high-tech sector. HP CEO Mark Hurd said the deal will enable HP to double its annual software sales to about $2 billion.

***French olim arrive***

Some 650 olim from France landed in Israel July 25. Some of them will be moving to northern Israel, the scene of daily rocket attacks from Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Jewish Agency and the Ami association are behind the trip by the olim, some of an estimated 3,500 expected to make aliyah from France this year.

***Hospital to treat Lebanese***

An Israeli hospital said it would treat Lebanese victims of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict. Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer said private donors in Israel and abroad would pay for the care. The offer is being promoted on Arabic-language radio and in Cyprus, where many Lebanese have gone.

***Israel to allow airlifts***

Israel will allow aid airlifts to reach Lebanon in a bid to avert a humanitarian crisis. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced the decision July 25 in talks with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who has voiced concern over humanitarian conditions in Lebanon as Israel presses its offensive against Hezbollah. Olmert's office said he agreed the looming crisis had to be averted. Israel will allow planes carrying humanitarian aid to land at Beirut airport, his office said, adding that Israel will also allow the creation of a land corridor from Israel to Lebanon to transfer humanitarian aid.

***Olmert regrets UN deaths***

Ehud Olmert voiced regret for an Israeli airstrike last week that killed four UN observers, including a Canadian soldier, in southern Lebanon. The prime minister phoned UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, conveying his regrets for the overnight attack on the UN position, saying it was an error. Annan accused Israel of deliberately targeting his men. UN personnel have stayed in southern Lebanon despite ongoing battles between Hezbollah and Israel. Harper said he didn't believe the attack was deliberate.

*– from CJN news services*

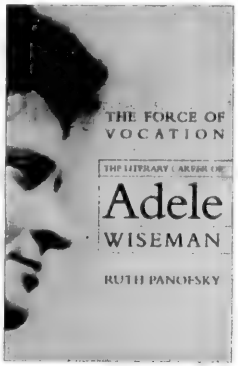
# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

**SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART II:**

## ADELE WISEMAN'S 'ROAD NOT TAKEN'

It has been 50 years since Winnipeg-born writer **Adele Wiseman** scored the highly impressive professional coup of winning the Governor General's literary award for her first novel, *The Sacrifice*.




But Wiseman, who was 28 in 1956 and widely considered to be at the start of a very promising career as a novelist, disappointed the expectations of editors, critics and a large international pool of readers who would have welcomed a second novel from her within a few years.

No such book was forthcoming. Instead, she focused her creative energies on a play, *The Lovebound*, a four-hour, unproduceable tragicomedy about the world's failure to rescue European Jewry from what would become the Holocaust. Readers had to wait another 18 years for another Wiseman novel – *Crackpot* – which received a far less exuberant critical reception when it appeared in 1974.

Wiseman's poor career choice is the equivalent of an award-winning sprinter deciding to swim the English Channel as an encore. Writing in *Saturday Night* magazine, critic **Adele Freedman** described the author's decision to attempt a play as "an act of daring that eventually proved a mistake… Against the advice of her supporters at Macmillan [of Canada] and Viking [Press], she asserted her determination and wilfulness like the heroine of a Greek tragedy testing the elements."

Sadly, the literary artist's star was never to regain its lustre. "The course of Wiseman's career can be read as the progressive loss of readership and literary recognition, with little economic gain over a lifetime," writes **Ruth Panofsky** in *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman* (University of Manitoba Press), a newly published and well-written study of Wiseman's career path and the forces that shaped it.

Rather than attempt a personal biography, Panofsky focuses on Wiseman's relations with editors, publishers, fellow writers and others within the professional sphere. Novelist **Margaret Laurence**, a lifelong friend with whom Wiseman maintained a decades-long correspondence, is portrayed as the strongest of the various supporters and mentors who stood by her through her unrelenting lean period that lasted until her death in 1992.

Wiseman didn't give a hoot about prevailing market conditions in the book trade or what a project might bring her financially. Convinced of her own vision and the importance of remaining true to her art, she initiated literary projects through an artistic need to grapple with major issues of morality, truth and humanity. She worked in whatever genre she felt was most suited to a given project and, despite the pleas of editors, had no interest in sticking with a more popular form that had already won her a readership. Her eye was always on higher things.

During her early years in Winnipeg, as well as during her literary apprenticeship in London (where she worked for the Stepney Jewish Girls Club) and her later years in New York, Montreal, Toronto and Banff, Wiseman always saw herself as a writer of integrity and vision who stuck by her own muse. "I'm afraid I'm incurably pig-headed about my own literary judgment," she once wrote defiantly after MacMillan rejected *Crackpot* for publication; she also bridled upon hearing her characters described as "grotesque."

**Adele Wiseman, left, and Margaret Laurence in the latter's home in Lakefield, Ont. in 1986. This is the last photo of the two longtime friends.**

Panofsky relates many more psychologically telling professional incidents. Several years after *Crackpot*'s eventual publication by McClelland & Stewart, for example, Wiseman became livid at hearing that the novel was being remaindered at W.H. Smith bookstores for $1.99. During an angry exchange of letters with publisher **Jack McClelland**, he scolded her that she seemed to know nothing about the realities of book publishing and "had come to believe that the world owes you some very extraordinary considerations as an artist." Wiseman shot back that artists were indeed entitled to "extraordinary consideration." Truth seems to reside on both sides of their angry debate, which permanently damaged their relationship.

*The Force of Vocation* serves to remind us how good *The Sacrifice* is, and why it's earned a coveted spot in the canon of Canadian postwar lit. An English teacher at Ryerson University, Panofsky posits that the book's success was all the more remarkable because its author was a woman in a male-dominated publishing world. (Too bad we know so little about the book's lonely process of creation.) Panofsky also reminds us that many have come to regard *Crackpot* as an unsung Canadian classic. That was certainly my impression when I read it some years ago and marvelled at its solid construction and rare artistry.

As Canada's foremost Wiseman scholar, Panofsky conveys an encyclopedic knowledge of her subject: her scholarship is outstanding. She deserves credit for producing this timely study of a writer whose works (including *Old Woman at Play*, about her mother) are still deserving of a wide readership, especially within the Jewish community.

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# *Handy guidebook to Israel*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

When the current crisis in Lebanon ends, tourists will begin flocking back to Israel, and when they do it will be in the full knowledge that there is plenty to see and do in this pint-sized historically and religiously important country.

Before you pack your bags, allot an hour or two to *Israel* (Random House), a guidebook put out by the reputable Fodor organization.

This popular volume, now in its sixth edition, should answer all your questions about Israel's history, favourite destinations, restaurants, cafes and hotels.

The maps are clear, and the coloured photographs of Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa and the Galilee will surely whet your appetite for the sights and sounds of Israel.

Above all else, this is a practical guidebook, designed for both the seasoned and inexperienced traveller.

For example, the first few pages offer a succinct overview of Israel, with sections on Tel Aviv, Haifa and the northern coast, the lower Galilee, the upper Galilee and the Golan Heights and Eilat and the Negev.

Read them carefully and you can start planning your itinerary.

Once you know where you want to go and what you want to do, you can read about your chosen destinations in much greater depth.

The entries are well-written and authoritative, and whoever wrote them has been around Israel and knows the place from top to bottom. That will be comforting for a traveller visiting the country for the first time.

Several pages are given over to what is described as "quintessential Israel," or features that impart a sense of the nation.

So if you're really interested in familiarizing yourself with Israel's essence, you'll read about falafel, that delicious fast-food staple; the Sabra personality, which is both prickly and warm; and markets and bargaining, which introduce you to that wonderful pastime, shopping, and give you tips on how best to deal with vendors.

When you're in Israel, be sure to keep *Israel* close at hand. You won't be sorry.

Arts & Travel

# Yiddish concert features Beyond the Pale

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

The 25th summer Yiddish concert, features Eric Stein with his klezmer ensemble Beyond the Pale and the singers Michael Mandel, Adrienne Cooper and Avra Fainer, accompanied by pianist Marilyn Lerner.

The concert, titled Oy a Simkha, Oy a Freyd (Oh a Celebration, Oh a Joy), is dedicated to the memory of Aron Fainer, an activist, a Yiddishist, a community leader and teacher. He died on June 14. Avra Fainer is his granddaughter.

Aron Fainer was one of the founding members of the committee for Yiddish, which was formed in 1949, and remained active on the committee until his death.

Beyond the Pale is featured at the 25th Yiddish concert.

He was the chair of the first summer Yiddish concert in 1981 and several others and served as the MC at outdoor summer Yiddish concerts as well.

Sponsored by the Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the concert takes place Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m., at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Bess Shockett, chair of the concert committee, said this year's concert will concentrate on "up music."

Committee chair Sheldon Friedman told *The CJN* that the Yiddish language, its history and culture are the foundation of the Ashkenazi Jewish community of Toronto.

"We work to create a love and knowledge of Yiddish," he said, adding that the committee for Yiddish works directly and indirectly to ensure that the Ashkenazi story is told.

The committee for Yiddish sponsors a number of programs, including Yiddish classes for children and adults, among them courses at the University of Toronto and York University, and a Yiddish event at the Jewish Book Fair. The committee also works with other organizations to promote Yiddish programs.

Concert tickets are $10. For more information, call Lil Nobel, 416-635-2883, ext. 111. Tickets are also on sale at the synagogue

# *Classic Polish Holocaust film out on DVD*

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
*Special to The CJN*

Dozens of Holocaust films have been released in theatres and on DVD over the past 20 years. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I learned about the DVD release of one of the first such films, *Border Street*.

*Border Street* (*Ulica Granicza*) was produced in Poland in 1948 by famed director Aleksander Ford. It was one of the first films to describe the events that took place during the Holocaust and has long been considered a classic.

Unfortunately, this film has been almost impossible to obtain. It did have a theatrical run in Toronto in the late 1940s or early '50s and then disappeared. A small video company in the United States released it a number of years ago, but very few people knew about it and fewer could get their hands on a copy.

Now Morningstar Entertainment in Canada has released the film on DVD.

*Border Street* tells about a group of Poles living in the same neighbourhood, and even in the same apartment building, and follows them from just before the Nazi occupation of Warsaw until the Ghetto uprising.

The film centres on four young people – Davidek and Jadzia are Jewish youngsters who see resistance as the only way to survive the Nazi extermination policy, while Bronek and Wladek fight the Nazis as a means of expressing their Polish patriotism.

Not only is *Border Street* a compelling drama, it is also of great historical interest. Having been produced so soon after the events, it is much closer to the facts than most films made since.

The film also uses the well-known Yiddish song *Es Brent* as a theme through parts of the narrative.

*Border Street* was produced in black and white and the DVD contains a Polish soundtrack with optional English subtitles.

Another film released recently on DVD is *Little Jerusalem* (*La Petite Jerusalem*), one of the films premièred at the 2006 Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

*Little Jerusalem* is set in a section of Paris called Sarcelles, which has a large Jewish population. The film tells the story of Laura, an 18-year-old Jewish woman torn between her religious beliefs and the secular world around her. Laura questions her growing sexual awareness and this causes her to reassess her life and make a number of decisions that will affect her future profoundly. This film contains nudity and situations that might make it inappropriate for young people.

Both DVD's are available at better video stores or can be purchased on the Internet.


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Arts & Travel

# Poetry collection celebrates everyday life

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Jack Gelman is a man of many talents.

Gelman, 77, whose formal education ended in Grade 7, is a poet, a community worker, an entrepreneur and a comedian. Recently, he published his fourth book, *40 Years of Poetry*.

Jack Gelman

His latest book, which spans four decades, reflects his eclectic life filled with challenges and joyous events. The 133 poems in *40 Years of Poetry* are about everyday events with such subjects as family and friends, holidays and special days, love of country and city, sports and politics.

In his poems, Gelman speaks of hard work and his penchant for optimism while always looking for humour in every situation. (His humour is reflected in his licence plate, "J G POET.")

Gelman grew up on Baldwin Street in Kensington Market, where his parents operated a fruit and vegetable store from 1928 to '58.

"My education at Ryerson Public School ended in Grade 7 and my education continued on the streets where I graduated with honours," he says.

Gelman, who began his business career as a commercial paper salesman in 1948, is the prototype for the saying, "If life gives you lemons, then make lemonade." Raised in poverty, lacking an education and with a disability – dyslexia – he overcame the obstacles in his path.

Despite that in the 1930s there was no diagnosis for dyslexia, or help available, he managed to educate himself and to achieve much in his life. And through it all, he retained his sense of humour.

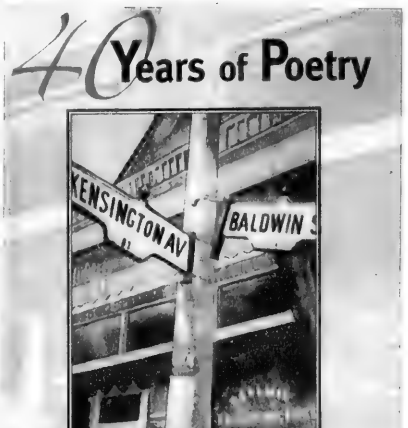
For many years, Gelman revised the words to songs for occasions such as bar mitzvahs, birthdays and the birth of babies.

"Then I was hooked on writing and began writing of life-cycle events in my family and for friends," he says. He also wrote about famous people and places.

"It was my friends who suggested that I publish my poems."

Along with his new book, Gelman is the author of *Jack Gelman's Collection of Yiddish Words, Yiddish: A Two Way Street* and *One Year at a Time*.

Gelman, now semi-retired, is overjoyed with his marriage of 55 years to Esther, his four children, 11 grandchildren




and as he adds "a wonderfu group o friends."

He proudl notes that h was the firs non-profes sional to serv as president o the North Yor lodge of B'na Brith, fro which he re ceived the ma of the yea award in 198

He also re ceived th Tower o David Awar for his wor with the Stat of Isra Bonds.

*40 Years o Poetry* is avai able at Israel Judaica, Negev Importing, Steeles Deli an Glenalan Motors.

# *Richler parodied other writers, new book contends*

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

A new book makes a convincing case that the late Mordecai Richler borrowed liberally from the great writers, both ancient and modern, disguising their themes, characters and incidents with his own style of parody, thus avoiding accusations of plagiarism.

Ada Craniford, a great admirer of Richler's work, also argues in her self-published *Mordecai Richler: A Life in Ten Novels* that his 10 novels are far more autobiographical than he ever acknowledged, but that he has likewise parodied the facts of his life.

Although Richler was reviled by some for turning his back on Jewish tradition, Craniford detects much in his work that was inspired by the Hebrew Bible.

She contends that Richler's ability to so cleverly integrate bits of other novels, poems and stories is a mark of genius, and not misappropriation or simply a case of imitation being the sincerest form of flattery.

Craniford's maintains that from his first novel, *The Acrobats*, published in 1954, to the last, *Barney's Version* in 1997, Richler wrote parody. She uses University of Toronto literary theorist Linda Hutcheon's definition of parody as "a kind of writing, in which the words of an author or his thoughts are taken and by a slight change adapted to some new purpose."

She believes that Richler meant for these echoes of other writings to be noticed by astute readers and that being aware of them enhances, rather than detracts, from the reading of his novels, as well as the original works.

Craniford believes parody was Richler's way of paying homage to writers he admired and does not mean he lacked originality, because he has given all of the material, including the facts of his own life, a new and often ironic or caricatured twist.

"Richler's way of showing this admiration is always to alter what he has borrowed so that it reflects his own wit, his own circumstances, and his own way of looking at the world," she writes.

Mordecai Richler

Craniford now lives in Kingston after teaching English at the University of Toronto and Concordia University, as well as in Toronto-area high schools. She taught Richler's novels for 14 years.

A native of Austria, who came with her family to Montreal in 1938, Craniford notes that she is a contemporary of Richler, who died in five years ago, and that they knew many of the same people while growing up.

Craniford spent a good deal of time combing through the Richler archives at the University of Calgary, which she says reveal a great deal about the private man.

*Barney's Version*, Richler's last novel, borrows a great deal from Saul Bellow's *Herzog* in its portrayal of man trying to figure out how he messed up so many times, especially with women, according to Craniford, and contains "large chunks" from Richler's own life. It also owes much to Shakespeare's *King Lear*, whose protagonist struggled with old age, loss and regret.

Craniford's observation that Richler's penultimate novel *Solomon Gursky Was Here* is a fictionalized version of Peter C. Newman's *The Bronfman Dynasty: The Rothschilds of the New World* won't come as a surprise to anyone who has read both books. But she demonstrates that the intricate structure of the novel is patterned on A.J.A. Symons' more obscure 1934 *The Quest for Corvo: An Experiment in Biography*.

Neither is it a revelation that Richler's most popular novel, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, is clearly akin to Budd Schulberg's 1941 classic *What Makes Sammy Run?*, but it takes considerably more imagination on Craniford's part to deduce that strains of the biblical story of David also run though the book. Thus, Duddy (a diminutive of David) is a somewhat more complex character than the soulless, money-grubbing Glick, possessing some of the attributes of strength, resourcefulness and loyalty of the biblical hero, according to Craniford.

*St. Urbain's Horseman*, Richler's first weighty novel, contains currents from sources as diverse as the poetry of W.H. Auden, the biblical books of Genesis and Revelation, and the Greek Hercules mythology, Craniford argues.

She also contends that Richler's lesser-known, early novel *A Choice of Enemies* is clearly a take-off on T.S. Eliot's poem *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufock*, and that even the central character is an anti-Semite, as Eliot is reputed to have been.

Craniford writes that because Richler disclosed so little about his writing methods and because his stories are both realistic and satiric, critics and reviewers have for the most part ignored his "playful reworking" of other writings, or dismissed it as "recycling" of material, both his own and that of others.

As for the autobiographical aspects of his writing, Craniford is convinced that Richler repeatedly models the ideal women on his second wife Florence, with whom he had a long and happy marriage and raised five children. On the other hand, the less-pleasing female characters do not share traits with his first wife, Cathy Boudreau with whom he was incompatibly and briefly wed -- so much as they evoke the feelings, such as guilt, that Richler had about his relationship with her, Craniford speculates.

"I wrote *Mordecai Richler: A Life in Ten Novels* as a tribute to Richler, and as a way of sharing my fascination with the way he combines a fictional version of his life with parodies of his literary sources. Richler's use of parody is an astonishing, generally under-rated, achievement," she writes.

Books & Authors

# The other Singer brother

***The Family Carnovsky*, I.J. Singer. Translated by Joseph Singer. Schocken Books.**

By NORMAN RAVVIN
*Special to The CJN*

Jewish novels published shortly before or during World War II are poignant today in ways that their writers and contemporary readers could not have imagined. I.J. Singer's last novel, *The Family Carnovsky*, operates as a kind of time capsule, a portrait of Jewish life in America and Europe before it was transformed by the events of the war.

Norman Ravvin

Like much of the fiction of both I.J. and I.B. Singer, *The Family Carnovsky* was serialized in the *Forverts* before it appeared in book form as *Di Mishpoche Karnovski* in 1943.

The novel proved to be the capstone of I.J. Singer's varied career, as he died in New York City early the following year. Aspects of the book will be familiar to readers of mid-century Yiddish fiction: the multi-generational saga, which for some might require a family tree as a guide; a tendency toward melodrama, driven by the demands of the original venue of newspaper serialization; and a detailed portrait of a prewar Jewish culture lost to us.

Three generations of Carnovskys provide a template against which Singer examines the challenges and dangers of the 20th-century rush toward secularism and enlightenment views as alternatives to orthodoxy.

Like his more famous brother, I.J. Singer was well placed to take on this theme. The Singers' home life had been infused with the religious fervour and scholarship of their father, alongside the more practical-minded example of their mother. The Carnovsky family's story begins amid small-town Polish Jewish pieties, before it moves to Berlin. There, David Carnovsky sets up his family in a "great apartment house on Oranienburger Strasse" and pursues his desire to be a German in the street and a Jew at home.

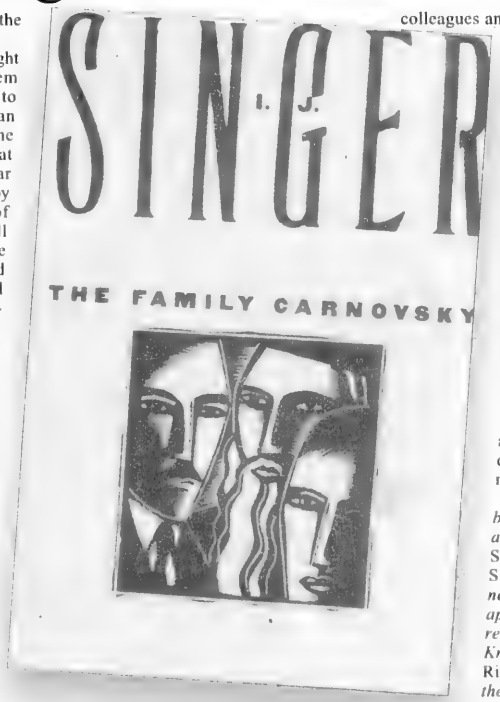
Berlin, in the decades between the wars, was the destination of large numbers of Jews fleeing social and economic collapse in the eastern lands, as well as intermittent pogroms. David Carnovsky is among these newcomers, yet his success as a trader and his enlightenment philosophy, modelled after Moses Mendelssohn, allow him to take his place in the Jewish elite, at remove from other eastern newcomers.

His son, after serving as a medic on the eastern front, becomes a celebrated Berlin physician and marries a German. Their child, called Joachim in the street and Jegor at home, becomes the focus of the novel's dark conclusion. Growing up amidst the worst anti-Jewish abuses of pre-World War II Berlin, Jegor comes to despise his Jewish ancestry, and fanatically reinvents himself as a heel-clicking, *jawohl*-shouting "pure German." When Jegor's family emigrates to New York City, he asserts himself as a hater of all things Jewish and American, pining to return to what Singer's characters refer to as "the other side."

The back half of *The Family Carnovsky*, set among the Jewish and German immigrant neighbourhoods of pre-World War II Manhattan, is strange and compelling. It offers a glimpse of the difficulties experienced by German-Jewish immigrants as they adapted to their new life. This often included the same disdain they had felt for eastern Jews when they knew them as refugees and newcomers to Berlin.

Singer portrays New York as a tough, polyglot urban arena for ethnic and national tensions. Jegor – now known as Joachim – makes his way to Yorkville, Manhattan's German Town. There he finds no shortage of Nazi sympathizers, who gather in beer halls and youth clubs, and travel to makeshift camps on the outskirts of the city where the swastika flies alongside the stars and stripes.

*The Family Carnovsky* might be thought of as a "problem novel." What, Singer wants to ask, can remain of European Jewish identity among the caverns of Manhattan? What are the prospects for prewar Jewish refugees brutalized by the Nazi transformation of Germany? In what way will intermarriage challenge modern Jewish life? And more covertly, what will become of Yiddish intellectuals and writers in America?




When Singer's last novel appeared in the *Forverts*, he had lived with his family in the United States for seven years. He had been, by all accounts, a skeptic since his youth, and this tendency was not alleviated by his having managed to escape the Nazi assault on his native Poland and the rest of Europe. He had abandoned his father's religious commitments as a youth, yet he was attracted for only a short time to the leftism and communism of Yiddish literary circles.

This placed him at remove from many of his would-be colleagues among Yiddish journalists and novelists. "I saw with grief," I.B. Singer wrote of his brother, "that he – as I, his younger brother – actually fit in nowhere."

Though he was dead by the beginning of his fifth decade, I.J. Singer experienced great success as a writer of novels and stories, and his work was extremely well-received through theatrical versions performed on the Yiddish stage. Still, his final novel reflects a man divided and, in many ways, in despair in the face of modern American life.

*Norman Ravvin's books include novels and the story collection* Sex, Skyscrapers and Standard Yiddish. *His new introduction will appear in a forthcoming reissue of Henry Kreisel's 1948 novel* The Rich Man. *He is chair of the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University.*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CJkids

# KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

## Trains

*based on a true story*

**The Kharkov train station seethed with activity.** Porters heaving giant suitcases shoved their way through the churning crowds. Passengers scurried about, buying tickets, checking and rechecking their luggage. Newsboys touted the latest headlines.

Zev Tannenbaum looked at his watch. His train wasn't scheduled to leave for another half-hour. He bought a newspaper, and perused the stories. A heavy box slammed into his leg. "I'm so sorry sir," apologized the young porter, disappearing into the crowd.

"Watch where you're going!" Zev shouted after him.

*This station is much too busy*, mused Zev. He looked around, scanning the crowds. *Am I the only one here not rushing about?* Finally, Zev spotted a stationary figure amidst the sea of motion. It looked like a religious Jew a rabbi in fact. Zev manoeuvred himself through the crowd and tried to strike up a conversation.

"Good afternoon, Rabbi. Zev Tannenbaum."

The rabbi looked up from the small Gemarah he was studying. "*Aleichem Sholom*. Yosef Hurwitz."

"Where are you travelling?" inquired Zev.

"To Homel."

"Indeed? I too am going there. Perhaps we share the same railcar." Zev glanced at his ticket. "I am in Car 5. And you?"

"The rabbi smiled. "I don't have a ticket yet."

Zev looked at him, puzzled. "Then you should hurry up and purchase one immediately! The train is filling up."

"I don't have money for a ticket," explained Rabbi Hurwitz.

"Oh?" exclaimed Zev. "So why did you come to the station?"

"I have to go to Homel."

"But how do you plan on getting there?"

"By train. How else?"

"But you don't have a ticket!"

"I have faith."

Zev shook his head in disbelief. "Faith in what?"

"In God of course." I am sure He will bring me to Homel."

"How can you be so sure?"

"I need to go there. And God will not let me down. He never has. He never will."

"So if you miss this train, you will wait until tomorrow for the next one? And then the next?"

"Oh no. That is inconceivable. I have to go to Homel today."

*This conversation is going in circles*, thought Zev. The rabbi's assertions baffled him, confused him, intrigued him. *He seems so sure of himself. I'm going to wait and see*, Zev decided. *We'll see for ourselves how far his faith takes him.*

The tracks began to tremble, and bellowing and steaming, the train roared into the station.

"All aboard!" called the conductor, and the passengers streamed toward the open doors.

Two men remained behind. A rabbi, calmly studying his Gemarah, and Zev, skeptically watching, waiting.

"Porter, sir?" asked a boy. *That looks like the boy who ran into me before!* "All right, take my bags. Car 5."

The boy scurried off with Zev's luggage. The station was emptying out.

"Last call for Homel!" Zev picked up his valise.

"All right Rabbi, the train's leaving. It's been nice speaking with you. Sorry your faith didn't work today," he concluded, stifling a smirk.

"Didn't work? The train has not left yet."

"You mean you STILL believe..."

"Excuse me sir."

Zev looked up. The conductor was addressing him. "Yes?"

"Are you going to Homel?"

"Yes."

"We're departing." Zev took a step toward the waiting train.

The rabbi remained in his place, in the empty, silent station, absorbed in his Gemarah.

Zev felt a pang of compassion. *Here this foolish rabbi is still standing, stuck alone, even his faith finally failing him.* "Is this train full?" he asked the conductor.

"No, there's one seat still open," came the puzzled reply Zev counted out the train fare. "One ticket, for the rabbi."

"Whatever you say," nodded the conductor. "Rabbi, Railcar 5."

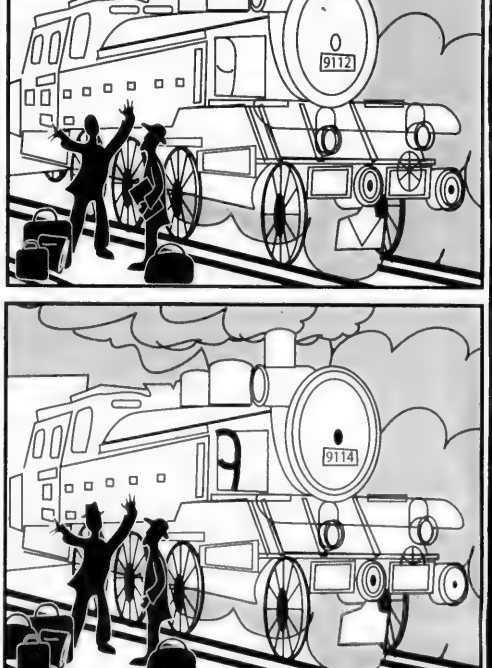
Whistling and steaming, the packed train thundered along the tracks. Zev looked across the aisle at the rabbi.

"Rabbi, Rabbi, if I hadn't bought you a ticket at the last minute, you would still be standing there in the station. You see? Faith doesn't work!"

The rabbi looked up from his Gemarah. "What do you mean? An hour ago, I was standing in the train station with no money. Now, here I am on the train!"

## DIFFERENCES

*How many differences can you find between the two pictures?*

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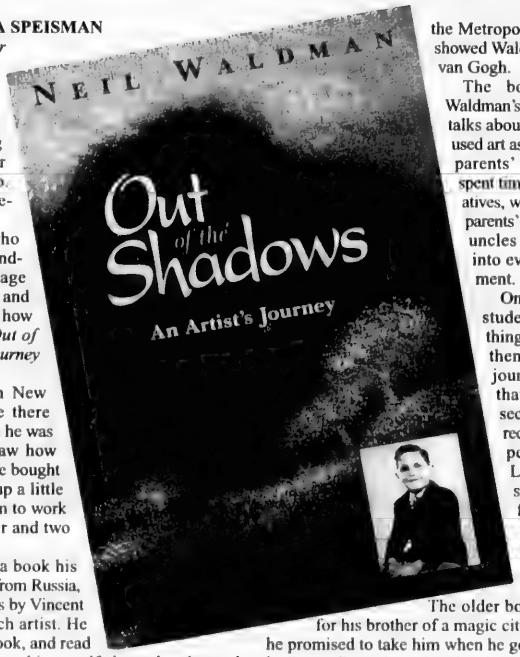
CJkids

# An artist's life journey

By LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporter*




How does someone become an artist?

Of course, you have to have a talent – for drawing or painting or sketching, or whatever you want to do. But there has to be something more.

Neil Waldman, who writes, teaches, paints landscapes, designs postage stamps, illustrates books and draws book jackets, tells how he became an artist in *Out of the Shadows; an artist's journey* (Boyd Mills Press, 2006).

Waldman grew up in New York, in a family where there were a lot of artists. When he was very little, his mother saw how much he liked to draw. She bought him art supplies and set up a little area of the kitchen for him to work in. After awhile, his sister and two brothers joined him.

Waldman discovered a book his grandmother had brought from Russia, which was full of paintings by Vincent van Gogh, a famous Dutch artist. He was enthralled with the book, and read it over and over again. When his grandfather, who also took him to the zoo and to various cultural places, brought him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he showed Waldman actual paintings by van Gogh.

The book isn't only about Waldman's painting experiences. He talks about how he and his siblings used art as a way of hiding from his parents' violent arguments. He spent time in the Catskills with relatives, went to seders at his grandparents' home where all his aunts, uncles and cousins squashed into every corner of the apartment.

One of his teachers told the students to keep a journal of things that were important to them. Waldman found the journal so important to him that he started to keep a secret one at home. In it he recorded his own private experiences and thoughts. Later, he said, he used the secret journal as a source for his art.

A touching theme in the book is Neil's relationship with his next-in-line brother, Bruce. The older boy used to draw pictures for his brother of a magic city under the street, where he promised to take him when he got old enough. Eventually, Bruce figured out that the city wasn't real, but that didn't affect how much he still loved Neil.

The book contains copies of artwork by Neil, Bruce and Bryna Waldman (David, the youngest, became a spiritual healer), and by some of their aunts and uncles.

You might be interested in Vincent van Gogh, too – there are many illustrations of his works in books, and many art galleries have original van Goghs. He was one of the painters called Post-Impressionists. You might want to look up some of the others, too.

**FEATHER FUN: Bored this summer? Is mom always nagging you to leave the computer and go out for some fresh air? Maybe you want to do what these Tel Aviv teenagers did last month, and organize a spontaneous pillow fight. Don't use your good pillow, though, or mom will get really mad.**

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**Bon Echo Provincial Park** *[Edward Dunbar photo]*

# Canadians miss out on sun's benefits, Toronto doctor warns

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

These are the lazy, hazy days of summer when the sun rises well before 6 a.m. and sets sometime after 9 p.m. You'd think it shouldn't be too difficult to get enough sunshine in your "diet" to keep you healthy.

Yet despite the long, bright days, a lot of Canadians suffer from a lack of exposure to sunlight, leading to two related conditions – vitamin D deficiency and vitamin D insufficiency. In particular, people who cover their skin – among them Orthodox Jewish women – experience one of the two vitamin D shortfalls, said researcher Frances Budden, a Toronto doctor of internal medicine and geriatrics who has a special interest in osteoporosis.

Vitamin D, which the human body produces when exposed to sunlight, is needed for the proper absorption of calcium, which in turn builds strong bones and teeth.

One researcher has found that as many of half of all Canadians are vitamin D insufficient, a condition that does not manifest itself in readily observable symptoms but happens when "you don't absorb calcium from your gut," Budden said.

When that occurs, "the body takes the calcium from the bones and weakens the bones over the long term."

Vitamin D deficiency, which is distinguished from insufficiency by a lower level of the vitamin in the blood, shows up in various symptoms, including aches and pains and feelings of weakness. In children, rickets can develop. In adults, osteomalacia, or soft bones, can result, she said.

While health practitioners have long known that vitamin D is important for bone health, researchers have discovered in recent years that a shortage of the vitamin has also been associated with other maladies, such as breast, colon and prostate cancer, as well as immune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and type 1 diabetes.

A report in Science News Online, a Web magazine, notes that vitamin D is produced in the skin. "The human body can generate 10,000 to 12,000 international units (IU) of vitamin D from a half-hour of summer sun exposure," the article stated.

"In practice, most people in the United States get a daily intake from food and sun exposure well below [the] recommended intake, especially during winter. People living in the United States and Europe or farther from the equator have trouble getting enough sun to maintain adequate blood concentrations of the vitamin. When people heed dermatologists' warnings about preventing skin cancer by limiting sun exposure and using sunscreen, they also reduce their vitamin D production."

Budden noted that as little as 20 minutes of exposure to the sun at noon during the summer would spur the creation of enough vitamin D to meet health requirements.

Because vitamin D is not stored in the body and getting enough sunlight in the winter may be difficult, Budden recommends dietary supplements. Very little vitamin D is found naturally in foods, she said, but it's been added to milk and can be found in small amounts in margarine, egg yolks, canned salmon and sardines. Infant cereal is also fortified with the vitamin.

Osteoporosis Canada recommends children beginning at age four get 200 IUs of vitamin D and 800 mg of calcium daily. At age 50, adults should ingest 800 IUs of vitamin D and 1,500 mg of calcium, while pregnant or nursing women require 400 IUs of vitamin D and 1,000 mg of calcium daily.

Budden said researchers in Israel who studied women giving birth found that the blood of Orthodox women showed a greater vitamin D deficiency than the rest of the population. Budden said that you can extrapolate from that study that any people, male or female, who cover themselves are susceptible.

"Vitamin D deficiency is common in Canada, particular in the late winter and spring. Many people who cover themselves with protective clothing, have dark skin colour and spend time indoors are vitamin D deficient year round. The elderly, chronically ill, housebound or institutionalized individuals, are particularly at high risk of vitamin D deficiency," she said.

Budden noted that for "every single person who I see for osteoporosis or the precursor, thin bones, the first thing I recommend is adequate vitamin D and adequate calcium intake, and an exercise program."

Exercise strengthens the muscles, prevents falls and provides patients with better balance, she said.

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CJN Profile

# Hollywood lives up to Torontonian's expectations, more or less

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Hollywood is notorious for devouring the hopes and dreams of newcomers with stars in their eyes.

For Torontonian Stacy Traub, however, Hollywood has not been as cruel, having more or less lived up to expectations.

Traub, 35, is a busy lady these days, being the creator and executive producer of a forthcoming ABC television series, *Notes from the Underbelly*.

Scheduled to premère in late September, in a time slot just ahead of the popular *Grey's Anatomy*, *Notes from the Underbelly* is currently being filmed.

Adapted from a novel by Risa Green and starring Jennifer Westfeldt, the lead in the film *Kissing Jessica Stein*, it turns on a couple expecting their first baby and how the pregnancy affects their lives and those of their friends and family.

Prior to her involvement in *Notes from the Underground*, Traub – a graduate of York Mills Collegiate and York University – was supervising producer of *Kitchen Confidential*, a Fox TV series.

Co-created by Darren Star of *Sex and the City* fame, *Kitchen Confidential* charted the fortunes of a head chef and his assistants in a frenetic restaurant. To her regret, it was cancelled after only 12 episodes, but that's hardly unusual in dog-eat-dog Hollywood.

Traub also developed two pilots for HBO and Warner Brothers, *Wicked Little Town* and *I'll Cuddle When I'm Dead*, but neither was picked up.

*Wicked Little Town* revolved around a female poker player in Las Vegas, while *I'll Cuddle When I'm Dead* was loosely based on Traub's relationship with her husband, John Himelstein.

She and Himelstein, the proprietor of a Vietnamese restaurant in Silver Lake, a hip area in Los Angeles, have an infant daughter, Hazel.

If nothing else, *I'll Cuddle When I'm Dead* was vividly true to life.

"It was about a couple who get married for a Green Card, which is what my husband and I did when I got my first writing job on *Suddenly Susan*. Luckily, it's worked out, my marriage that is."

Stacy Traub

Before developing *I'll Cuddle When I'm Dead*, Traub was a producer on NBC's *Happy Family* and worked on *Spin City*.

Traub, whose father, Ronald, is a dentist and whose mother, Sandy, is a homemaker, has resided in Hollywood for the past 13 years.

Although she generally likes Hollywood, southern California's idyllic weather does not entirely appeal to her.

"It's too sunny all the time," she said. "I miss the clouds."

Despite such quibbles, Traub realizes that her life in Hollywood is basically a dream come true.

As a child, she fantasized about being a movie director, but left her dream unfulfilled until enrolling in York University's film program.

At York, she learned a valuable lesson. As she put it, "It takes a lot of work to make a film, and it's just as hard to make a crappy movie as it is to make a good one."

With a degree in hand, Traub moved to Los Angeles to study cinematography at the American Film Institute, and in retrospect, it was a formative experience.

"I realized that I'd rather tell stories than figure out how to read a light meter and lug heavy stuff around," she said. "I didn't want to be a cinematographer."

Having rejected cinematography as a career, Traub found herself in a succession of mundane, dead-end jobs, the lot of many aspiring writers, producers and directors.

"I was a script reader, a job I did for free. I would read scripts and do coverage, writing a summary of a script and giving my thoughts on it. Reading a lot of bad scripts taught me what not to do as a writer."

As well, Traub was the assistant to a director who churned out low-budget films. "I drove him to the set and got him coffee and lunch, but it was a good way of learning how a set works and what a director goes through."

After a gig as a cocktail waitress, she was a salesperson at Williams-Sonoma, the kitchenware chain store.

"It was probably my favourite non-writing job because there was very little pressure and it was a beautiful shop. I was only there for four to five months, but I wrote a screenplay in my spare time. I learned that sometimes it's good just to have a job to pay the rent."

Then her luck changed.

"Eventually, I lucked into a writer's assistant position on the show *Mad About You*, with Paul Reiser and Helen Hunt. This led me into the field of television writing and, more specifically, writing for half-hour comedies."

Traub, whose sister, Samantha, is a lawyer in Toronto, readily admits that she has had her share of disappointments and setbacks in Hollywood.

"Yes, it's been a hard slog, but worth it. The fact that it was difficult makes me better at my job. And the fact that I had a lot of crappy jobs makes me a better writer."

For Traub, the joy of seeing her work on television is always exhilarating. Yet, understandably, she feels crushed when one of her pilots fails or one of her shows is summarily cancelled.

After more than a decade in Lotus Land, she has reached the conclusion that a successful producer must be guided by a vision, should remain steadfastly committed to it and know when and how to make the right decisions.

"I just mean that it's good to have your own point of view and to stick to it," she said. "Not to let it get watered down, even if everyone wants to change your idea. If you don't stick to your vision, the thing that made it original and fresh will be gone.

"You need to know what you like and don't like so that you can decide which direction to take with the script. There is always more than one way to go, but you have to do what is right for yourself. Or what works in this or that circumstance. There really is no right or wrong, but you have to know what you want. That is really key."

Asked what projects she has in mind for the future, she said, "I'm pretty busy now, so nothing is in the works at the moment. All I can say is that I'm always looking to write things that are original and, hopefully, relatable. Probably a romantic comedy, or anything I get paid to write."

Traub, who admires such TV programs as *The Office*, *Rescue Me*, *The Sopranos* and *What Not To Wear*, has considered segueing into movies.

"I started in film and would like to get back to it one day. But the nice thing about television is that it's fast. You write, you shoot it, you see it on TV within a few months."

Traub, whose favourite films have been *Cinema Paradiso*, *Manhattan*, *Rushmore* and *When Harry Met Sally*, claims that movies are far more complicated than television.

"With film, the process is much longer. And often, the script never makes it to the screen. But if the opportunity is there, I would love to write a movie."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP

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520 WINDOW SERVICES
550 WORKSHOPS


# REAL ESTATE Section

## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

### Forest Hill

Real Estate Inc. Brokerage

416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village | 416-785-1500 Central | 416-226-1987 Bayview

**CENTRAL PROPERTIES**

**226 COLDSTREAM AVE! W/AVENUE RD!**
$2,279,000! Dazzling 5+1br 6bth new exec retreat on breathtaking 47x201'! In/g pool! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**154 CHARLTON BLVD! 5+2 BR, 5 BTH!**
$1,099,000! Yonge N/Finch! Amazing exec res! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! Rare 50x191'! 10+! S. Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**ELEGANT VICTORIAN DUPLEX – PRIME ANNEX $899,000**
Main Residence (3 Bdrm), Rear Res (2 Bdrm), Loft Ceilings, Renovated, Dble Garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**1ST AD! 27 CEDAR SPRINGS GROVE!**
$699,900! "Bathurst Manor"! Impeccable 4+1br 3bth b/s! Gorg'us 50x132' Ravine lot! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**CHRISTIE/ST. CLAIR - JUST REDUCED $549,000**
3 Self contained Units, Bamboo Flooring, Halogen Pot Lights, New Kit's, New Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**THORNHILL WOODS GORGEOUS! $555,000**
Approx 2500 sq ft + Finished Basement, 4 Bdrm + Loft w/Ensuite – South Lot – School + Park. Howard Lende* 416-488-2875

**BATHURST/SHEPPARD - BUNGALOW**
Spacious 3 Bdrm Bungalow on Huge Lot, 69.37 x 102.75, 3 Bdrms in Bsmt. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**25 FAITH AVENUE – LARGE 65X170'!**
SOLD
$475,000! Bathurst N/Wilson. Spac us 2+1br 2bth bung! Nanny Suite! Won't last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**111 GLOUCESTER GROVE! NOW $280,000!**
Eglinton S/Allen Road! Fab 27x125'! Much dev't in this sought after area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES**

**2952 BAYVIEW AVE! N/SHEPPARD**
$539,900! Prime 43x118" Bldg lot facing the park! Much new dev't in area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**58 KINGSBRIDGE CIRCLE! END UNIT!**
SOLD
$499,900! Wilshire/Westmi Lux 2822'! 4br 3bth! Mn fam+2pce! This won't last! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**DON MILLS/STEELES**
SOLD
Lovely Renovated Home on Soler Cres, 4Bdrms, 3Bths, Many Upgrades. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**CENTRE & ATKINSON - WALK TO SHULS**
3+1bdrm on quiet Cres. Finished bsmt Huge family room, comb living & dining rooms, $399,000.! Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

**272 MAPLEHURST AVE! 2+2 BR, 2 BTH!**
SOLD
$379k! Bayview N/Sheppard. Impeccable bungalow w/Nanny ste + private Drive! Fab 30x120'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES**

**TOWNHOMES OF HOGGS HOLLOW $719,900**
1790 sq ft, Premium South Facing Courtyard Unit, Loaded w/Upgrades, 3Bdrms, 3Bths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**REDUCED! – HEART OF FOREST HILL $539,000**
2Bdrms, 2 Bths, 2 Prkg Spcs, Fab Views, Approx 1500 Sq Ft, New Parquet Firs Thruout. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**247 HILLHURST BLVD! E/BATHURST!**
$319k! Seldom available 3+1br 2bth main floor ste! Storage+grge! Immed. poss! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**A LUXURIOUS 1200 SQ. FT. CONDO AT**
Yonge & Sheppard $249,900. Full Amenities 24 hr security! Andre Levy-Bencheton* 416-226-1987

**1101 STEELES AVE! "PRIMROSE"!**
SOLD
$229k! Incredible 2br 2bth ste suite w/balcony +panoramic views! Fab complex! Hurry! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**ORIOLE/KILBARRY CO-OP APT. $218,000**
Charming 2Bedroom, 1 Bath, Eat-in Kitchen, Hardwood floors thru. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**REDUCED $189,500. 115 ANTIBES**
2bdrm 2bth condo. Impeccable condition with white custom kitchen & bathroom. Please call Georgina Koltai* 416-226-1987

**2 NEPTUNE DRIVE! N/BAYCREST!**
SOLD
$165,000! Outstanding senio bldg w/fab amenities! Impeccable 1br 1bth ste! 10+! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**

**LESLIE/SHEPPARD – MEDICAL/OFFICE**
SOLD
1610 Sq.Ft. in Professional Office Building, Double Unit, 2 Parking Spaces. Ken Silverberg* & Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**Broker * Sales Representative

www.foresthill.com

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**LOWER FOREST HILL - EAST OF SPADINA**
1st Offering! Gracious family home. Thoroughly updated, 3 storey, traditional centre hall, on Forest Hill Road. December possession. $1,985,000. Jeffrey Joseph** ext. 519

**LUXURY AT BATHURST & GLENCAIRN**
Elegant family home. 5 Bdrms, 2 kits, hrdwd thruout, office w/sep. entr., bsmnt aprtm, solariums. Large private lot, 4630 sq.ft. Truly magnificent! $1,254,800. Natalia Achber* ext. 607

**LAKE SIMCOE * BIG BAY POINT * $1,095,000**
Outstanding 75' x 304' waterfront property. Custom built, 16 years, 6 bedrooms, 3 baths, approx. 3000 sq. ft., mature landscaping – gardener's paradise. Co-listed with Ian Caunce* Barry R. E. Ltd. Brokerage. Natalie Kopman* ext. 315

**FABULOUS PENTHOUSE IN FOREST HILL**
Stunning view. S-W exposure. Split bdrm layout. Very spacious. Quaint brkfst area. Grt bldg. $609K. Despina Barnard* ext. 647

**CUSTOM BUNGALOW - PRIVATE 49'x172' LOT**
Bathurst Manor * 1st ad * New listing * Won't last! 3 Bedrooms bungalow. Large lower level with recreation room + 2 bedrooms. Sep. entry, gorgeous inground pool and cabana. Above grade family room. $499,900. Perry Betel** ext. 227

**YORKVILLE/ROSEDALE LOCATION * $484,000**
This 2 bedrm, 2 bathrm corner suite is elegant, spacious & filled with sunlight. Large open concept living/dining area, 9' ceilings, parking, locker & ensuite laundry. E. J. Abramson* ext. 257

*Sales Representative **Broker

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### FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

NEW LISTING!

**ALEXANDRA WOOD ONE OF A KIND!** Spectacular bungalow on 73 X 140 ft. lot. Over 4,000 sq. ft. on main level, 4 bedrooms, 8 baths, ideal for entertaining. Dance hall in bsmt., circular driveway, $2,079,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712 and enjoy the virtual tour at eichornrealty.ca

**AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING**
**FABULOUS BUILDING LOT** 44 ft. frontage, plans and permits for custom 3,100 sq. ft. renovation & addition close to million $ homes. **PRICED TO SELL NOW AT ONLY $599,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / COLDSTREAM**
**BRAND NEW** custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,249,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

### BATHURST MANOR

NEW LISTING!

**HUGE BACKSPLIT!** Ideal family home, 4 + 1 bedrooms, 4 baths, sep. entry to self-contained apartment, huge family rom on lower level, main floor library, 2 heating & AC zones. **ONLY $549,000 — ACT NOW!**. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — NEW LISTING**
**ATTENTION INVESTORS & BUILDERS!** 3 self-contained units on 40 x 130 ft. lot close to subway. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $369,000!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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SOLD

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE RARE OPPORTUNITY!** Spacious raised bungalow on 50 x 125 ft. lot. Approx. 2,400 sq. ft., renovated & decorated, finished basement, built-in bookcases, new wet bar, stone fireplace, built-in double garage. **ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**10 PRUE CONDO — SPACIOUS 1,700 SQ. FT. 2 BEDROOM REDUCED TO SELL NOW!** baths, large eat-in kitchen, sunken living room, ensuite laundry, security camera. **ONLY $439,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000**
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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LUXURY & VALUE!

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE BRAND NEW** custom executive home, approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + finished basement, luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, gleaming hardwood floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **ONLY $1,149,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE — EXCLUSIVE**
3 bedroom, 2 storey home on lot with 50 ft. frontage. Hardwood floors, renovated kitchen & bath. **ONLY $500,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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• **235 ST. CLAIR AVE. WEST** **Forest Hill Luxury,** 5 star 2140 sq. ft., 2 bdrm. & a den. Condo - gorgeous kitchen, beautiful south & south east views w/2 extra large balconies. **Asking $859,000.**

• **235 ST. CLAIR AVE. WEST!! LUXURY CONDO FOR LEASE. RENTAL!! Forest Hill!!!** 1100 sq. ft. fully furnished beauty! Hardwood floors. **Asking $2,450/month.**

• **608 WOBURN AVE. Reduced! Prime location! Avenue Rd./ Lawrence.** This won't last! 2 storey, 2 lane parking, 1 bdrm.+den, open concept, 2 decks. **Asking $479,900.**

• **402 CRANBROOKE BEST lot in Avenue/Lawrence. Ravine,** 50x110, to be built soon. 4000 sq. ft., cul-de-sac, absolute beauty. **Asking $1,995,000.**

• **NEW! UPPER FOREST HILL 399 & 401 CORTLEIGH AVE.** Stunning luxury 3 bedroom semis, finished bsmt., all the bells & whistles! **Asking $979,000 each.**

• **116 HADDINGTON AVE. EXCLUSIVE LISTING! DESIRABLE AVENUE RD./LAWRENCE.** Absolute luxury - brand new, 3400 sq ft., 4+1 bdrm., finished bsmt., 40x130 ft. lot. Close to Avenue Road! **Asking $1,495,000.**

• **33 BERKINDALE York Mills & Bayview.** Beautifully treed lot, 75x150. 3 bdrm. bungalow. Build your dream home or renovate. **Asking $1,249,000.** SOLD

• **153 FALKIRK AVE. EXCLUSIVE LISTING! DESIRABLE AVENUE RD./LAWRENCE.** Absolue luxury. 3600 sq. ft. (as per builder's plans), brand new 4+1 bdrm., finished bsmt., 40x155 ft. lot. **Asking $1,498,000.**

**www.TEAMWAGMAN.com**

# ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

**HOUSES FOR SALE**

**BATHURST/ELGIN MILLS**
2 Yr Old Home, Approx 2750 sq.ft, Large 4 Bdrm w/9 ft. ceilings, Decorative Pillars, Hrdwd, Balance ofHome Warranty, Shows Great!!! Must See *Mark Waxman

• • •

**CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE**

**BATHURST/STEELES "THE PRIMROSE"**
Fab Penthouse Unit with Great N/E View, Split Bedroom Layout, 2 Car Parking, Locker, Security, Eat in Kitchen w/window. Close To All Amenities, Extra's Galore!!!, Shows Great!!! Asking $254,900, *Ted Waxman

• • •

**BATHURST/STEELES "COURTLAND"**
JApprox 1400 sq.ft, Large 2 Bdrm, Open Concept, Newer Appl & Brdlm, Hardwood, Eat-In-Kit & Security, Incredible Value!!! Asking $220,000 *Ted Waxman

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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Forest Hill Real Estate Inc., Brokerage

# SALLY ROSEN
905-764-7111

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Elegance & grandeur. 5 bdrm, 3 baths, family room, 12' ceilings, lrge garden, w/o from kitchen, 2 car gar. See it–love it!

**NEW WESTMINSTER & CLARK**
Great 3 bdrm townhome, 3 baths, super location.

**CORNER UNIT**
131 Torresdale at Bathurst. Elegant 2 bedroom + den condo. Fully furnished. Great view. Bring your key & open the apt. Gorgeous.

**BATHURST & WILSON**
1 bdr+den condo, prkng, appl; ask $203,000. Immed. poss.
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Allen Rd./Sheppard, 1,635 sq. ft. unit for rent, ideal for many uses, great location.

**WILSON HEIGHTS/SHEPPARD**
Lrg 3 bdrm, 3 bath, good sized living & dining room, fin bsmt, double garage, lrg lot, next to commercial plaza, A-1 buy.

**CLARK/YONGE CONDO**
2 bdrm, 2 bath, L-shaped liv & din, walkout to balcony, locker, parking, move in condition.

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# ESSIE SHER

**CLARK/HILDA, $359,900**
Luxury condo. Well priced!!! 2 bdr, 2 bath, 2 parking and locker. Upgraded flooring. Approx. 1600 sq. ft.

**BATHURST/FINCH, $395,000**
Semi/bungalow. 4 bdr, total reno with potential basemnt rental. Great investment

Re/Max Realtron Rlty. Inc.
**416-782-8882**
Cell: 416-464-5261

## 10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

**Bathurst/Atkinson,** 4 bed, 4 bath, 2600 sf + fin. bsmnt $609,900. (NO AGENTS) Call 905-881-2965

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**3000 Bathurst St.**
**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer, solarium, prkng, Shabbes elevator, near Shul. Price reduced for immediate sale.
$ 265,000. Zidner Realty
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Advertise the sale of your home in *The CJN*. Call 416-391-1836

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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**SKYMARK DON MILLS & FINCH**

**Skymark Zenith:** SOLD listed, 3 bedroom + solarium, 2 baths; ...ucted view. Approx. 1,601 sq. ft. Vacant, vendor retired.

**SANTEE LEUNG, BR.L. SKYMARK SPECIALIST**

**EMPTY NESTERS 3000 Bathurst St.**

Near Lawrence Ave., approx. 900 sq. ft., lovely 1 bdrm. + big den, parking, locker, sabbath elev., near shuls. **$219,000.**
**Doreen Baran, Sales Rep., Keller Williams Referred Realty**
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**1-800-567-7034, code 201**
**24 hr. recorded message**
**www.doreenbaran.com - virtual tour**

## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

**Bath./Sheppard,** a/c, 2 bdrms., 2 baths/den, new kit., lge. balc., pool, ex. room, sauna, close to shuls, shops. Suits quiet single/couple, no pets/smoking. Avail. immed., $1400/mo., incl. cable, util. & parking. Call 46-635-5167.

**Neptune Dr., lrg. furn. 2 br., 2 bath condo, 3rd flr., amenities. Walk to shul, TTC. Call 416-256-3031.**

**Bathurst/Steeles, Primrose**, lrge. furn. condo., 2 bdrm., 2 bath, incl. 1 prkg., util., cable, etc. $1495/mo. Please call 416-665-1250.

## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**BATHURST-SHEPPARD**
***ELEGANT TWIN BLDS.***
**Very lrg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, 2 & 3 Bdrms. w/2 balconies and 2 baths.**
**Ample closets plus cedar, Roof laundry, pool, ravine setting, 6 Apts. per flr.**
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## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**Bath./Glencairn**, 1 bdr furn bsmt apt, n/smkr/pets, full kit/bath, sep ent. Call $800/mo. 416-787-4154.

**BATHURST/LAWRENCE**, lrg, 1 bdrm., prkng, close to subway, shopping. Call 416-450-4615.

**BATHURST & WILSON**

Great living at this immaculately maintained building. *Its nothing like you have seen before.* Large, bright and newly refurbished suites with oversized balconies, breathtaking views and shabbat elevator. Indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi. 1 & 2 bedrooms from only $950. Please Call
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**Bathurst/Lawrence**, lux. Encore at Crystal Towers, 2 bed., 2 full bath., balc., 1 prkgn., 1 locker, cable incl. S/W corner unit, 5 appl. All amens. including Shabbat elevator. Call 416-880-0640 or 416-574-5286.

**Bathurst/Earl Bales Park**, 1 bed. apt. w/prkng., new bldg. Avail. end of August. Call 416-518-0478.

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## 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Muskoka**, 3 bdrm. cottage, 3 season, Lake Mckay, child friendly sandy beach, in friendly Jewish community co-op. $125,000. Contact Sherry at 416-789-0206 or sherry.zweig@pearsoned.com

## 110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

**Lake Simcoe**, house for rent, 3 bdrm., everything included, private waterfront, 5 minutes from Casino Rama. Please call 416-236-9555 or 416-704-9050.

## 125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Sunrise Lakes Phase 4 Condo,** 55+, 2 bed., 2 bath., furnished, corner, lake view, golf, excellent move-in condition, anxious to sell. Call Owner Toll Free 1-877-886-0066.

**Aventura**, 3/3 TH, crnr. unit on glf. crse., 2000 s.f., pool, tennis, $659,900 US. 1-786-303-3042.

**Sunrise Lakes Phase 4**, 2 bdr., 2 bath., move-in cond., backs on golf crse, Indry. rm. in bdrm. In TO call Gloria 905-771-3958, in Mtl. call Chuck 450-973-6428.

**Delray Beach, Gleneages CC**. 2 bdrm, 2 bath; 3 bdrm, 3 bath condos from $199M-$369M US. Let's make a deal! Call Doody Caplan @ 561-702-3744.

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**GORGEOUS CONTEMPORARY HOME.** Light, bright and young.
On golf course with lake view. Furnished or unfurniched.
Large family room, den, 3 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms.
Enclosed pool and deck. Garage for two and golf cart.
All calls returned **561-737-6273**

## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Century Village, Boca**, 2 bed., 1 1/2 bath, fully furn. $1900/mo. US, 4 mos. min. Call 905-881-4296.

**Hallandale, Three Islands**, overlooking quiet prv. canal. Stunning, reno'd., 1 bdrm. w/den, 1 bath. Lovely furnishings, 5 storey small bldg. Deck overlooks canal, tennis, pool, 10 mins. to Aventura, and all amenities. $2000/mo. + hydro. Prefer rental from November '06-April '07. Photos available. Please call 416-630-2177, primeannex@hotmail.com

## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Hallandale,** oceanfront Hemispheres, 2 bed., avail. Jan.-end of April '07. $2950/mo. US. + security. Call 416-736-6052.

**Miami Sunny Isles, Winston Towers**, lux. conv., 1 bdrm., 2 baths, walk to beach. Jan./Feb. $2000/mo. US. 416-739-7555 or 416-567-6751.

**Florida**, 1200 sq. ft. condo for rent 1/5-4/5/07. 1 bedroom convertible to 2; 1 bathroom. Next to Hollywood Beach and boardwalk. $2000/mo. + utilities. Fully furnished, large screen TV. Call 216-297-9490 or e-mail samkelman@bepure/com

## 240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Recent retirees** for customer service work. Bathurst/Finch. PM102@rogers.com

**Jewish daycare in T'hill**, seeks an exp. Sr. Kndrgrtn Eng. teacher p/t Sept. 905-764-6663.

**KETUBAH KETUBAH**
Customer service opportunity, f/t, at upbeat, online company downtown. Excellent English and read/write Hebrew. Fax resume to 416-963-9129 or e-mail to info@ketubah.com

**Telephone fundraiser needed for a Jewish organization. Send resume to CJN Box #5118.**

**Program planner** req'd. p/t for Jewish outreach org., incl. child. programs. CJN Box #5118.

**Secretary**, part-time/full-time, for synagogue. Phone & computer skills req'd. Call 416-595-5723 or fax: 416-595-9586.

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## Israel & the Jewish World

### CARING FOR THE CHILDREN

**Workers from the Municipality of Nahariya, inset, unload a shipment of toys from the Toys "R" Us warehouse in Shfayim on July 24. The toys, valued at 225,000 shekels, were donated by Canadian philanthropists Gerry Schwartz and Heather Reisman to the children of Nahariya and Shlomi, who are holed up in bomb shelters, much like the children of Kiryat Shmona, right. Schwartz and Reisman are the founders of the Heseg Foundation, which grants scholarships to lone soldiers in the IDF upon the completion of their military service, for studies at Israeli institutions of higher learning.**

**[Nahariya and Isranet photos]**

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# Maccabi Canada's new president rose from the ranks

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is, apparently, an avid jogger. Allen Gerskup can testify to the fact because the last time he met the senior Israeli leader – he was deputy prime minister at the time – Olmert asked for a replacement for the Maccabi Canada warm-up suit he had received as a gift years before when he served as mayor of Jerusalem.

On his return to Canada, Gerskup, at the time chair of Maccabi Canada's national athletic committee, complied, sending Olmert the same black and red outfit worn by Canadian athletes at last summer's Maccabiah Games.

Since that exchange, both Olmert and Gerskup have gone on to bigger and better – at least more stressful – things. Olmert succeeded Ariel Sharon as prime minister of Israel, and Gerskup succeeded Lawrence Hart as president of Maccabi Canada.

Tough to say at this particular moment who got the better of the deal but at his Toronto office recently, Gerskup outlined his strategy for steering through the difficulties and opportunities he faces as Maccabi Canada's new top leader.

Maccabi Canada is a successful grassroots organization with a respected pedigree in the community, he said, but for many in the Jewish community, it's an organization that is noticed only during the Maccabiah Games and in the months before.

As president, he would like to increase its profile in the community and to that end, he is considering hiring a full-time executive director. As it now stands, the organization relies on the input of volunteer lay people. Instead, "I'm trying to set up an organization that doesn't rely on one or two people, that doesn't pop its head up every four years and go into a hole for four years," he said.

Allen Gerskup

An executive director in a fully equipped office with contacts in the various regional offices – Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto and with a good knowledge of the wider Jewish community, is essential, he said.

Putting in place the funds for that sort of office is now being addressed, but with the addition of Ned Goodman, chair of Goodman Private Wealth Management, as a Maccabi vice-president, Gerskup is confident the money can be found.

Gerskup, who served as national athletic committee chair for eight years and as a committee member for four years before that, outlined some of his ideas for his four-year stint as president. One is to recruit younger people who are more attuned to today's young athletes to leadership positions in the organization.

Another is to increase Canada's participation in regional games such as the European Maccabi Games in Rome next July and the Pan American contest in Buenos Aires six months later.

Gerskup also suggested that Maccabi Canada will continue to lend its advice and expertise to the Maccabi World Union (MWU), the umbrella organization that brings together international Maccabi movements and which organizes the Israel games.

He also pointed to the always important issue of raising money. Under Goodman's leadership he expected that to run smoothly, but he suggested masters athletes – those older than 35 who pay their own way to Israel for the Maccabiah Games – will likely be asked to contribute an additional sum to help underwrite the cost of sending elite athletes to Israel.

Assuming leadership of Maccabi Canada was not something he particularly campaigned for, Gerskup stated. He was ready to give up his position with the national athletic committee, and when it became clear Hart was not going to remain as president for a second term, he looked around the organization to see who might replace him.

With his extensive contacts within the Canadian organization and internationally, it turned out he was the natural candidate for the job. He received the support of former national president Roy Salomon of Montreal and senior officials Sid Greenberg and Gary Ulrich. He was elected in February.

Gerskup got his start with Maccabi Canada at the 1985 Games when he served as manager of the silver-medal-winning softball team. He's been to all the games since, but the highlight for him was in 2001. The intifadah was raging and there was a real question whether the Games would go ahead at all. In the end, the Games went ahead but with a reduced profile and Canada sent a smaller team than had been expected.

He's especially proud that the Canadian athletes, when consulted, agreed to be housed in Netanya even after a bomb went off and other teams turned their backs on the seaside city.

En route to the airport in Toronto, he asked the bowling, water polo and wrestling teams if they'd agree to be housed in Netanya and "they all agreed to go there."

The experience was wonderful and incident-free. "People appreciated that we were there," he said. The athletes soon found themselves receiving beer on the house from grateful restaurateurs.

"I was proud of the athletes and they were the first who said, yes, we will go," Gerskup recounted.

"Going to Israel in 2001 was to me the highlight [of my Maccabi career]," he said. "I think it gave the organization so much credibility, not just with MWU, but with the government of Israel."

Apparently the prime minister hasn't forgotten, and if he has, every time he goes jogging he's sure to be reminded.

# CIBC donation aids JCC Maccabi Games

**VANCOUVER** — CIBC, one of Canada's largest banks, has donated $50,000 to the JCC Maccabi Games to support the Games' Days of Community Spirit program. In addition, many CIBC staffers have volunteered to assist in related projects.

The Days of Community Spirit, which is part of every JCC Maccabi Games, is a volunteer program in which young athletes join with local community organizations to work on various tzedakah projects. The Days of Community Spirit promotes community involvement, teamwork and pride in being Jewish. The purpose is to teach caring for others so that the athletes will incorporate these values into their daily lives once they return home.

"CIBC's long-standing relationship with the JCC [Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver] and their ongoing involvement and participation in the JCC's many endeavours, including the annual JCC Sports Dinner, has helped the centre raise the funds essential to its continued and expanding role in the local and general community," states a JCC Maccabi news release.

The JCC Maccabi Games run from Aug. 13 to 18 in Vancouver, one of three North American cities hosting the Olympic-style competitions. More than 1,200 athletes aged 13 to 16 from Canada, Israel, South America, the United States and Europe will compete in 12 sports. Including the other two venues, Stamford and Phoenix, an estimated 6,000 teens will participate, making the Games the largest organized sports program for Jewish teens in the world.

# The truth, disengaged

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

The current crisis in the Middle East has united virtually the entire Israeli public and the Jewish Diaspora in support of Israel's operations against the Hezbollah in Lebanon. The basic message from the Israeli public these past few weeks has been, "We are going through a tough time, but we are united."

How soon things change. Just 12 months ago, Israel and world Jewry were in the midst of one of our worst internal struggles. The months leading up to the August 2005 implementation of the Sharon government's disengagement plan were an ugly time – pitting the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) against Israeli citizens, rabbinic authorities against the government, left against right. Disengagement was on everyone's lips, and the battle lines were clearly drawn.

For some, that intensity has begun to melt away, but others still seem to be suffering from disengagement-on-the-brain. Pro-right, anti-disengagement journalists remain intent on keeping the controversy at the forefront of Israeli and Jewish news. That in itself is no problem, but the tone adopted by some writers has often been ugly and irresponsible. Two recent examples:

• In a June website column, "The Taxi Driver," Jerusalem-based author Naomi Ragen told the story of a formerly high-ranking IDF official making a living driving a taxi after he was fired for refusing to serve in the disengagement. The story was topical and interesting, but Ragen concluded by saying that the driver's story had angered her to the point where she wanted to "punch somebody in the nose; somebody really high up; somebody fat, complacent, and careless." It left a bad taste in an otherwise worthy column.

• A June 23 story on the website of right-leaning Arutz Sheva (both these stories were reprinted in the Toronto Zionist Council's *Israel and the Jewish World*), reported that Israeli Defence Minster Amir Peretz had recommended government compensation for West Bank residents who agreed to leave their homes before the next stage of disengagement began. The story went on to quote Peretz: "He hopes to begin destroying Jewish communities within the next 18 months." Peretz never uttered that statement – he couldn't have – but Arutz Sheva still published it.

There is nothing wrong with an anti-disengagement stance, even a year after the end of the affair. The events of last August will remain etched in our minds for a long time and the pain of those who were evacuated should be retold. But the highly emotional nature of these storytellers has led to ugly, animalistic tendencies (a desire to punch the ailing former prime minister is clearly ugly), and a readiness to bend the truth (Israeli government officials never say they want to "destroy Jewish communities"). In the last 12 months, the right has proven time and again that it has no problem doing whatever it takes to make a point.

And now, with northern Israel under attack from Hezbollah, it is still trying to keep the Gaza disengagement on top of the news. On July 16, as rockets fell in Haifa, Safed and Tiberias, writer Rachel Saperstein questioned whether former Gush Katif residents should accept their military responsibilities to fight Hezbollah. She quoted a close friend who refused to serve in the current crisis, who said: "You destroyed my home… You destroyed my life. And now you want me to fight for you?"

It was another predictable shot from the right. These days, it seems as if they'll take any opportunity to talk about their plight and perceived unfair treatment.

Twelve months later, none of us expect the pain to be gone, but the responsibility to remain honest, fair and considerate never goes away. These writers have failed to uphold their responsibility. For them, honesty and integrity matter little when the occasion to make a point arrives.


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# Can Diaspora Jews really get it?

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

I was sitting on the shores of Lake Muskoka, my eyes closed and my head tilted toward the sun. Images passed through my mind of 19-year old Israeli soldiers dying in the war and the citizens of northern Israeli cities and towns who have been killed.

I swam out into the shallow warm waters and considered the carnage in Lebanon and the innocent families suffering from a war they do not want and cannot control. Then I dove underwater and tried to reach a nearby buoy some 50 metres away.

As a Diaspora Jew, am I truly aware of the depth of the suffering going on in Israel?

The following is an e-mail that I received from a friend in central Israel. It's not edited. It reflects his angst, and it asked the question that I asked myself on the shores of Lake Muskoka.

My chaver writes: "Do you people have any idea of what's going on over here? There are people dying daily from Katyushas. Main cities – Haifa, Safed, Zichron Yaacov, Tiberias. It's mighty scary.

"The draft is back in place. My sister-in-law's husband was just called up to the front line. They've been married only about a year. He's 40. Those guys have no mercy on who they call in. She's devastated – worried like anything. I'm interested in hearing how things look from your side. Someone at my wife's work, her 21-year-old son was just killed.

"Iran is stuffing Lebanon with bombs. We're probably not even making a dent in things. You should tell the folks around to say some prayers. It's very serious here.

"One hundred and sixty bombs fell into Israel on Shabbos alone. One hundred and sixty bombs. In one day. One fell on a building in Safed and flattened it. Our neighbour's brother was in it. There's no one here that isn't worried. Do you people have any idea of what's going on over here?"

Suffice it to say, my friend, that you, an Israeli Jew, are on the front lines and we in the Diaspora are the support team. Your raw anger is not difficult to understand, and I respect you and encourage you in challenging us: do we have any idea what's going on over there?

In truth, it's impossible for us to know what's going on, certainly not to the extent that you do. Unlike you, we never made aliyah and, therefore, do not wake up to the eerie sounds of air raid sirens or instructions to run down to bomb shelters as the rockets fall.

Please remember, however, that the Israel-Diaspora relationship is strong and important. We need each other and benefit greatly from each other's ingenuity and networks. So, ask away. Test us. Force us to feel and think so that we will be compelled to act – be it through aliyah, prayer or simply buying a piece of pizza for a soldier on the front (as suggested in a unique offer on an Israeli newspaper's website).

Keep on writing your eyewitness reports and know that many Diaspora Jews are walking around with heads down, saddened, worried and unable to enjoy their day because of the suffering of Jews and other good people.

Yes, there is an imbalance here, one that is age-old, but you are not alone. You are our witness to the horror and we are, therefore, indebted to you for safeguarding the Jewish people, once again. But remember, too, that the threats you are all too familiar with are also reaching the Diaspora.

We send our good wishes to your family, and to the family at your wife's office. We pray that the war and terrorism should end, and that security and shalom should be ours.

*Avrum@veahavta.org. Sudan?*

# A Community of Caring

Mount Sinai Hospital is made up of dedicated clinicians, researchers, nurses, staff and volunteers and we are proud to be an integral part of the community. Events allow you to get involved in the Hospital while providing much-needed funds for patient programs and services.

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fine art auction and dinner

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Please join us on *Sunday, October 22.*

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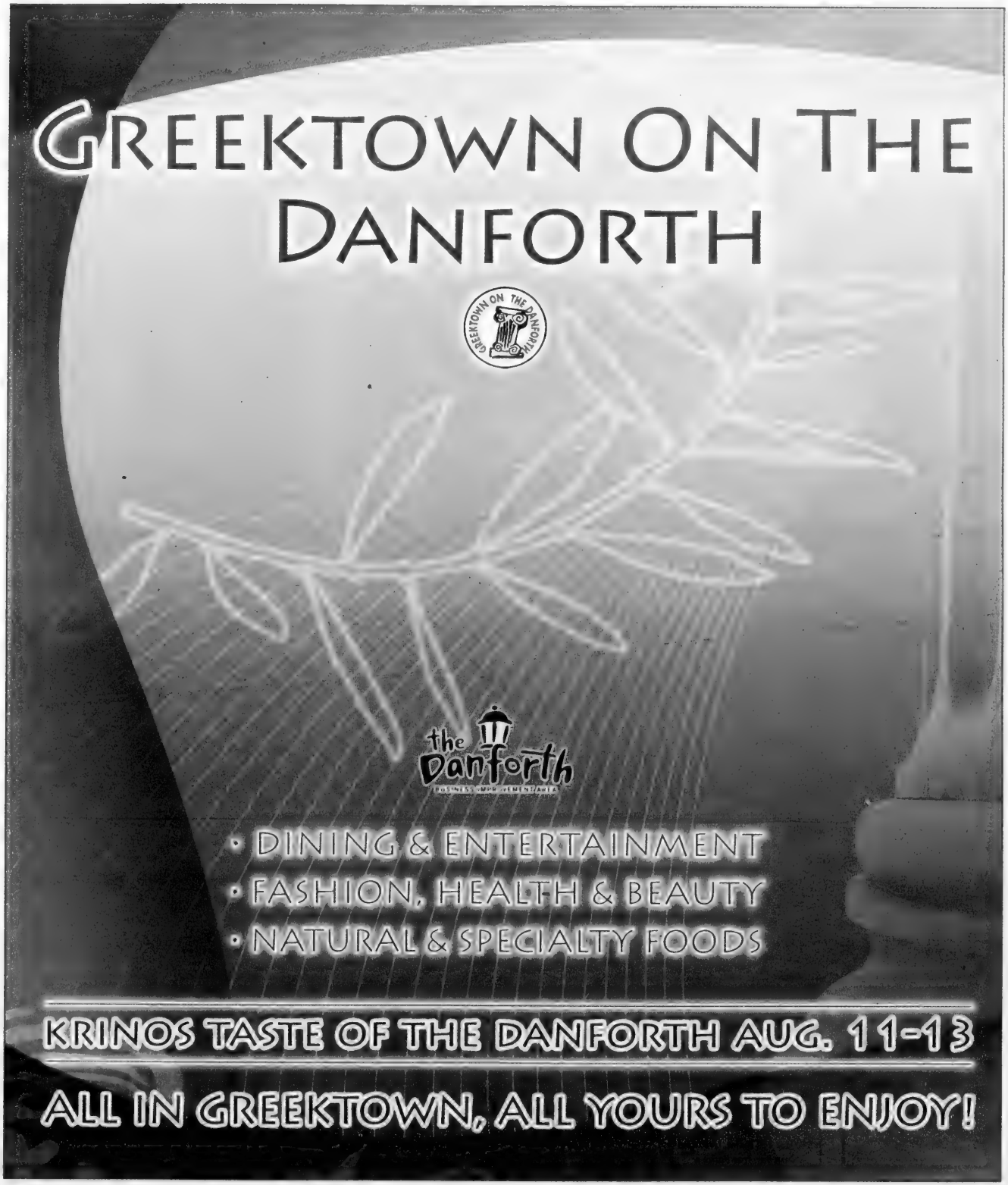
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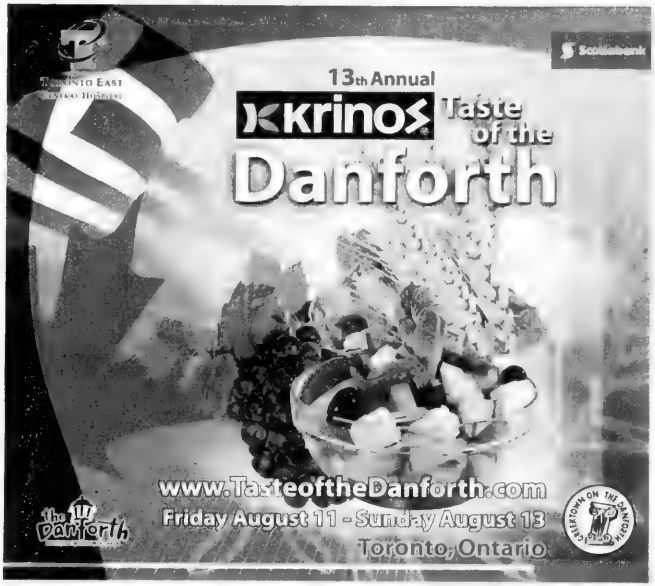
the Danforth
• DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
• FASHION, HEALTH & BEAUTY
• NATURAL & SPECIALTY FOODS
KRINOS TASTE OF THE DANFORTH AUG. 11-13
ALL IN GREEKTOWN, ALL YOURS TO ENJOY!

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH




SKYY VODKA
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## Canada's largest food festival: the Krinos Taste of the Danforth

The world is coming to the 13th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth! This year "The Krinos Taste" is featuring wines of the world, music from around the globe, and — as always — the chance to sample the best of the Danforth's eclectic restaurants. From August 11th through the 13th, the Danforth will be closed to traffic from Broadview to Jones, as visitors take part in the largest Greek festival in North America.

"The Krinos Taste of the Danforth has become one of Toronto's signature events, attracting a million visitors, including tourists from Europe, the U.S. and across Canada," says Chris Trahiotis, Chair of the event and owner of Ouzeri. "The restaurants and other merchants along the Danforth are proud to welcome you to our businesses and to our neighbourhood, and we promise you the world."

They are also proud that over 12 years of support, the Krinos Taste of the Danforth has raised over $3/4 million for the Toronto East General Hospital! This year, the Toronto East General Hospital will unveil a plaque celebrating the naming of the Special Care Nursery. Alex Alexakis, General Manager of Krinos Foods Canada comments, "This plaque is a reminder of what a community can achieve when it works together."

New this year is the Philippe Dandurand wine garden, featuring 28 different wines. The Skyy Vodka Martini Lounge, and beer gardens featuring Amstel Light and Heineken (the two most popular beers in Greece) round out opportunities to sample a truly cosmopolitan selection of beverages.

The Krinos Taste of the Danforth features entertainment on the ScotiaBank Stage, including Flamenco, Cuban and of course, Greek performers. Throughout the weekend, the Greek Stage will feature more talented Greek performers. In addition to music, visitors can try their hand at rock climbing and various sports, or spend time in some cool activities. Win tickets to the hottest concerts with Pepsi Access. Sample Clodhoppers while browsing music in the Jam Van. Experience a close shave with the Gillette "Start the Reaction Tour", or get yourself out of jail with Bell Mobility. Visitors can also call anywhere in the world, courtesy of Vonage.

When it comes to food, this year's Krinos Taste of the Danforth is offering up over 85 tasting tables. Also back this year is the popular "Healthy Eating" area, featuring special products, helpful seminars, and advice to help you "Eat Right, Live Long".

"The Krinos Taste of the Danforth marks what's best in food, including the exceptionally healthy Mediterranean diet," says Alex Alexakis, General Manager of Krinos Foods Canada. "From the benefits of quality olive oil to the wonderful taste of Greek olives, you can find it all at the Krinos Taste of the Danforth".

**For more information on the 13th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth, visit www.tasteofthedanforth.com**

## Ampeli knows only one way: the right way

There's no substitute for freshness. In seven short years, **Ampeli** has drawn the kind of rave reviews restaurants covet, and now belongs to that select group of restaurants that keep loyal clients coming back for more. Discerning diners (including Saul Korman, among others) seek out Ampeli for the kind of attention to detail and fresh-from-scratch taste that are intrinsic to any authentic Greek dining experience.

George, the manager, attributes this success to a simple formula: use the freshest, highest-quality ingredients, lightly seasoned and prepared simply. Everything's cooked to order, meaning you have to wait a little longer for your meal to arrive; but the wait is more than worth it.

Meat and fish are always fresh, never frozen, and Ampeli has become renowned for both. The rack of lamb and Ontario lamb chops are both first-rate, and the fresh fish is so popular customers usually specify, when making reservations, which type of fish they want. Red snapper, porgy, codfish, smelts, whiting — if it's just been caught, you'll find it on Ampeli's table the same day.

For George this means more legwork, combing the market for the freshest catch of the day. "This isn't an option," he notes. "It's an obligation to our customers."

Warm ciabatta bread accompanies every meal with a side of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Fresh pasta is handmade on the premises, and all sauces are à la minute.

Ampeli's distinctive red brick exterior and huge patios, complete with bright flowers, are a welcome sight for anyone seeking Greek and Mediterranean cuisine as it's meant to taste.

AMPELI
TAVERNA
**526 Danforth Ave. 416-465-4001**
**www.dine.to/ampeli**

> "... Only at Ampeli did we meet moist, tender, roast Ontario lamb. Ditto the moussaka experience .... at Ampeli the moussaka was marvellously fragrant, full of rich flavours. Roasted mashed eggplant dip is zinged with fresh mint, and marinated octopus is tender with a lovely vinegar bite. Meaty little quails have been marinated for tenderness and are cooked just so, and the grilled fresh porgy is a paragon of Piscean virtue, with especially crisp skin."
>
> ***Joanne Kates, Post City Magazines***

## Christina's: star quality on every level

For truly authentic, upscale Greek cuisine, live entertainment and star quality, no restaurant shines as brightly as the effervescent **Christina's**. Though it continues to move with the times, with its sprightly updated decor, sparkling new menu, and year-round heated patio, Christina's has remained the hub of GreekTown activity by relying on a time-honoured formula: fresh, homemade Greek recipes, prepared lovingly, one meal at a time.

Two other things that haven't changed are Christina's friendly service and its magnetic appeal to the silver screen set. If that really *is* Robert De Niro seated next to you — or Bette Midler, or Jim Carey — it doesn't necessarily mean that you're on camera. It simply means that they share your good taste in Greek cuisine.

The portions are spectacular, the preparation refined. There's a difference between being full and being *fully satisfied*; Christina's chefs grasp this distinction across the full spectrum of the menu, hence Christina's continuing popularity among young and old alike.

Christina's is ideally suited for intimate private functions such as Bar / Bat Mitzvah parties, graduations, birthdays, and sweet 16s, and does a brisk business in special event catering.

If you're a lamb lover, Christina's leg of lamb, rack of lamb, and lamb chops are legendary. Other delights include Stuffed Chicken Breast, Mediterranean Seafood Platter, Moussaka (both traditional and vegetarian), and tender Kalamari, both grilled and fried. Hearty combination platters featuring your favourite dips, meat, and seafood items go down smoothly with a glass of ouzo or wine from Christina's vast Greek and international selection. Fish and seafood are delivered fresh daily, so ask for the catch of the day when you're reviewing the menu.

Christina's
On The Danforth
**492 Danforth at Logan**
**416-463-4418 christinas.ca**

With Christina's increasingly popular weekend continental brunch, you can experience GreekTown at a slower, more relaxed pace.

Live entertainment on weekends includes belly dancing and a two-piece (bouzouki and guitar) Greek band playing a blend of old and modern Greek tunes. There's nothing like a rendering of *Never On Sunday* or *Zorba The Greek* to tug at your heartstrings and whet your Greek appetite.

And just wait until De Niro gets home and tells his family that *he* was sitting right next to *you*...

**"a cheery place ... great respect for the food they serve ... Christina's has fulfilled its promise"**
***— Sara Waxman, The Toronto Sun***

**"Best Greek Restaurant"**
***– Where Toronto***

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Thuna Herbals' past a beacon for future

It's a delightful anachronism reminiscent of an old English apothecary shop. Fifteen hundred glass jars, each filled with a different herb or root, stacked high in orderly rows. The original creaking hardwood floor. And a proprietor who's all about knowledge and caring.

Established in 1888 (how's that for history?), this family business is now run by Evelyn Dorfman, the granddaughter of founder Dr. Max Harriman Thuna, and a staff of qualified herbalists on the original turn-of-the-century premises at 298 Danforth Avenue.

Over the years, the Thuna family has seen the use of herbal remedies — once the *de facto* method of treatment for most medical problems — lose ground to the synthetic drugs that have flooded the marketplace.

More recently, however, the pendulum has slowly but surely begun to swing back, as more and more people seek alternatives to mainstream medicine. Thuna's doesn't diagnose problems presented to them; rather, they advise customers seeking a diagnosis to obtain it from their medical practitioners. Some come with the blessing of their GP, but many are referred by naturopathic practitioners. Typically, clients come in on their own initiative.

*Saul Pasen helped pioneer herbalism in Canada*

**THUNA HERBALS**
**298 Danforth Avenue**
**416-465-3366**

Drawing on their schooling, Dorfman and staff choose from some 2,000 herbs, berries, roots, and leaves the precise combination most likely to alleviate an ailment presented to them. To cite but one example, a formula for bladder infection, or even interstitial cystitis, might include uva-ursi leaves, buchu leaves, parsley leaves, marshmallow root, corn silk, and goldenseal leaves.

Dr. Thuna and his children, including son-in-law Saul Pasen, pictured above, helped pioneer herbalism in Canada.

The current premises stand as a rich reminder of Canadian history. Even if you have only a passing interest in herbalism, you owe it to yourself to visit this Toronto landmark. And who knows — by asking a few questions, you might become further enlightened on this ancient practice.

## Home cooking lives at Kalyvia

Think of the best home-cooked meals you've ever tasted. Probably they were (or still are) your mother's. Maybe your grandmother's. Sitting down at that dinner table was one of the most pleasurable experiences you've ever had.

That's the kind of homemade taste you can expect at **Kalyvia**, served up in gargantuan portions worthy of any doting mother.

This is particularly true of the combination platters (poikilias) of seafood and meat, priced from $25.95, which are so big you need a road map just to get around them. Teeming with a variety of Greek specialties, these platters are more than just food ... they're a symbol of the bountiful GreekTown dining experience.

If you're a fish and seafood lover, you can cut your travel time to Greece by about 14 hours. Try the *garides* (shrimps sauteed in white wine sauce) or the salmon steaks topped with Kalyvia's own homemade lemon sauce, which also garnishes the broiled Red Snapper. Like everything else at Kalyvia, all the dips and sauces are made fresh daily from scratch.

How much better does this taste than prepared food? It's like comparing your mother's cooking to fast food: no comparison.

**KALYVIA**
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333
WWW.KALYVIA.COM

Founders Mike and Peter Tsafatinos are both from the Greek town of Kalyvia; when you name your restaurant after your home town, you've got a culinary legacy to live up to. These lofty standards for quality and freshness have earned Kalyvia a four-star rating from *Toronto by Night Journal*.

While Kalyvia's cuisine is authentically Greek, it's a family place that caters to appetites of all ages. Kalyvia's *Makaronada* (Greek-style spaghetti), available in a variety of entrées and as a side alternative to rice or potatoes, will appeal to the kids, and it's a fun way to introduce them to Greek cuisine.

The Tsafatinos' sons Jim and Jim, and a host of other family members, ensure that each and every dish emerges from the kitchen brimming with the homemade taste their customers expect.

Kalyvia's homemade goodness can be enjoyed on the premises, or in the privacy of your home or office. Large enough for substantial gatherings, but configured for intimacy, Kalyvia is ideal for birthday parties, Bar Mitzvah parties, and other special events.

Kalyvia is one of a very few places in Toronto where you can still enjoy the tastes and trappings of home in a family restaurant environment. It has "Mom" written all over it.

# For Astoria, the future of Greek dining is now

Think "Danforth", and you're liable to think "Astoria." For over 30 years, this venerable "institution of higher dining" has come to symbolize the culinary qualities the Danforth is known for: great food, great quality, and great value.

*Astoria corners GreekTown with its bright, festive twin patios — the Danforth's largest*

**ASTORIA**
shish kebob house
*"The Future of Greek Dining"*
**390 Danforth Avenue**
**at Chester subway**
**416.463.2838**
**1970 Dundas St. East**
**Unit 1, Mississauga**
**905.615.1444**

### If it shone before, now it positively sparkles

Astoria recently underwent a major renovation that has seen it emerge brighter and roomier than ever. If it shone before, now it positively sparkles. A nouveau rustic take on traditional Greek motifs unfurls in rich golds and maroons, with elegant tile underfoot and soaring sky blue overhead.

Company Director Peter Kerasiotis undertook the renovation with a view to embracing the needs and tastes of a new generation of diners while remaining mindful of Astoria's long-standing clientele. "Many of our original guests are still regulars three decades later," he notes. "They rely on us for their family outings and special occasions, and it's their loyalty that has allowed us to grow. The renovation of our GreekTown restaurant and the opening of our new location in Mississauga were both slow, painstaking processes, but we wanted to ensure that in doing so we maintained our standards. The idea was to build on and enhance the Astoria brand, not dilute it. That is something our customers would never have accepted."

The feedback on both fronts, says Kerasiotis, has been overwhelmingly positive. The essentials — freshness, quality, and friendly personal service — are still unfailingly apparent at both locations. Astoria still imports staples such as feta cheese, olive oil and olives in small quantities directly from Greece. Their staggering portions still quell the most outrageous appetites.

Astoria's now-famous "souvlaki window", always a beehive of activity, is an indelible image of Danforth life. And what souvlaki! Judged **"Best of the City"** by *Toronto Life* and **"Best of Toronto"** by *Now*, Astoria's souvlaki helped make it a multiple winner of the **Toronto Sun's Readers' Choice Award** as Toronto's favourite Greek restaurant. Astoria was also rated "Best Greek International Restaurant" by *Where*.

Other jewels on the menu include hearty moussaka, exquisite grilled sea bass and salmon steaks — and Greek appetizers like grilled calamari and creamy homemade tzatziki, if you can keep your souvlaki craving at bay long enough to sample them.

### Freshness, quality and personal service still rule

Location and atmosphere are other Astoria assets. For a big restaurant, it's remarkably cozy, due to its corner location and dual outdoor patios (still the Danforth's largest, and now among its brightest as well!)

It's no accident that the first signs of an upcurve in the popularity of Greek cuisine coincided with Astoria's opening, nor is it coincidental that its continued growth in popularity parallels that of the Astoria we know today.

Heading eastbound on Bloor, you know you're on the Danforth once you hit Broadview; but you don't really *feel* it until Astoria leaps joyously into view, bidding you "Welcome to GreekTown" in words that the food lover in you understands so well.

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Pan's innovations come from the source

If you really believe there's nothing new under the sun — and nothing new in Mediterranean cuisine — a visit to **Pan On The Danforth** will alter your belief system considerably.

The great taste that has earned Pan accolades as "one of the city's best" Greek restaurants (*Toronto Life*) isn't new. What *is* new are some compelling additions to the menu courtesy of Nikos Stamatiou, Pan's new chef from Greece who has taken an already innovative menu to unprecedented new gastronomic heights.

Though owners Chris and Soula Christodolou and son Giorgio are the face of Pan, "a restaurant's soul resides in its kitchen," says Chris. "If your cooking isn't inspired, your customers won't be either. Your mother was probably the "superstar" of her kitchen, and we rely on our head chef to play that role in ours," says Christodolou. "He needs to bring his "A" game every day." (Based on a recent sampling of Stamatiou's work, the liberal sprinkling of show business personalities among Pan's clientele have reason to be concerned that he's stealing their thunder).

Stamatiou's "A game" includes some virtuoso dishes:

- ***Yuvetsi.*** Oven-baked lamb pie with fresh herbs and spices and three cheeses, served with orzo pasta;
- ***Lithrini Me Alati.*** Salt-encrusted red snapper, baked crisp on the outside, sealing the moisture, juices and flavour inside;
- ***Karapes.*** Think the French have a monopoly on crêpes? Think again. This delightful Greek interpretation is served as either an entrée or dessert with a variety of fillings. Among the dessert offerings, the lemon custard filling is tart and delicious, the strawberry tangy, both exquisitely understated and without the cloying sweetness we dislike.

Some things never change here, like the quality of the dips (still unparalleled on the Danforth for taste and presentation), the warm personal service of a true family business, and the feeling you've gotten value for your dining dollar. For lunch, dinner and intimate events, Pan has everything we could wish for in a cozy, intimate dining environment.

PAN
Mediterranean Cuisine
516 Danforth Ave. 416-466-8158
www.panonthedanforth.com

**"The greatest Greek Food Toronto has ever known"** — *Globe & Mail*
**"Freshness and textural detail of the essence"** — *Toronto Life*

## Pantheon synonymous with fresh fish

The Olympic Pantheon was blessed with the opportunity to taste the Ambrosia and Nectar of the Gods. The Olympics happen every four years, but at **Pantheon**, in the heart of GreekTown, you can indulge in those same taste sensations whenever the mood strikes you.

In nine short years of operation, Pantheon has earned a city-wide reputation for fresh fish. So extensive is the selection — and so impeccable the preparation — that the name "Pantheon" has become synonymous with superb fish and seafood.

In addition to the popular varieties of fish you'd expect from a Greek restaurant, like red snapper, atlantic salmon and sea bass, Pantheon's spectacular selection includes many you wouldn't expect (like baby sea smelts and fresh anchovies imported directly from Greece), plus striped bass, orange roughy, black porgy, red mullet, sea smelts, and many others. Chef Nick Paroussis — who, with partner John Troupis, pilots the ship — understands the subtleties of each fish and knows how to bring out its full flavour.

Another thing that sets Pantheon apart is *continuity*. Unbelievably, in a business where turnover is the norm, Pantheon has kept the same head chef and most of the same wait staff for its full nine years of operation. That means three things:

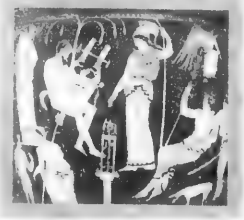
1. People like working here;
2. They like the clientele;
3. The clientele likes *them*, showing a loyalty that is clearly reciprocated. For, just as you enjoy seeing the same familiar faces, they enjoy seeing you, and the stellar service for which Pantheon is known is a reflection of that mutual affection and respect.

Exemplifying this continuity is the presence of Bobby Troupis, John's son, to whom John is slowly but surely passing the torch while transmitting a wealth of culinary expertise.

Mouthwatering homemade desserts are another Pantheon trademark. The traditional baklava is at its flaky best here, the homemade Greek honey cake "as golden and desirable as an Olympic medal" (*Toronto Star*). But in our opinion it's the homemade walnut cake that steals the show.

Pantheon's prices are actually below average for the Danforth — exceptional value for a GreekTown outing that ranks second to none.

PANTHEON



**407 Danforth Avenue**
ACROSS FROM CHESTER SUBWAY
**416-778-1929**
OPEN 11 AM - MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS
**www.pantheonrestaurant.com**

*"... a winning charm ..."*

*"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."*

*Danforth-goers, in festive spirits at the 2005 Krinos Taste Of The Danforth, can look forward to more food, fashion, entertainment and fun at this year's event*

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## Sun Valley more than brand names

If you value quality, hate spending hours schlepping through giant faceless supermarkets, and need more than the corner grocery store can offer, **Sun Valley Fine Foods** is tailor-made for you.

Larger than the typical neighbourhood European food store, yet small enough to navigate your way through quickly, Sun Valley is boutique food shopping at its very finest. Just about every sought-after brand name is here, from gourmet grocery items to breads, cakes and pastries. The produce is spectacular; the meat, fish and poultry are perfection itself.

Sun Valley Fine Foods
583 Danforth Ave.
416•469•5227
www.sunvalleyfinefoods.com
*Open to 9 p.m. 7 days • Delivery available*

But Sun Valley is more than just brand names and quality. It's about finding exactly what you need for your family and special occasion dining with efficient, friendly personal service.

It's these attributes which keep customers coming back — not only the locals, but shoppers from North York, Thornhill, and even Richmond Hill, often armed with the temperature-controlled bags that have become standard equipment among shoppers willing to go the extra mile for the very best.

People come from outside GreekTown to shop Sun Valley "for the same reasons they patronize the restaurants," says partner Spiro Aravantinos: "quality, freshness, flavour, and value."

Ah yes, value. What Aravantinos doesn't mention — but what's obvious from a quick tour of Sun Valley — is that they've resisted "snob appeal". In true GreekTown spirit, they've kept their prices affordable even as their reputation has continued to grow.

The bottom line is that under this one roof you'll find exactly what you want in less time — yet at a more leisurely pace — than in the "big box" supermarkets. And, if you're a husband who'se been "commissioned" to bring home the groceries, your chances of getting a glowing report card on arrival are better here than just about anywhere else.

The reason is simple: Sun Valley just doesn't sell anything that won't get the spousal seal of approval — no matter how hard that may be to come by in your household.

## Historical flavours come alive at Messini

When visiting most websites, you're tempted to "Skip Intro" as prompted. You want to get to the heart of the matter ASAP.

Visit Messini's website, however, and you'll find yourself engrossed in the historical introduction; at Messini, history *is* at the heart of the matter.

A sequence of richly-textured, sepia-toned photographs of the southern Greek village of Messini, circa 1930, set the historical stage for the taste treat you'll experience at 445 Danforth.

After 23 years of restauranteuring in Europe, owner Marinos Dafnas opened Messini with the singular goal of elevating gyros preparation to the lofty level it enjoys in Greece. If you know gyros only as meat on a pita, Messini will open your eyes — and your taste buds — to an exciting new dining experience.

So how does the Messini version of gyros rise above the rest?

- **Meticulous preparation.** Roasted to perfection on a spit, the gyros (pronounced *yee'-ros*, from Modern Green *guros*, "turning") combines the finest marinated cuts of moist and dry meat to ensure that it retains its juiciness and tenderness throughout the cooking process. Unlike your typical fast-food gyros, Messini's are prepared fresh from scratch: no freezing, no precooking;
- **Quality and freshness of trimmings.** The tzatziki, red onions, parsely, spices, and French fries (as per Greek tradition), like the meat, are all up-to-the-minute fresh;
- **Pita made fresh daily on the premises.** As with any fresh homemade bread vs. mass-produced, there's simply no comparison.
- **Variety.** Messini caters to a wide range of palates and dietary preferences by offering chicken and vegetarian gyros in addition to the traditional meat.

MESSINI AUTHENTIC GYROS
445 DANFORTH
416-778-4861
WWW.MESSINI.CA

The result: a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts — a sandwich that melts in your mouth with a rich blend of subtly interwoven flavours.

The prices are more than reasonable, with gyros dinner entrées starting from $8.25, lunch specials from $6.50. The menu also includes mainstream Greek selections, but you'll do yourself a disservice if you don't at least try the gyros.

Messini's immaculate interior flanks an open kitchen. Pleasant brown and cream tones — gleaming ceramic tile floor, rich wood trim and comfortable seating — create an aura of casual dining elegance.

The beaches of Peloponessos may seem far away, but at Messini, some of southern Greece's best tradition and culture is right here for the sampling.

## Big Carrot's major expansion means 40 percent more to love

When The Big Carrot expanded in 2002 by leasing space across the courtyard for its dispensary, customers smiled. When it grew again in 2004 by annexing an adjacent retail space, those same customers grinned even wider. Now they're positively giddy. Why? Because the latest expansion, now in progress, will see The Big Carrot's floor space grow by a full 40%. That means that Toronto's best selection of natural, organic, and GMO-free products just got larger.

### Organic, GMO-free, Kosher-certified products

In practical terms, the expansion means larger produce and bulk departments featuring new, state-of-the-art dispensers; more cash desks; and three express lanes to ease congestion at the checkouts. The store entrance will have wider automatic doors. There will be a new separate nutritionist area for private consultation. The body-care department will be spacious and sunny, offering new rejuvenating products. The vegetarian deli will provide more seating and the meat department will get a facelift. The fridge and freezer department will also be expanded to meet the ongoing demand for more frozen natural convenience foods.

The entire three-stage process is slated for completion in mid-September, but you can already see and enjoy the roomier new environs and larger selection. And with newly extended hours to be introduced in September, you'll also have more time to enjoy the experience.

The Big Carrot has remained the leader in an increasingly crowded field by offering products that are as good for the environment as they are for its customers, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. From humble beginnings in 1983, it had already grown, prior to the latest expansion, into metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living.

Run as a worker owned co-op, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. Many of these products are also Kosher-certified.

The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market, a wholistic dispensary, and an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

The Big Carrot's well-versed staff can help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot has it.

THE BIG CARROT
NATURAL FOOD MARKET
*"Searching for Nature's Finest"*
348 Danforth Ave.
416-466-2129
www.thebigcarrot.ca
M-W 9:30–8 Sat. 9–7
Th & F 9:30–9 Sun. 11–6
Wholistic Dispensary
416-466-8432

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, müffins, and other wholesome noshery, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher-certified — or a combination thereof. The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra pack.

Among many others, the Kosher-certified products include Crofters Organic Premium Fruit Spreads from Ontario; tomato products from Utopia, also Ontario-grown; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Cold Mountain Miso; Soy Delicious Non-Dairy Frozen Desserts; selected products from Eden Foods; Kemach Organic Spelt Matzah; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods. And, coming soon, Strub's Organic Pickles.

The Big Carrot carries a tremendous variety of healthy desserts and sweets. Made-in-Israel Kosher-certified products include Tropical Source chocolate bars and Beit Yitchak jams. Sunflower Kitchen dips, pesto and soups are popular mainstays, as are Bob's Red Mill packaged grains, cereals and baking goods; the Big Carrot stocks both in abundance.

The Deli counter offers more than 50 mouth-watering selections, both hot and cold. From the Organic Lentil Daal to the Organic Couscous Salad, every item is a taste and visual treat. It also offers a selection of sinfully delicious desserts without the sin, since they're free of refined ingredients.

### Toronto's only 100% organic juice bar

The Big Carrot's juice bar is the only one in Toronto that's 100% organic. There are over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, nutritional boosts, shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees, as well as sandwiches and other treats.

Among the sandwiches, try the Grilled Tempeh, lettuce, tomato, red onion & honey mustard mayo. Fresh, delicious and wholesome — just as Nature intended.

For a summer treat, enjoy Mapleton's organic ice cream, as well as Cool Hemp, a Kosher-certified, organic non-dairy dessert available in a cup or wholesome organic cone.

Through its ongoing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit. It's an oasis of calm amid the chaos of everyday life. A visit here isn't just grocery, supplement and cosmetics shopping; it's a balm to the spirit.

# Fifty-six years of expertis

He's crazy like a fox, that Saul Korman. All these years he's been pulling the wool over our eyes. Even if it *is* the purest virgin wool from the finest Italian mills, and even if the Boss and Canali garments it graces keep us looking like *menchen* through thick and thin. Saul Korman has still gotten over on us.

All these years, he's been extolling the virtues of Korry's expertise. Well okay, that much is true. He's been preaching value. Okay, also true — how can you argue with cutting-edge retail prices coupled with tailor-shop service? And through it all, of course, he's been ranting about GreekTown. The food. The shopping. The atmosphere. The *colour*. Well, okay...as a final concession point, it can't be denied that Korry's *is* the epicentre of the city's finest mix of restaurants and eclectic retail shops. And the fact that he reminds us of it 30 times a day or so by no means invalidates that declaration.

## Cutting-edge retail prices with tailor shop service

No, it's his *experience* claims we take issue with. His statement that Korry's has 56 years of experience with which to outfit you better is fraught with inaccuracy.

Fifty-six years...are you kidding? *Two hundred years* is more like it.

For most, a half century is a milestone of longevity. For Korry's, it's just a *forspeis*. Saul Korman, 56 years in the menswear trade. Franco Gagliardi, 35 years. Jerry Baker, 52 years. Michael Korman, 24 years. Frank Smith, 32 years. That's over 200 years right there, and we haven't even gotten into the tailor shop, where Rudy and the boys are good for another 200 years or so. For a guy known for occasional overstatement, Korman's 56-year mantra is the *understatement* of the century. "To those of us who have to listen to him every day," winks wife Myrna, "it *seems* like 400."

So how does a menswear institution grow its business and continue to gather steam after 56 years?

First and foremost, by attending to its customers' needs. From Korman to the last man in the tailor shop, all the staff's energies are focused on making you look your very best. "One thing I absolutely will not tolerate," says Korman, "is people twiddling their thumbs. There is always work to be done, whether it's giving someone your personal attention, following up an order, or making sure every garment hangs perfectly at 7:30 a.m. when you're alone in the shop. I love my staff and we all take breaks, including me, but when you're between the white lines, you've gotta perform."

Are you listening, Gibbons, Pinball, Maurice and Mitchell?

One of Korman's most endearing qualities is his spontaneity, both on the floor and on the air. His gravelly rasp is eminently listenable compared to the annoying sameness of corporate drivel that pollutes the airwaves. Korman doesn't have scripts; he wings it every time he goes on air. Love him or hate him, you have to respect him for going live. If you haven't actually been to Korry's, and know him only as a voice on the radio, you might be surprised at how many people love him. That his fellow merchants do goes without saying, since he tirelessly promotes them — and

## "Between the white lines, you've gotta perform"

GreekTown — on his dime. But his shoot-from-the-hip style has also grown on his contemporaries, his colleagues, and the general public alike. Brother Jack, for years a sibling rival in the menswear trade with his own highly successful shop, recently attended Korry's annual charitable golf tournament and remarked, "I couldn't believe the amount of goodwill he's created. He's respected by so many people. I'm proud of him."

The aforementioned event (the Toronto East General Hospital Golf Classic) is one of Korry's many fundraising initiatives. One reason the annual Krinos Taste of

*Two generations of Kormans show and **drive** smart, thanks to a Merced*

KOR
569 Danforth
416-463-
www.korry

# se...but who's counting?

*y you how to dress smart — les Benz Smart Car promotion*

The Danforth is so successful, says Korman, is that it creates a scenario wherein giving is not only easy, it's un. "Where else can you enjoy such great food and such great entertainment, *period?*" he exclaims. "Even without the charity it'd be a slam dunk. *With* the charity, it's an absolute no-brainer. Doing business during that weekend is the last of our concerns. In our BIA meetings, we talk about how we can make the event work, not about how much business we can do. For those three days, making the event work *is* our business."

It's easy to be passionate about an event like the Krinos Taste of the Danforth, as well as Korry's regular in-store events, such as an upcoming trunk show featuring a free-for-a-week Mercedes draw. For Korman, however, every day at Korry's is an event fuelled by his passion for the menswear trade and his love of people. Further spiking his enthusiasm is the fact that, more than ever, men are dressing to look their best. "Schlepping was never "in", says Korman, "but with the influence of television, well-dressed men are constantly on display. Both men and women see on a daily basis how good they can look, even in a casual office environment."

Even so, he continues, "We're seeing more freedom of choice than ever before, in terms of both styling and colour selection. Pink, lime green, orange, rust, you name it, it's all good now", he notes, "but the colours have to be coordinated and the look has to be crisp. The selection of golf wear has just exploded. More and more men are entertaining clients on the golf course, and it's just as important to look sharp there as in a business meeting — maybe more important. If you're concerned about how your suit looks in a half-hour presentation, you'd better be aware of how you present yourself on the golf course, when your customer has five hours to size you up." Whether you need golf wear or a jacket and tie — whether you spend a few hundred dollars or a few thousand — Korry's has the expertise to make you look like a million.

Wives and girlfriends are now front and centre in the menswear shopping process, and their opinions carry weight. According to a recent informal survey of Korry's clientele, nine of ten women don't fully trust their partner's buying instincts. (The other woman was lying).

Increasingly, these trusted female advisors are taking advantage of Korry's exquisite custom tailoring service to have suits, blazers, skirts and pants made up for themselves. "All the luxurious fabrics available to the men are available to women as well," says Korman. "Why waste all that great fashion sense on the guys?"

## Boardroom or golf course, appearance counts

Back on the menswear front, Boss, Canali, and Pal Zileri continue to set the pace, with black and navy the strongest colours. Coming on strong is Arnold Brant with a new exquisitely-textured line of jackets. Woven entirely from bamboo, they offer a cashmere feel with superb breathability and shape retention.

Shirts have always been a cornerstone of Korry's business, never more so than today. The selection is spectacular, from conventional and French cuffed dress shirts with scads of matching cufflinks, to the full spectrum of sports shirts and golf shirts.

Sharing Korman's ongoing quest for excellence is his son Michael, who Saul is grooming to eventually take over the business whenever — *if* ever — he decides to retire. "My dad is like Old Man River," says Michael. "He just keeps going. Why shouldn't he? This is what he loves."

Speaking of rivers, Mark Twain once referred to the Mississippi as a "wonderful book [with] a new story to tell every day." As a new chapter in the Korry's saga unfolds, two generations of Kormans do what comes naturally: clothe their customers and go with the flow.

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# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH


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Ask them how they enjoyed our Hot Mezze Platter (Kalamari, Grilled Octopus, Loukaniko, and Bifteki). Perhaps they'll tell you they were so captivated by it, they forgot it was "just" an appetizer.

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Ask them if the Lamb Kleftiko's divine combination of lamb, feta, sweet bell peppers, onions and mushrooms wasn't simply the most exquisite thing they'd ever tasted...

... until the Red Snapper arrived at their table. (Ask them if they enjoyed the salt spray on our boat that morning. After all, fresh-caught *means* fresh-caught).

Ask them if the assortment of homemade desserts they inhaled was truly the crowning glory.

And don't forget to ask them about the incredible birthday party they threw for Moishe in our private party room.

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the PALACE RESTAURANT

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## Sher-E-Punjab: pioneer still reigns

The recent explosion in popularity of East Indian cuisine has seen items like samosas and pakoras offered as fast food on a growing number of menus — even those of some mainstream restaurants.

For the true connoisseur of this genre, however — for the perfectionist who insists that each dish, each item be prepared slowly, lovingly, one by one — there's still only one place that unfailingly fulfills these expectations.

SHER-E-PUNJAB RESTAURANT
351 Danforth Avenue
West of Chester subway
416-465-2125

The soulful strains of the sitar greet you as you enter. The deep, rich earth tones of Indian slate tile — reddish brown, copper, a hint of gold — are exotic, yet peaceful. Magnificent tapestries, hand-woven in Rajastan, adorn the butternut-yellow walls.

You're not even seated yet, and already you've begun to experience the tranquility that is **Sher-E-Punjab.**

### 30-year legacy of Northern Indian home cooking

For Amar and Malkit Singh (and recently, son Jaspal), this is more than a restaurant; it's a 30-year legacy of fine Northern Indian home cooking. They've not only shared wonderful flavours, but also touched guests with their gentle demeanor and quiet dignity.

Widely reputed for its Butter Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala, Pakoras and Samosas, Sher-E holds the distinction of making Toronto's finest Naan bread — a soft, oval loaf that's best served hot. But be forewarned: it's addictive! Hand-made on the premises, it is baked fresh virtually on demand — every 15 minutes or so, at busy times — and delivered piping hot to your table. The experience of seeing it emerge from the massive Tandoori clay oven is surpassed only by the pleasure of eating it. This, truly, is manna from heaven.

Saag — a pureed mixture of spinach, broccoli, and rapini — is prized by Sher-E's customers for its unique combination of sharp and mellow tastes. The ever-popular Daal (pureed lentils) and Bartha — barbequed eggplant with green peas — are also first-rate.

If you can put down the Naan bread long enough to order dessert, try the refreshing Kulfi (Indian ice cream). Indian Tea – strong, sweet, and mildly spiced — is a piquant complement to any meal or dessert.

Those unfamiliar with Northern Indian cuisine tend to associate it only with curry. To be sure, you'll enjoy fine curried dishes here, made from scratch with the freshest, hand-blended spices; but this is only a very small part of the culinary picture. Sher-E-Punjab completes the tableau with elegance and grace, and with the kind of personal attention, respect and warmth that's only found in a long-established family business.

Nowhere is the multicultural appeal of the Danforth better exemplified than at Sher-E-Punjab, and those who visit it are in for a richly rewarding experience.

## Myth leading special event venue

If there's a party happening in GreekTown, chances are it's at **Myth**, whose avant-garde Mediterranean cuisine has made it not only a favourite dining destination, but also one of Toronto's leading special event venues.

In truth, happening parties don't just "happen"... they are the result of meticulous planning by both the party planner and the staff of the venue they choose.

Myth's popularity on this front stems not just from its cuisine but also from its unique ambience. As a restored theatre with a loft-style mezzanine, it offers a spectacular setting with a variety of seating arrangements ideal for both casual and formal events.

Palatially high ceilings and richly-textured Greek, Far Eastern and Italian motifs in gold, black, copper, maroon, and pewter are striking evidence that this is not just another venue. Large enough to host major functions, yet small enough to ensure intimacy for family milestones, it has become a destination of choice for party planners city-wide.

The management and staff spare no pains to ensure that your needs are met, from special menus to decorations and every detail in between. The warm, attentive personal service that's important in any dining scenario is especially critical when you're hosting an event. You want to be free to mingle with your guests and enjoy their company, not have to deal with details every five minutes. Owner George Kapassouris and his staff go all out to ensure that you and your guests enjoy that freedom.

Myth's combination of spacious elegance, superb cuisine and warm hospitality have made it the most frequent host not only of upscale private parties, but also (among GreekTown's may eligible restaurants) of the annual Taste Of The Danforth Launch party.

Having the professionals at Myth host your event is the easiest way we know to transform question marks into an exclamation mark...as in "Opa!"

myth
417 Danforth Ave.
416.461.8383
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**"Myth sets a new standard on the Danforth ... by which everything else will be measured" — *Sara Waxman***

**"Heaven for vegetarians ... fragrance and flavour to die for." — *Vitality***

**"Most distinctive ... on Danforth" — *Adele Weder* • "Great Greek food" — *Fodor's***

## Tending to the roses

The appeal of ethnic neighbourhoods like GreekTown stems from their culture, cuisine, specialty shopping, and a variety of other stimuli. If we live or work in one of these areas, we enjoy the good fortune of immediate access. If we don't, we enjoy the good fortune of access — period.

More than any of the above attractions, however, the primary magnetism of a neighbourhood is its *people*. They define it. There's nothing like the repeated contact with its "regulars" — be they merchants, residents or fellow visitors — to expand the comfort zone that brought us there in the first place.

There's a qualitative difference between merely being *in* a neighbourhood and being *part of it*. For me, the latter state requires human contact. No visit to GreekTown is "official", no passport stamped until I've encountered the welcoming faces I've come to know and love. Like the Rock of Gibraltar, those faces are always there, bidding me welcome.

Now, two of them are no longer there.

I knew them casually, and it would be presumptuous of me to eulogize them here. That has already been done by others more qualified than I. Suffice it to say that their untimely and premature passing has left a void in their families, in the general community, and in GreekTown.

Only their intimate friends and family — and others impacted by similar tragic events — can fully appreciate the magnitude of the loss. It doesn't make sense. It never will. After we have expressed our condolences and grieved with them, there is little we can do for them other than to carry on.

There is, however, something we can do for ourselves.

To a greater or lesser extent, we all take life for granted. On the one hand, we tell ourselves we shouldn't. On the other hand, it's unrealistic to expect ourselves *never* to take life for granted. To endeavour, by dint of conscious effort, to make every hour, every minute, every second count is to live life with an intensity that is unsustainable. Surely, we need to remind ourselves occasionally to stop and smell the roses, but to do so with military precision is to defeat the purpose and spoil the experience.

The roses at home are another story. I'm not sure we can tend to them too often or too carefully.

Have I ever taken my loved ones for granted? Yes. Do I still do so, at least sometimes? *Mea culpa*.

We [I] need to view our [my] loved ones — and see them, and greet them — not as people we *expect* to be there, but as long-lost friends we may never see again.

Because at some point — be it today, tomorrow, or ten years from now — we won't.

— *Sholom Wargon*

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**elisa.whiston@raymondjames.ca** or **416-777-7160**
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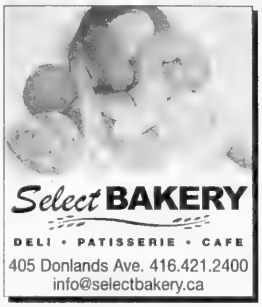
**MICHAEL KORMAN** B.Comm, FMA, FCSI
Financial Advisor, Raymond James Ltd., Member CIPF


## Select Bakery evokes childhood memories

A bakery is not merely a place where bread is made. It's a symbol of sustenance that evokes treasured memories of still-warm goodies emerging from the oven with a maternal blessing and simultaneous admonishment not to overindulge.

Nowhere is this symbol better exemplified — and brought to life on a grand scale — than at **Select Bakery**. Huge (5,000 sq. ft.) yet intimate (GreekTown's only bakery with a dedicated seating area), its majestic array of baked bounty is to the palate what surround sound is to the ear. Enhancing its seductiveness is the colour scheme (tan on caramel on chocolate) and a refinement of presentation worthy of the illustrious cafés of Europe after which it's modelled.



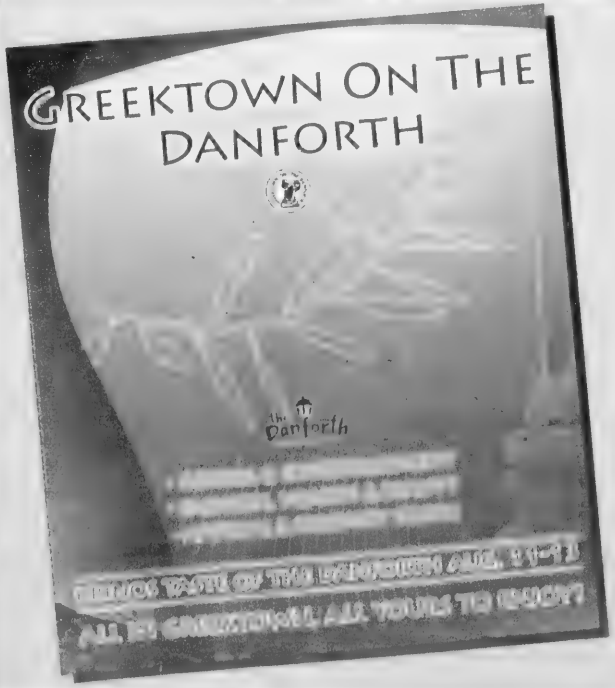

The father-and-son team of Emmanuel and Kosta Katsamakis, with a combined 50 years of expertise in baking, lead a cheery staff of skilled bakers and pastry chefs. A full range of traditional Greek, European and continental pastries (baklava, *galaktoboureko*, petits fours et al) is complemented by exceptional European breads, specialty cakes of the highest order, and sublime specialty coffees.

Further distinguishing Select is its prepared foods. No time to cook? Moussaka, *pastitsio*, Greek-style lemon oregano chicken — and many other entrées — plus the full gamut of Greek dips and sauces — are prepared fresh daily for your dining pleasure. Many entrées are available fresh or frozen, and most are suitable for freezing. Need to entertain on short notice? Select is a one-stop destination for party trays, rolls, and related comestibles. And its ultraconvenient location on Donlands just south of O'Connor has ample, inexpensive meter parking at the front door.

But we digress from the baked temptations. Among the highlights at Select are:

- European Village Bread: crusty on the outside, buttery soft on the inside;
- Kalamata Olive Bread: as good as it sounds. Buy two;
- Chocolate-covered baklava: a hybrid pioneered by Select, it picks up where "to die for" leaves off;
- Mille feuilles: Select's version makes a good run at the proverbial thousand sheets, each one shatteringly good.

Bakeries are the stuff of childhood longing; each is measured against our favourites of yesteryear. This bakery belongs in that Select group.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# GreekTown on the Danforth: Canadian heritage in the making

More than a tourist area, GreekTown on the Danforth is a community. In the summer, when the trees reach their full green and Toronto's restaurateurs put out their patio tables, GreekTown puts on its Mediterranean face.

color and exotic decor; the sounds of the bouzouki; the aroma of lamb souvlaki wafting from a grill; and the tastes of exotic foods. It is the restaurants above all — and the atmosphere they help create, at once lively and relaxed — which draw people from all over the city

children, as well as European-quality beauty salons and spas.

There is plenty of live entertainment here. At many establishments, audience participation is the rule, though after a fine, full meal, you may feel disinclined to dance on a tabletop.

*Alexander The Great Parkette at Danforth and Logan: a popular spot to pause, relax, and reflect*

Here, when friends and acquaintances greet, you are as likely to hear *"Kall' imera! Ti kanis?"* as "Hi! How are you?" In the restaurants and cafés, you hear patrons converse in every language of the world.

## Plenty to woo your senses

While the music of Greek polysyllables will appeal to your ears, the most important thing is not the language, but the fact that people do greet each other. Bustling and busy as the community is, everyone — not just tourists, but everyone who lives and works here — is as liable to stroll as to hurry.

There is plenty on the Danforth to woo your senses, and make you want to slow your steps: bright

and beyond.

Many restaurants capture, in their decor, the pleasing colours and terraced style associated with the Greek islands and mountainsides. And while souvlaki is everywhere on the Danforth, its dining establishments take pride in offering the full range and flavours of Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines.

But the Danforth boasts many other fine ethnic restaurants as well. To name but a few, Japanese, Italian, and East Indian cuisine are well represented. And its cafés and dessert houses are unparalleled, both in number and quality.

GreekTown is also home to Toronto's finest natural and specialty food stores and many alternative health practitioners. And it's become a leading fashion destination, with a host of fine specialty boutiques for men, women, and

There are a few other Toronto streets which are wider in actual metres, but the Danforth has an expansive feel about it which you don't find anywhere else. Majestic trees shade well-kept homes; here and there are streetside parks, where you can sit and rest your feet.

## A solid community with solid values

If you look closely, you see there is a solid community here. You see not only the tourists, but also the elderly and the children, as they shop, stroll or sit and chat in the cafés and parks. In the restaurants, waiters and bartenders offer everyone prompt, friendly service; there are plenty of regular guests whom they greet by name.

Nor is it just staff who do this. You will see the owners showing guests to their tables, greeting them warmly; in GreekTown, customers are family.

Also here are the institutions that belong in any healthy city neighborhood: schools, houses of worship, clubs, and community centres. People not only work here, they *live* here; and it is in great part because they keep GreekTown pleasant to live in, that it is pleasant to visit.

If you really want to get to know the community, chat a little with the staffs of different restaurants; you'll find that everyone knows everyone else. There is plenty of competition here, but it is friendly. To thrive, a restauranteur has to cherish the firm conviction that his or her establishment is the best; but in GreekTown, they do so without knocking the competition. If anything, the reverse is true.

It is from this wealth of restaurants that the "Taste of the Danforth" festival was born. This annual event has become so popular that GreekTown is closed to traffic for its duration. It's a great opportunity to sample the Danforth's culinary delights while enjoying its ambience, all in support of worthy charities like the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation.

While the Danforth is a community, it has never been a closed enclave. Saul Korman of Korry's Clothiers, an active member of the Jewish community, is also an enthusiastic promoter of GreekTown. Having been there for half a century — Korry's is now celebrating its 50th anniversary — Korman knows the people of this community, many of whom started as dishwashers and short-order cooks in the '50's and '60's, then opened the first modest Greek restaurants in the '70's. Many of them came here seeking both prosperity and freedom; the late Andreas Papandreou (a recent Prime Minister of Greece) lived in Canada from 1969 to 1974.

Korman shares with the people who live and work on the Danforth their joy in the prosperity and freedom of Canada. If you come to GreekTown, you are breathing, hearing and tasting Canadian heritage — not in a museum, but as contemporary history in the making.

# GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

## New Moon Kitchen's delicious baked goods now KSA Kosher certified

You love the *idea* of healthy baked goods, but are skeptical of the reality? Don't believe they'll taste as good as the "real thing?"

If that's true, then it's time for you to get out of your old kitchen and into **New Moon Kitchen**.

An all-natural, gourmet bakery devoted to making delicious and healthy baked goods since 1997, New Moon Kitchen features a line of dairy-free, egg-free and nut-free products made *with* the finest natural ingredients and *without* sacrificing the all-important taste that compels you to *nosh* in the first place.

- **COOKIES:** Scooped by hand and baked to perfection in six scrumptious flavours, each with its own unique texture: ***Chocolate Chip, Bite Me*** (seed & raisin), ***Mo-Mint*** (organic peppermint & chocolate), ***Ginger Snappers***, ***Goldies*** (classic oatmeal, named after President Eden Hertzog's Great-Bubbie Goldie), and ***Mokas*** (organic fair-trade espresso and fine Belgian chocolate with a sprinkle of cinnamon).
- **MINI-LOAVES:** Exquisitely moist with minimal fat, in three captivating flavours: ***Bunny*** (carrot / raisin); ***Nana*** (Banana); and ***Corn***. Available at The Big Carrot, Noah's, Whole Foods, and and other specialty and health food stores throughout the GTA and Ontario, New Moon products would make any Bubbie proud.

Even better, New Moon's entire product line is now certified Kosher Parve by KSA. For Hertzog, obtaining Kosher certification was a natural continuation of the ongoing process of making New Moon's products available to the largest possible audience.

new moon kitchen
totally natural · totally delicious
gourmet baked goods

KSA PARVE

"Everyone deserves cookies," she grins. "A cookie is more than just a *nosh*; it's an icon of a simpler time in our lives, when that one cookie (or two or three) made our day. Our M.O. since Day One has been to bake in the kind of taste and quality that will *still* make your day, regardless of your age. Now that all our products are Kosher, everyone can enjoy the New Moon experience."

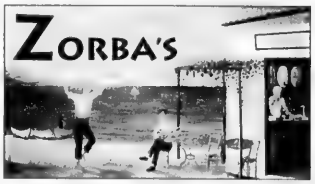
New Moon's interactive website is not only informative, it's as much fun to browse as its products are good to eat. So log onto **www.newmoonkitchen.com** and prepare yourself for a treat.

Healthy never tasted so good.

**www.newmoonkitchen.com**

## Heavenly home cooking at Zorba's

More and more, we seem to measure restaurants by their ability to simulate "home cooking", and a big part of GreekTown's appeal is that so many of its dining establishments achieve this goal. But if ever a restaurant could be said to welcome you into its home and sit you down at its kitchen table, that restaurant is **Zorba's**.




**681 Danforth Ave. at Pape**
**416-406-1212**

Your first clue is that the decor, while cheerful, is neither trendy nor obtrusive. Tastewise, however, Zorba's *katsarola* (Greek for "pot", a metaphor for home cooking) will spoil you as few restaurants can. Always off the menu and priced from $8.50 to $12.00 for a mammoth portion complete with potatoes, rice and vegetables, *katsarola* makes it doubly easy to forget you're "eating out".

Each day, owner and chef Kosta Carasoulos slaves over three to five of these specialties and spoons them into the steam vessels at front. And, just as you'd expect in a home environment, what he cooks depends entirely on his whims of the day. Typically roasted or stewed, these dishes won't just remind you of home; they *are* home.

That's the good news. The bad news is that once they're gone, they're gone, and with an eager clientele weaned on home cooking, you're advised to arrive early for best selection.

Remember your Mom's or your Bubbie's chicken fricassee? Zorba's lamb fricassee will melt in your mouth just as hers did. Lamb with *orizo*, a rice-like pasta, is equally heavenly, as is the beef stew. These preparations generally feature green beans, cauliflower, zucchini, or okra, often in combination, gently oven-simmered in a light tomato sauce. Vegetarian specialties include roasted *gigantes* (lima beans), a local favourite.

Zorba's mainstream menu tends toward casual, and many entrées are offered in three sizes (small, regular and large). The medium Greek salad could easily pass for a large; the large is off the charts. As with the *katsarola*, the prices are exceptionally modest. For example, the Lamb Souvlaki is offered as a sandwich for $4.75, with fries for $6.25 or with salad for $7.45.

Since Zorba's defines itself by its home cooking, it's only fitting that multiple family members be present. Try seven. At any given time, you'll find Kosta, wife Christine, sons Bobby, Anesty and Spiro, and daughters Demetra and Maria minding the store. The attitude is warm and friendly, the affection genuine, both between family members and with customers. Says Bobby, "We don't really know where home life ends and the business begins; they've become one and the same."

If you've never had the pleasure of dining in a Greek home, a visit to Zorba's will quickly fill that void in your life experience.

# Danforth Jewish Circle: building community values

Some seven years ago, a handful of interested parents met in Debbie Plested's living room and decided to start a Jewish studies program in the Riverdale area.

They were all members of the newly formed **Danforth Jewish Circle** (DJC), a grassroots, liberal egalitarian congregation in Toronto's east end, established in 1996 and then chaired by Marlee Wyman.

### Giving children a sense of community

At the time, Plested, co-chair of the DJC education committee, said children's education was a priority for many DJC members.

"We were really a community," she recently said. "We wanted our kids to learn and study within our community and feel a part of the community."

Plested said the group recognized the necessity of setting up a program that could meet the diverse educational needs of the children.

At that time, the local Hebrew heritage program, a school board program that had been operating in the neighbourhood for some 15 years, could only offer a basic introduction to Jewish studies, she said.

"The program was instrumental in creating a sense of Jewish identity and a sense of community," she said. "But [it] had trouble developing as a curriculum because it had to cater to a wide age group. What was happening was that our families had no choice but to look outside the community to further their child's Jewish education."

The group of parents met many times in the course of the year to establish a community-based supplementary school. They had to develop a curriculum, hire teachers and publicize the program to attract students, find funding and find a space to hold classes, Plested said.

Now in its 11th year, the DJC Children's Jewish Studies program runs weekly classes for elementary school students out of a local school. Through discussion, debate, music, drama and art, the children study Hebrew, Torah, Jewish history and current events, Jewish holidays and rituals, Plested said.

"Our program values Judaism as a dynamic, living religion. Our students learn to understand what it means to be a Jew and how being Jewish affects our values, beliefs and behaviour."

While the exploration of Jewish identity is a key component of the curriculum, Plested said that given the high proportion of interfaith families, there is also an emphasis on "respect for the broad spectrum of multiculturalism which exists within Judaism and in the neighbourhood."

The goal of the Hebrew language program is to help the children learn to read Hebrew, recite the basic prayers and gain familiarity with Hebrew songs, she said.

"We want the children to be able to decode Hebrew so that they'll be able to prepare for their Bat or Bar Mitzvah...If they have more of an interest in conversational Hebrew, we encourage and assist them [with] supplementing their studies by connecting them with a tutor."

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### B'Nai Mitzvah program: building and bonding

In addition to the school, the DJC offers a B'nai Mitzvah program, which is run by parents and not funded by any group. "This group is the beginning of a connection to the community for the future because the kids are building friendships and bonding as a group," Wyman said.

Wyman said she marvels at the growth of the community education program. "It shows you what a group of dedicated volunteers can accomplish. They're incredibly motivated. That's the whole thing about volunteerism: action is taken because we want to see results."

Persons interested in learning more about the Danforth Jewish Circle may do so by calling 416-825-7431.

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**This Week**

Israel At War

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# Hezbollah feels the pressure

By DAVID HOROVITZ
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Hezbollah is hurting under the impact of Israel's military action, but it is not yet showing signs of desperation, according to Uri Lubrani, an adviser to the defence minister and formerly Israel's longtime co-ordinator of activities in Lebanon.

Watching Hezbollah's broadcasts, "my sense is that they are feeling the pressure," Lubrani told the *Jerusalem Post*. "It's also plain that the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] operation in Baalbek [last week] had a real impact. They'll have to explain that to their supporters."

The hope in Hezbollah that the Qana tragedy would lead to a far wider escalation of anger in the Arab world, and one that would dramatically constrain Israel, has not been fully realized, he added.

But a good barometer of the Hezbollah mindset, Lubrani suggested, would be the degree to which its backers press at the United Nations for an urgent ceasefire. "I would consider a real sign of desperation if their supporters starting putting on frantic pressure at the UN for a ceasefire," he said. And that might happen, he posited without elaboration, "if they fear that we are about to go further."

Lubrani stressed that stability in Lebanon, and for Israel, required the maximal marginalizing of Hezbollah and its Iranian backers.

**During a lull in the fighting last week on Thursday, Tisha b'Av, Israeli soldiers recite *kinot*, the prayers of lamentations that are traditionally said to mark the day.** *[Isranet photo]*

"We have to demand the maximum in the next 10 days and insist on the minimum. I know there's talk of a demilitarized zone. We need to insist that Hezbollah is reduced in its capacities. We need to insist that it comes under over-sight and supervision from those who will have the gumption to resist its pressures, in an international force. We need to insist that [UN Security Council] Resolution 1559 be implemented to the full, that there be no threat at the border."

Lubrani added that "the international community has to be aware that this cannot be racheted up and down; a longer-term solution is required.

**Continued on page 31**

## MOURNING THE SLAIN

**As of Aug. 3, some 67 Israelis – soldiers and civilians – had been killed as a result of fighting between Hezbollah and Israel. Left, the family of Yiftach Schrier mourns at his funeral. Right, the family of Shimon Edga says farewell.** ***Please see page 33 for a list of Israeli casualties.***

**[Isranet and RNS/Reuters photo]**

**Eikev**
**Candlelighting: 8:10**
**Havdallah: 9:15**

*Greater Toronto Area*

*Spanish leader is fiercely critical of Israel — please see page 32*

# The News in Brief

## CANADA

### Group Seeks Flag Ban

**TORONTO** — After rallies against Israel in Montreal and Toronto in which protesters praised Hezbollah and carried its banner, B'nai Brith Canada called on Ottawa last week to ban the waving of the terror group's flag. "Hezbollah is outlawed in this country, and it therefore should be illegal to wave the flags of this terrorist group on our city streets, an activity that encourages and promotes allegiance to terrorism," said executive vice-president Frank Dimant. He repeated an earlier call to close loopholes" in anti-terror laws by criminalizing demonstrations and support for terrorist activity."

### Site Adds Burial Info

**MONTREAL** — The Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives has added a new feature to the CJC's website that provides death and burial site data for Canadian Jewish servicemen killed in World Wars I and II and the Korean War. The database, located at www.cjc.ca/archives/casualties.php, was developed after veterans and their families reported that non-Jewish military burial markers had incorrect information.

### Bridge Champ Dies

**MONTREAL** — Montreal native Ralph Cohen, a four-time North American bridge champion who held many international titles and leadership positions in the game, died at his Memphis home of cancer June 13 at 79. He was remembered as a math genius, voracious reader and worldwide traveller who loved to explore Jewish areas in exotic lands.

## WORLD

### Threat to El Al

**BRUSSELS** — Belgian authorities are investigating a threat against local El Al operations. Brussels' city prosecutors said July 31 that a letter was found in the toilets of Zaventem airport threatening attacks on Israel's national carrier. The would-be terrorists reportedly wanted to avenge Israel's offensive in Lebanon.

### Shul Vandalized

**AUCKLAND** — Israel's envoy in New Zealand blamed New Zealand politicians for a July 31 attack on a shul in the city of Christchurch. Pavement outside the shul was daubed with phrases such as "Shower, you murderous swine," and wall plaques were etched with swastikas. David Zwartz linked the graffiti attack to officials' weak support for Israel in its war with Hezbollah.

### Plot Foiled

**LOS ANGELES** — Five people were arrested July 30 on suspicion they were about to vandalize Temple Beth Shalom in Long Beach, Calif., local media reported.

### Petition Delivered

**NEW YORK** — A pro-Israel student petition was delivered to Kofi Annan July 31. Started by the student group Hillel, it garnered more than 43,000 signatures and asks the UN secretary general to "join us in clearly and immediately reaffirming the right of Israel to defend its citizens and ensure its security in the face of relentless attacks, killings and kidnappings by Hezbollah."

### Vandals Hit Shops

**ROME** — Vandals defaced some 20 Jewish shops in Rome. Fliers signed by a group calling itself the Armed Revolutionary Fascists included pro-Hezbollah slogans and condemned the "Zionist economy," AP reported. Rome's mayor condemned the vandalism.

### Synagogue Defaced

**GLASGOW** — Jewish leaders in Scotland condemned graffiti at Scotland's oldest synagogue. The word "Hezbollah" was smeared across the Garnethill Synagogue in Glasgow last week, the BBC reported.

### Alleged Shooter Faces Multiple Charges

**SEATTLE** — The alleged gunman in the July 28 attack on the Seattle Jewish Federation will be charged with an array of crimes, including first-degree murder.

Naveed Afzal Haq, 30, has also been charged with five counts of attempted murder in the first degree, kidnapping in the first degree, burglary in the first degree and malicious harassment. King County Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng said last week he would seek either the death penalty or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Earlier, Haq's parents apologized for their son's actions. In letters to Jewish groups, Mian and Nahida Haq said they don't want the shooting to create hatred between Jews and Muslims, the family's lawyer said.

Haq allegedly killed one person and wounded five others in the incident after making anti-Semitic comments. He is believed to suffer from mental illness. The woman killed in the attack, Pam Waechter, was buried July 31 after a funeral service attended by an estimated 1,300 people.

### Aussies Show Support

**MELBOURNE** — A standing-room-only crowd attended a pro-Israel solidarity meeting in Melbourne, Australia, last week. Some 1,700 people heard speeches and prayers at the event, sponsored by Australian Jewish groups. Pro-Israel rallies have also been held in Sydney and Canberra.

### Graffiti Found

**MIAMI** — Anti-Semitic graffiti was spray-painted on two synagogues and two Jewish community businesses in south Florida. Congregation Shaaray Tefila, Young Israel of Greater Miami, Kosher World and Judaica Enterprises were vandalized July 30, the *Miami Herald* reported. A police spokesperson said he believes the attacks weren't motivated by anti-Semitism, but Yitzie Spalter, the owner of Kosher World, disagreed. "They were too organized to come to two temples in the neighbourhood and two Jewish stores," he said.

### Attacks Days Apart

**SYDNEY** — , Police in Sydney, Australia, were searching for 10 men who attacked a shul in the city's suburbs, when a second shul was hit by arsonists a few days later. In the first attack, the Parramatta Synagogue was attacked July 30 with bricks and concrete that damaged doors, windows and his car. No one was hurt in the incident, believed to be the work of men of Middle Eastern origin. A few days later, there was an attempted arson at the Mizrachi Synagogue. The fire did not do serious damage.


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# National

Israel at War

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# Community agencies asked to heighten security

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

In a move reminiscent of previous Mideast hostilities, Jewish agencies responsible for community security have issued advisories to institutions across the country asking them to step up their security procedures.

Canadian Jewish Congress has called on community centres, synagogues, schools, camps and other institutional buildings across Canada to put in place security protocols designed to forestall potential anti-Semitic attacks. A similar advisory for institutions in Toronto was published by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"We felt it was important that institutions across the country in Jewish communities across the country to be very security conscious, and that police forces be equally security conscious and in that way avert possible incidents," said Manuel Prutschi, national executive vice-president of Congress.

"We sent an advisory to all Jewish community institutions [calling for] a heightened state of alertness within the community," said federation spokesperson Howard English. "Events in the Middle East can encourage people with malicious intent."

The advisories coincided with a July 28 shooting in a Seattle Jewish community centre by a lone gunman. Naveed Haq allegedly killed one woman and wounded five as he shouted his anger at Jews for violence in the Middle East.

Prutschi said there was no evidence of any specific acts being planned against the Jewish community in Canada. Congress has been in contact with the RCMP, CSIS, Canada's security agency, and with local police forces to determine the level of danger. "Police across the country have agreed to step up [their] visibility around Jewish institutions," he said. "They are also conscious of the danger and they are keeping their antennae up regarding possible danger.

"Police take the threat very seriously. We're comforted that they do," he added.

Despite the absence of a specific threat, Prutschi said Hezbollah has announced its intention to wage all-out war outside the Middle East.

"Unfortunately Hezbollah does have an international infrastructure. They previously have acted against Israel and the Jewish community during another Israel-Lebanese conflict," he said, referring to the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires and the 1994 destruction of the AMIA community centre in the same city that killed 85 people and wounded more than 300.

Congress' first security manual dates back to 1985, when Israel was embroiled in a conflict with Lebanon. Congress has also alerted Jewish community agencies about potential terrorist and anti-Semitic threats at the time of the first Gulf War (1991), the second intifadah (2000) and following the 9/11 attacks.

Anti-Semitic incidents spiked following those events.

English said the shooting in Seattle demonstrated that "no community is immune from the possibility of attack and there are lunatics out there capable of undertaking an attack."

He said more visible security has been implemented at the Lipa Green Building, which houses numerous community agencies, as well as at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and the Wolfond Centre at the University of Toronto.

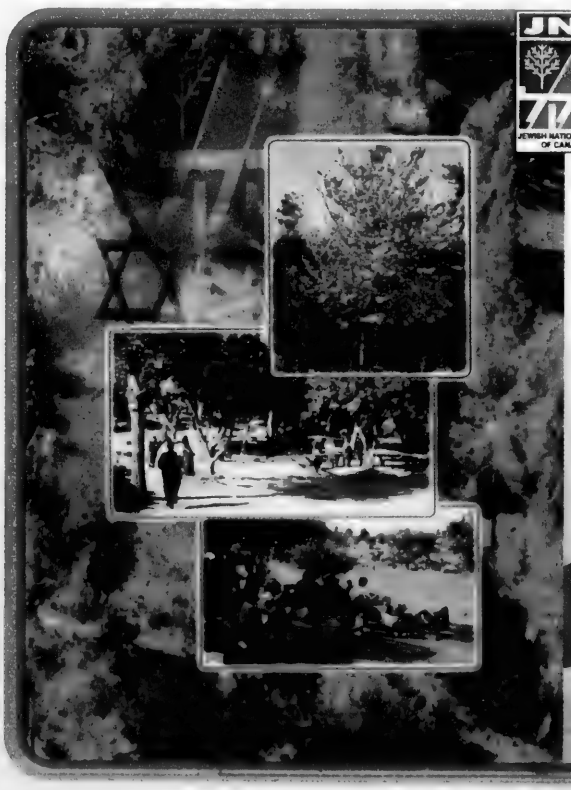
Jewish organizations have pre-existing plans that are put in place when the security situation warrants it, English said. He and Prutschi declined to give details about security measures.

English and Prutschi said the costs of enhanced security will be borne by community organizations, but Congress and the federation have been requesting financial assistance from provincial and federal governments.

"We are pushing hard on the question of government support for community security," said English. "We are continuing to advocate for it. But so far, the funds spent for it are community funds."

He noted that in the United States, the Department of Homeland Security does provide grants to non-profit organizations for security measures.

*Our local coverage of* **Israel at War** *continues on page 27.*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Israel at War

# The importance of leaders

It is much harder to discern, let alone test, the true mettle and character of a leader in our day and age. The technology of the times, especially the television monitor and computer screen, have profoundly affected the public's notion of just who and what is a good leader.

Telegenicity – the ability to look and sound good on the screen – is a far more important criterion of electability in our national leaders than, say, strength of character and sound judgment. In fact, in the high-tech, visual world dominated by the video camera, "sound judgment" has come to mean something else entirely.

It is against this background that the decision by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to stand on a principle regarding Israel's war against Hamas and Hezbollah (and their patrons Iran and Syria), rather than adopt a position on one that is popular among much of the media and Opposition leaders, is so remarkable.

He has resisted severe political taunting and even an apparent slide last weekend in public support for his party to remain steadfast in his belief that Israel has a right to "fight back."

Harper described his policy to *The CJN* last week as "principled and in the best interest of the country."

This important linkage cannot be overstated. The principled policy is also the policy that serves the best interests of Canada. In this case, it means supporting the right of a democratic country to defend itself against sophisticated, well-armed, fanatical cadres of malicious terrorist groups seeking its demise.

The reasoning behind the prime minister's policy was explained succinctly to *The CJN* by Prof. David Bercuson, director of the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary.

"This government… sees Canada involved in this developing global conflict between jihad and the western industrialized liberal societies… so the enemy killing our soldiers in Afghanistan is the same rocketing Israel with Katyushas."

Harper has accurately defined the issue underlying the war Israel is currently fighting. The war is not about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the "occupation" as it is provocatively but inappropriately called, although, to be sure, for Harper as for the Israelis, the conflict is an urgent matter that must be resolved once and for all. Rather, it is about the very right of this tiny, Jewish, and very western society to live as a free, sovereign state in a Middle East that Hamas, Hezbollah and their like wish to be Islamic in their image and thus, anti-western.

Harper is not alone in this understanding of the current fighting. British Prime Minister Tony Blair shares his view. Last week, in a speech to the Los Angels World Affairs Council, he spoke about the "arc of extremism" that must be resisted by the West. He also singled out the terrorism of Hezbollah as the root cause of the war.

Like Harper, Blair has been derided for his views in much of the press. But he, too, has not withdrawn from pressing the argument, nor, more tellingly, from standing firm in his support of U.S. President George W. Bush and the campaign against terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"There is an arc of extremism now stretching across the Middle East and touching, with increasing definition, countries far outside that region. To defeat it will need an alliance of moderation that paints a different future in which Muslim, Jew and Christian; Arab and western; wealthy and developing nations can make progress in peace and harmony with each other.

"It's [the arc of extremism's] purpose is explicitly to prevent those countries [Iraq and Afghanistan] becoming democracies and not "western style" democracies, any sort of democracy. It is to prevent Palestine living side by side with Israel; not to fight for the coming into being of a Palestinian state, but for the going out of being of an Israeli state. It is not wanting Muslim countries to modernize but to retreat into governance by a semi-feudal religious oligarchy.

"And most contemporaneously, and in some ways most perniciously, a very large and, I fear, growing part of opinion looks at Israel and thinks we pay too great a price for supporting it and sympathizes with Muslim opinion that condemns it. Absent from so much of the coverage is any understanding of the Israeli predicament."

At this point in his remarks, Blair poignantly described how Israel was provoked into fighting the terrorist organizations and demonstrates deep empathy for the people and the government of Israel. He believes it is imperative to embolden moderate, mainstream Islam to win the hearts and minds of Muslims away from extremists.

He offered a four-point strategy for doing so, the second of which is "to re-energize the Middle East peace process between Israel and Palestine." But re-energizing the peace process is very far from the minds of most Israelis at this moment. Israeli soldiers are fighting for their lives and for the lives of their fellow countrymen. Moreover, given the behaviour of Palestinian leaders since September 1993, Israelis are entitled to ask who and where are the moderate Palestinian leaders with whom they might re-energize the peace process?

Blair hopes that such moderate Palestinian leaders will one day step forward. So, too, does Harper. So, too, do Israelis.

*— MBD*

SeeJN

## STANDING WITH ISRAEL

**Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, third from right, stands with some of the young professionals who attended an "Israel Crisis Response" information night last week at the Park Hyatt Hotel. The Aug. 2 event attracted some 150 people and raised almost $20,000 for Israel. Speakers included Ya' acov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto. Pictured with MacKay are, from left, Pam Beigel, Elliot Salmons, Leslie Salmons, Joel Solish, CJPAC executive director Josh Cooper and Mira Shemtov, who recently returned from a UJA mission to Israel and also addressed the crowd.**

# Aliyah director has mixed emotions about leaving

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Dina Gidron, the regional director of the Israel Aliyah Centre, is both glad and sad to be leaving Toronto now that her two-year contract has ended.

With her 19-year-old son in the Israel Defence Forces, Gidron is glad that she and husband David, along with their 16-year-old son, will be joining him in Israel.

But she's sad because, "Toronto has been great. The work has been good, and there is so much more that I could do."

She says that since coming to the centre, which is affiliated with the Jewish Agency for Israel, she has seen hundreds of olim leave for Israel, "and I've met hundreds more who are considering aliyah."

Toronto lawyer fulfils his dream
*see story page 28*

Her "baby," she says, was the first ever Nefesh B'Nefesh aliyah flight from Canada in July 2005. "I had noticed a growth trend, so I phoned Nefesh B'Nefesh [an organization that helps people make aliyah] and asked them why they weren't flying from Toronto. Two hundred olim went with them last summer, and another flight is set to leave on Aug. 15."

Whenever possible she likes potential olim to meet with her before making a decision. "Only after meeting with a shlichah can they get accurate, updated information. That way, they can make their decision based on fact."

Her role, she says, has largely been that of a counsellor. "I help them decide if moving to Israel is the right thing for them to do."

Even following surgery for a broken ankle that she suffered after slipping on ice this past winter, she continued to interview potential olim. "I interviewed people over the phone from home, and met them as soon as I was able."

Dina Gidron

Some people come in with an idealistic picture of Israel changing their life, Gidron says. "They want to move away from their problems. I tell them, however, that their problems follow them.

"And things only get harder, because they'll also have to deal with being newcomers – a new language, and new culture. I don't discourage them, though. I just advise them to think carefully about what they're planning."

She could just sign them up, she says, "but I want them to know what they're doing. I suggest that they spend time in Israel without committing, a pre-aliyah pilot trip. Take the opportunity to meet [potential] employers, pick out schools, and meet people who have moved there."

Realizing that there is a financial deterrent to making a pre-aliyah trip, El Al offers a 20 per cent discount for people flying for that reason, says Gidron. "UJA Federation [of Greater Toronto] also has a proposal on the table to find funding for people planning a pre-aliyah trip."

People move at a different pace, says Gidron. "Some know that it's the time to go right now, while others take 20 years to plan their big move. Life just happened while they were making their plans."

**Continued on page 28**

Advertising Feature

# Rambam Saves Lives Under Attack

## To the Friends of Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa and the State of Israel

Rambam, the major tertiary referral medical center for all northern Israel, is now literally at the battle front in the current war launched against the people and the state of Israel by our terrorist enemies. Dozens of civilian and military casualties, from the battlefields, from other hospitals throughout northern Israel, from the neighborhood adjacent to Rambam and all parts of Haifa and its environs, are evacuated everyday to Rambam for life-saving treatment.

Personal stories of life-saving heroism abound, as Rambam's surgeons and medical care teams work around the clock, while themselves being under deadly missile attack.

Enemy warheads contain deadly pellets, whose aim is to deliberately inflict lethal injury to the greatest number of civilians and this presents an especially disturbing challenge to Rambam's surgical and medical teams.

In one case, Rambam's chief of surgery, immediately diagnosed and treated a patient with such a pellet that penetrated the heart of a young man, saving his life. In another an injured artery in the neck was repaired, and after two days in a coma, the injured soldier awoke to face the Israel Defense Force Chief-of-Staff; this brave soldier's first act was to salute his Commander-in-Chief.

RAMBAM Health Care Campus

Team work and vast experience are what have enabled Rambam's magnificent, courageous, and dedicated staff to rise to the challenge of providing life-saving treatment for those under attack, while simultaneously being under attack itself.

At the same time, this one thousand bed medical center continues to provide comprehensive medical care to all the citizens of northern Israel, irrespective of their background and denomination.

While now in a state of war – our urgent mission at this moment in time is to provide the citizens of northern Israel, and the Israel Defense Forces, with confidence that they can count on Rambam and its staff to provide the medical and surgical back up and treatment that is urgently needed.

While Rambam is protected, equipped and ready for any and all eventualities, the current war has shown us that as a battlefront high activity and intensity hospital, a major upgrade of the physical facilities housing our emergency services is urgently needed.

The Government of Israel has provided resources to reinforce some more vulnerable parts of the hospital with protective abutments and material. However, in addition our most urgent and immediate need is to purchase equipment that will allow us to double our emergency services and intensive care capacity – which is currently strained. The nature of the injuries inflicted require the rapid ability to accurately and rapidly locate life-threatening metal pellets, with which the deadly missiles are loaded and which disperse upon impact and explosion. The relocation of many hundreds of our patients to safer locations within the medical center facility – also requires urgent special equipment arrangements. The immediate cost of these emergent needs is very high, even as the war rages on.

In the longer run – we have learned the hard way – that immediately following completion of the war, we need to rapidly initiate a major upgrade of our Emergency Services physical facility – which is currently one of the smallest in size relative to the volume of activity we experience even in peace time, and is not optimally constructed to accommodate a situation of safely providing life-saving care under enemy fire. The costs of this upgrade, together with bed secure inpatient intensive care facility will also require generous support from our friends in Canada and throughout the world.

We wish to thank our friends and supporters for their encouragement and support during these difficult times. We appeal to you for your continued encouragement, generosity and help, so that we may be able to meet the current challenge and fulfill our mission on behalf of the state of Israel and the Jewish people, and for the benefit of human health. Shalom.

Rambam is in urgent need of immediate funds due to the current crisis.

Please send your cheque as soon as possible to:

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*Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre is a registered charity and will issue Canadian tax receipts for 100% of all donations. Donors should be aware that 100% of all funds donated are remitted directly to Rambam Medical Centre in Haifa.*

***[Haifa, July 27, 2006]***

# Romania embracing Holocaust education

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

The former director of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto is helping Romania develop its Holocaust education teaching strategy.

Peninah Zilberman, who was director of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto from 1989 until 1998, spent three weeks this past spring in Romania holding seminars for teachers. She made presentations in the capital, Bucharest, and the city of Cluj, in central Romania.

"As a child of Romanian Holocaust survivors, it was of utmost importance for me to have the opportunity to address Romanian teachers about the Holocaust," said Zilberman, whose father currently spends half a year in Romania. Zilberman's mother grew up in Sighet and lived on the same street as novelist and activist Elie Wiesel.

"My paternal grandparents brought me up with many stories about Romania, and in their memory and in the memory of my maternal grandparents, which I never knew, as they were gassed in Auschwitz, I felt very good for being able to guide Romanian teachers in their quest in teaching the Holocaust."

Zilberman spent a day in May in Cluj, at Babes-Bolyai University, where she lectured to 30 teachers.

Others who made presentations at the four-day seminar included Chava Baruch from Yad Vashem and Michael Poznanski of the Centre of Mémorial de la SHOAH in France.

The seminar at the University of Bucharest's Goren-Goldstein Hebrew studies Center ran from May 10 to 12 and 58 teachers, ranging in age from 28 to 60, participated. Zilberman said the seminar was not as intense as the program in Cluj, which had three parts."

"They spent a whole week in February learning about the history of the Holocaust and how it [affected] the state of Romania. In May, they [learned the] methodology," she said.

Each participant will now write an essay on subjects concerning the Holocaust, which they will present at their third and final seminar this October, before travelling to Auschwitz.

According to the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 15 years following the fall of communism in Romania in 1989, there still had not been any acknowledgement of the Holocaust. This is an added challenge when teaching Holocaust education, Zilberman said.

"The person who co-ordinated the program in Cluj insisted that those who attend have to be fluent in English and not older than 32, because they [don't] come with preconceived ideas," Zilberman said.

"Until 1989, nobody spoke about the Holocaust. Nobody taught [Holocaust education]. They completely denied that there was a Holocaust," she said.

Zilberman said the underlying motive for this new interest in Holocaust education in Romania is political.

## *Memorial to be unveiled in Bucharest on Oct. 9*

"One has to understand that this is a growth that Romania wants to be accepted in 2007 as a member of the European Union," she said. "Part of the requirement is acknowledging the Holocaust."

On June 13, 2003, the Romanian government released a statement denying any Romanian responsibility in the Holocaust. Five days later, following a spate of international condemnation, a statement was released by the government, acknowledging what had occurred more than 61 years ago.

On Oct. 22, 2003, the former president of Romania, Ion Iliescu, announced the establishment of a commission to investigate the Holocaust in Romania and on November 11, 2004, a 400-page Final Report was released. According to Yad Vashem, the report documents the history of the Holocaust in Romania as well as recommendations on how the government can promote Holocaust education, remembrance, research and awareness.

This year, a Holocaust memorial will be unveiled in Bucharest on Oct. 9, Romania's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

On Oct. 9, 1941, the deportation of Jews to local concentration camps in the regions of Bukovina, Bessarabia and Transnistria began.

Zilberman said that in Transnistria victims died of hunger, beatings and malnutrition, and also because of environmental factors.

"October is pre-winter, lots of rain, and it's in the northern part of Romania, which means that it's cold and it snows. What happens is... the ground, turns into a mud, that if you put one foot [down], and you don't lift it up immediately, you get stuck," she said.

"It's a terrible thing because when you talk to some survivors, they sometimes say that they saw their parents get stuck to the ground."

The deportation of Jews from the Transylvania region, which was the center of Chassidism, to Auschwitz began on May 15, 1944.

According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in 1933, Romania's Jewish population was approximately 980,000. Today, Romania is home to a Jewish population of about 14,000.

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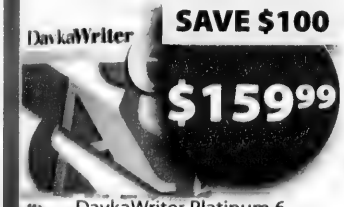

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# Editorials & Letters

# Bully wants ceasefire

Israel has been battling Hezbollah and its sponsors for more than three weeks. Deadly rockets and missiles continue to rain down on civilian neighbourhoods in Israel. Eight people alone were killed last Thursday under a barrage of some 130 rockets. In response, Israel targeted more Hezbollah launch sites and other military installations and drove deeper into southern Lebanon with thousands of ground forces, methodically pushing Hezbollah further and further away from the border.

In a sure sign Hezbollah was feeling its losses, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the hate-laden leader of the Shiite terrorist group, appeared on Lebanese television last week to reassure his supporters that Hezbollah was actually winning the war. That he used Alice-in-Wonderland rhetoric to describe the degradation of Hezbollah's arsenal and the carnage that still smouldered on Lebanon's crushed earth as a victory for Lebanon and its people was neither surprising nor persuasive – least of all to the Lebanese. He threatened to send missiles into Tel Aviv if Israel bombed Beirut, but not before he offered to end the shooting of rockets into Israel if Israel stopped its attacks on Hezbollah targets.

The same day the cherubic leader of Hezbollah appeared on Lebanese television, his mentor and sponsor, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, spoke to an emergency gathering of Muslim leaders in Malaysia. "Although the main solution is for the elimination of the Zionist regime, at this stage an immediate ceasefire must be implemented," Ahmadinejad said, according to Iranian state-run TV. Thus, the bully and his backer both want Israel to stop the fight that they began.

As of this writing, diplomatic momentum toward a ceasefire was indeed building. The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council were moving with considerable haste toward that aim. Israeli forces, however, were also moving with considerable haste to rout as many of the Hezbollah thugs from their hidden warrens in south Lebanon before any ceasefire would be imposed upon them.

But the Security Council must not impose a one-sided obligation upon Israel to cease and desist from its military campaign against the terrorists, nor should Israel agree to a ceasefire before its work is substantially completed and its northern border is protected and secure.

Uri Lubrani, an adviser to Defense Minister Amir Peretz, told the *Jerusalem Post* that stability in Lebanon and Israel means marginalizing Hezbollah and its Iranian backers. "We need to insist that Hezbollah is reduced in its capacities… that it comes under oversight and supervision from those who will have the gumption to resist its pressures, in an international force. We need to insist that [Security Council] Resolution 1559 [which calls for the disarming of all Lebanese militias] be implemented to the full, that there be no threat at the border."

He also had plenty to say about Iran. "There are those who believe Iran can be talked to, reasoned with. Don't count me among them… I take Ahmadinejad seriously. People think he's a clown, a buffoon. He's not… They want to wipe out the U.S., and us, too… as the representatives of western culture. This can't be swept under the carpet."

As Israel has shown these past three weeks, it will not be.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Brig.-Gen. Amos Baram, deputy head of the Israel Defence Forces' northern command, told reporters in New York that a recent ceasefire between Israel and the PLO in Lebanon was a mistake "militarily" because the army was set to rout the PLO and stop it from shelling Israeli towns in northern Galilee. He also said the PLO had received "sophisticated and accurate" weapons from East Germany, Libya and Syria, and purposely located itself in civilian areas as a shield against Israeli retaliation.

Dry Bones
ISRAEL AT WAR STRONG THEORY
HOW LONG WILL THIS WAR LAST?
THAT'S LIKE ASKING "HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING?"
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## Biased news reporting in the U.K.

We need more Stephen Harpers and Tony Blairs ("Harper rejects moral equivalence between Israel and terrorists," *CJN*, Aug. 3).

I just got back from a meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews in London. I have never heard so much hatred and biased news as I did on the BBC and Sky News, as well as in the headlines of the *Guardian*, the *Times* and the *Independent*. I now understand why the Jews there act like *dhimmis* [non-Muslim subjects of a state governed in accordance with Islamic law] and hide. The media in the United Kingdom make Jews and Israelis sound worse than Nazis. I work in the media and I am a grassroots activist, but even I felt like tucking my Magen David under my shirt at certain times.

I spent a Shabbat dinner with friends and had to listen to their children describe how Jews stole the land for Israel from Palestinians. I listened to the kids talk about how Jews murdered and killed millions of Palestinians and destroyed hundreds of thousands of villages – and if we could just give back the West Bank, all would be well in the world.

Freedom and democracy will lose the battle if we allow lies to become truth, and facts to become fiction. Bravo Prime Minister Harper!

**Allyson Rowen Taylor**
**Associate Director**
**American Jewish Congress**

* * *

## Ralliers 'were Canada at its best'

Often, as Canadians, we take our safety, security, and most importantly, our democracy for granted. It is with this in mind that I congratulate the organizers of the Stand for Israel Rally ("8,000 rally for Israel in Toronto," *CJN*, Aug. 3). To have been invited was an honour, but to have personally witnessed the overwhelming support of thousands of people is an indelible memory. Peacefully gathered, shoulder to shoulder, the ralliers represented Canada at its best.

When I arrived, I was stirred by the thousands of people gathered outside the Toronto Centre for the Arts to watch the rally on video screens. Inside the overflowing hall and outside, a sea of Canadian and Israeli flags waved, held by citizens from all walks of life, all religions and all communities across the Greater Toronto Area. To say it was moving would simply be understating this show of solidarity.

I can only echo the sentiments of the speakers, Robert Lantos, retired major-general Lewis MacKenzie, Miriam Shemtov and Julia Koschitzky, that this is not just an Israeli issue. Rather, this is about the free and democratic nations of the world standing together to fight terrorism everywhere, and not just on the front lines of this global conflict.

The rally showed the compassion and commitment of Canadians. In a perfect world, these rallies would be unneccessary, but in its absence, I pray for a quick and reasonable settlement that will allow democracy and the rule of law to succeed.

**Michael Di Biase**
**Mayor**
**Vaughan, Ont.**

* * *

## Grieved by violence in Middle East

As Jews, Canadians and human beings, we are deeply grieved by the escalating violence in the Middle East. We mourn the death and suffering of Lebanese, Palestinians and Israelis and decry the killing and destruction by all parties.

We do not believe that it is in Israel's or the world's interest for Jews to provide unquestioning support for the Israeli government's ever-more destructive military response in Lebanon. This excessive reaction has created a humanitarian disaster, destroying infrastructure and killing and wounding hundreds of civilians, including many children.

We do not discount the threat from Hezbollah, which has launched unjustifiable attacks on Israeli citizens. But it is becoming increasingly apparent that the present crisis cannot be solved by military means. We agree with Henry Siegman, former head of the American Jewish Congress, who observed in Britain's *Guardian* that Israel's response to the attacks, "far from providing protection to its citizens, may well further undermine their security by destabilizing the wider region."

We support the many Jews and others in Israel and around the world who call on the Israeli government to pursue an immediate ceasefire and diplomatic solutions to the current crisis, and an end to the boycott of the Palestinian Authority and the occupation of Palestine. We believe the Canadian government should join other nations in calling for an immediate ceasefire and negotiated solutions.

**Marianne Levitsky**
**Alan Meisner**
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**Toronto**

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# Why Israel must win this war for the free world

Ya'acov Amidror

Dan Diker

**By YA'AKOV AMIDROR and DAN DIKER**
*Jerusalem Post*

Israel went to war to remove Hezbollah's strategic missile threat on the Jewish state's northern border. The terror group has kept Israel hostage to its missile threat for the past six years, and during that time, it has transformed itself into a highly effective deterrent force.

Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah decided to ignite the northern front in the middle of last month on the assumption that Israeli war jitters would prevent the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) from responding with its full might.

But while Israel is at war only to eliminate the acute strategic threat of some 13,000 to 15,000 short- and longer-range Iranian and Syrian missiles pointed at its major cities, this Israeli campaign must also achieve three additional and necessary outcomes that have far-reaching implications for the future of the Middle East region and the free world.

First, an Israeli victory over Hezbollah – meaning the uprooting of Hezbollah as an armed force that has become an army within an army – may offer the Lebanese people another window of opportunity to become a democratic sovereign state free of the fear and tyranny Syria and Iran, via Hezbollah, have imposed on it. That important process had picked up speed after the murder by Syrian operatives of Lebanese president Rafik Hariri last summer, followed by the million-person demonstration for freedom in Beirut's Martyrs' Square and the removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

However, Lebanese progress toward freedom was stopped dead in its tracks as Hezbollah, backed by Syrian and Iranian patrons, remained the strongest armed force in the country, in direct contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 1559, which calls for both the disarming of all foreign militias in Lebanon and the removal of all foreign forces other than the Lebanese army.

Moreover, several hundred members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards have remained in Lebanon as advisers and trainers of terror activity, including the launching of various Iranian medium-range rockets and the maintaining of Iranian Zelzal long-range missiles.

The uprooting of Hezbollah terrorist forces and their Iranian and Syrian advisers from Lebanon, and the imposition of effective security arrangements by the international community, must thus prevent Iran and Syria from returning to the status quo ante in Lebanon.

Only if this is done, will Lebanon be able to move toward freedom, "normality" and stability within the international state system.

The second necessary byproduct of Israel's war against Hezbollah will be the ripple effect it will have on the international axis of radical Sunni and Shiite Islamic networks. Radical Islam is nurtured by its perceived successes, just as it is poisoned by its perceived failures. Unfortunately, since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, and particularly following the defeat of Soviet forces by al Qaeda in Afghanistan in 1989, radical Islam has felt "well fed" by its successes against the West.

Osama bin Laden is alive and has been in command since the al Qaeda attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The United States is bogged down in Iraq. Al Qaeda scored qualitative hits in London and Madrid, and even caused a change of government in the Spanish elections.

Moreover, Israel's unilateral retreat from Lebanon in May 2000 was considered a major victory by Hezbollah, providing important encouragement to then-Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who, in 2000, based his intifadah strategy on Hezbollah's terror war of attrition in Lebanon from 1982 to 2000.

Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in September 2005 was also clearly understood by the Palestinians as a vindication of the Hamas terror group's actions, and this led in no small part to the Hamas electoral victory in January this year. The Muslim Brotherhood, the first of the radical political Islamist groups, has since refortified itself in Egypt and Jordan.

Indeed the West, in the mind of radical Islam, really does appear "weaker than a spider's web," to quote Nasrallah.

Therefore, and in no uncertain terms, the Israeli counteroffensive in Lebanon is one of the last stations at which the apparently runaway train of radical Islam can be stopped, or at least slowed in its tracks.

The West and radical Islam have reached a dramatic, yet still undetermined, turning point: an Israeli victory over Hezbollah would send a critically important signal to the American and Iraqi government forces fighting the radical insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the Hamas terrorists in Gaza, and to the Hezbollah leadership and its Syrian hosts in Damascus. An Israeli failure would have the opposite effect, strengthening Hamas' terror operations and radical Islamic groups in Europe, and increasing the threats against Jordan, Egypt and other Arab countries.

The third critical byproduct of a successful Israeli campaign would be a blow to Iran. Israel must neutralize Tehran's strategic weapon – Hezbollah – which has been a lever by which Tehran could threaten to ignite the Middle East at will.

Aside from Iran's missile arsenal, Hezbollah is the most flammable match in Iran's weapons cache: if Israel can destroy the threat of Hezbollah missiles from Lebanon, Iran will have lost a key strategic deterrent weapon in which it has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in weaponry, infrastructure, training, command and control in its attempt to "light up" the Middle East.

The stakes in the current war are very high, both for Israel and for the free world. A victory would mean that radical Islam is sent an important message that red lines have been crossed and the free world will not hesitate to engage and defeat what is considered by many to be the most powerful and threatening Islamic terror axis.

However, if Israel is forced into a ceasefire before it has physically neutered Hezbollah, thus isolating Iran and Syria's major command and control terror centre, the implications for Israel, the Middle East and the free world could be devastating.

*Reserve Maj.-Gen. Ya'akov Amidror, former head of the IDF intelligence assessment division, is currently director of the Institute for Contemporary Affairs at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.*

*Dan Diker, defence and foreign policy analyst at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, also serves as Knesset correspondent and analyst for Israel Television's Channel 1 English News.*

**IDF reservists enter Lebanon** **[Isranet photo]**

Opinions

# Inspired by a blank page

It just sits there, quiet yet intimidating. Another sermon to be written, and all I have is a blank page. Will I have something inspirational to say?

Inspiration is hard to come by. Maimonides points out that inspiration is like a bolt of lightning: enlightening, sometimes shocking, and extremely uncommon. And so, the blank page taunts me, a reminder of my own uninspired mind.

*Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal*

Rabbis searching for sermons aren't the only people who need inspiration. It's required on a daily basis. Everything significant in life, from relationships to friendships to work, can either be inspired or routine.

Of course, our dull everyday routine is often necessary. We simply can't live in a constant state of high energy. Much like sleep, we all require some quiet routine to replenish our strength. Yet, like sleep, if we slip into the routine all the time, we end up living our lives in a spiritual coma, unaware of the powerful moments that are constantly available to us. Living without inspiration is a true waste of life.

So where do we find the inspiration to fill the blank pages of our lives? Strangely enough, in an empty box. When you give a two-year-old child a toy, they are usually more enchanted with the empty box. To them, a box is filled with possibilities: you can put things in it, turn it upside down and stick it on your head. Two-year-olds know that even an empty box is inspiring.

But a 40-year-old doesn't find inspiration, he uncovers it. A 40-year-old has, over the years, covered the inspiration of an empty box with layer upon layer of routine. To find inspiration, a 40-year-old has to peel back the layers of routine and rekindle that child-like excitement.

When we remove the thick covering of routine, we're inspired by a fresh look at life. At times, we find ourselves enthralled by the little things we take for granted. On other occasions, we are angered by the mediocrity and petty corruption that we're willing to accept as a matter of course. Most importantly, without routine to hold us down, our creativity soars, because we are willing to explore the unfamiliar. The inspiration we need to renew friendships, relationships and work is already within us, waiting to be rediscovered.

As a rabbi, I often find myself settling into a routine, repeating themes, citations and anecdotes. This is why that blank page is so frightening. I'd really like to find something inspiring to say.

But the blank page, like the empty box, is exploding with possibilities. The blank page is filled with messages, if I can only figure out how to dig them out from under a mountain of clichés.

# Our challenge is clear

The unsought war that Hezbollah and Hamas imposed on Israel has tragically thickened the memorial books of Israel and the Jewish people. Both terrorist groups sought to fulfill their uncompromising genocidal visions by amassing deadly arsenals and launching unprovoked attacks. As a result of this evil, there are dozens of freshly dug graves in Israel, representing shattered families, grieving mourners and lives prematurely cut short. Entering the shivah house of a fallen soldier entails entering a world of heartbreak, of human potential lost, of deep relationships ripped apart, of young vigorous heroes stolen from the people who loved them and whom they loved.

*Gil Troy in Montreal*

Yaniv Bar-On was a 19½-year-old Israeli tank hero, killed in the first series of Hezbollah ambushes that triggered the conflict. His mother Carleen, a United Talmud Torahs/Herzliah graduate, made aliyah from Chomedey and his maternal grandparents Moish and Raisy Cohen still live in Montreal. In eulogizing Yaniv, his father, Asher, eloquently bid farewell to his "best friend," his brave, sensitive, patriotic and beloved son. Speaking to a crowd of 1,500 enveloped in an eerie, shocked silence, Asher described the beautiful valuefilled life they built in the Israeli suburb of Maccabim as a "bubble" that had been cruelly burst.

Words of comfort fail, even though by doing his duty, Yaniv saved others' lives and served as the first line of defence in a civilizational struggle between the western forces of freedom and nihilistic Islamo-fascists. Noble sentiments are lovely, but the grieving survivors would much prefer to have their loved ones back. There are, however, actions that can honour their lives, further proving that Yaniv and others did not die in vain.

Even as Israel's soldiers mobilized courageously to fight a ruthless enemy, the rest of the country mobilized, too. Of course, the one million Israelis living in the north endured an involuntary mobilization as thousands of lethal Katyushas pummeled their homes. Still, the rest of the country pitched in. Strangers opened their homes and hearts, hosting thousands fleeing the bombardment. Shopping malls, summer camps, amusement parks and hotels all welcomed the northerners, demonstrating extraordinary national unity in a famously fractious country. The pictures from Israel were less dramatic than the pictures from Lebanon, partially because Israelis responded so effectively – just as 50 years ago Israel solved the problems of Jewish refugees from Arab lands by integrating them, rather than keeping them in refugee camps to score political points with their pain.

Amazingly, a vast network of non-profit organizations and individual volunteers bloomed overnight. Shelters and army bases have received mounds of goodies and necessities from organizations such as Lev Echad, which has put young Israelis from all over the country to work helping in Safed and elsewhere. Singers such as David Broza have toured the shelters. Haim Avraham, a national icon whose son Benny Avraham was murdered by Hezbollah in a botched kidnapping in October 2000, has visited military camps, hugging every soldier he's met.

Meanwhile, in the northern hospitals, especially Haifa's Rambam Medical Center, doctors, nurses and administrators work round the clock to care for the wounded. Even as air raid sirens shrieked, even, as in the first two weeks of fighting, 25 Katyushas just missed hitting Rambam, the medical miracle workers operated calmly, efficiently and humanely.

We in the Diaspora should marvel at our Israeli brothers and sisters – and mimic their altruism. We have our part to do, lobbying governments effectively, fighting media libels vigorously, expressing solidarity communally, contacting our Israeli friends individually, visiting the country consistently, and, yes, donating some of our money generously. The needs – to rebuild ruined infrastructure, compensate for lost wages, resupply medical equipment, counsel children, rehabilitate the injured, psychologically comfort the traumatized, and fortify hospitals, communal structures and homes for the future – are vast. Each of us needs to push ourselves, and each other.

A common Israeli phrase of condolence is "*Anachnu mishtatfeem be'tzareichem*," we participate in your sorrow. The challenge is clear. Are we proving by our actions that we really do participate in the sorrow of dozens of families like the Bar-On family, and will we help them find comfort with the many other mourners of Zion? If the answer is yes, let us do more. And if the answer is no, shame on us all.

# Life goes on, but the mood has changed

"Surrealisti" – surreal – is the word she chose to describe us that morning, sipping coffee together at a café beneath her apartment on Rehov ha-Palmach, safe in Jerusalem while the conflagration in the north escalated daily. Chain smoking, she compared Israel's current battle against Hezbollah to her experiences fighting in the 1948 War of Independence.

*Sara R. Horowitz in Toronto*

By sheer coincidence, I met Netiva Ben-Yehuda at her regular table outside a small grocery store that serves coffee and rolls. By the time my *caffee hafuh* was ready, all the tables were occupied. The proprietor suggested I sit with the nice woman sitting alone. "She likes company," he said.

Although I had never met Ben-Yehuda, I knew her novels – thinly disguised autobiographical volumes based on her experiences before, during and after Israel's War of Independence. She served in the Palmach, beginning in 1946, and fought alongside such figures as Yitzhak Rabin and Yigal Alon as the commander of a sapper unit, setting and disarming mines. An athlete, she trained for the Olympics as a discus thrower, until a bullet ended her aspirations for athletic competition.

Known for her quick wit, intelligence, and eccentricity, she studied art at the Bezalel Art Academy. Together with Dan Ben-Amotz, she co-authored dictionaries of Hebrew slang, insisting that the language of the street, even when grammatically incorrect, is the mark of a vital and living culture. By now almost 80, she broadcasts a weekly radio program and holds court at a white plastic café table, where passers-by of all ages greet her and stop to chat. She rarely moves beyond the street where she lives, but her finger is on the pulse of the nation.

The word she chose, "surreal," comes up frequently these days, as people go about their usual business in the parts of Israel where the daily hail of missiles have not sent families to the safety of shelters or to friends and relatives in quieter regions. In Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Be'er Sheva, people sit in cafes and restaurants with friends, attend films and concerts, and seek ways to entertain those who have come to seek reprieve from the north. Museums, parks, the biblical zoo, local swimming pools, and shopping malls are teeming with children and their parents looking for distraction and shelter from the heat. Scholars continue to use the vast and rich resources of Israel's National Library, local artists organize exhibitions of their work, and neighborhoods organize street fairs. Normal life goes on.

But the atmosphere has changed palpably from the upbeat mood of late spring. Most people are glued to the news, simultaneously checking radio broadcasts and Internet updates every few minutes, or they flick from channel to channel, comparing coverage of the situation on local programs with that on CNN, Fox News and the BBC. Others announce that they need time away from the news, but few remain unplugged for long.

In downtown shops that cater to foreign tourists, proprietors recite psalms, awaiting the infrequent customer looking for hamsas, mezzuzot or kippot. Merchants in all four quarters of Jerusalem's Old City wonder how they will recoup this lost time, which had been predicted as one of economic resurgence. Residents in the north whose businesses depend on summer vacationers – both Israeli and foreign – have already written off this summer. Music and dance festivals have been cancelled, hotels and bed-and-breakfast "zimmerim" (rooms) are deserted in Safed, Tiberias and the Golan. Residents of northern areas know that the economic ripple effect will be felt for a long time.

Meanwhile, volunteers travel to the north to bring succor to children and adults. The Israeli singer David Broza has gone with his guitar from shelter to shelter in the Galilee. Our friend's daughter reads bedtime stories to children who are hunkered down there. Tourists and residents alike line up to donate blood to the mobile blood units in the downtown areas of major cities.

Netiva Ben-Yehuda has often spoken of the devastation of war, and the lack of joy even in winning. "It was necessary," she reflects, "but I still suffer shell shock from 1948." These days, she asks her listeners to call in to share their good news, so that they can hold on to a sense of joy amid the current news. The real joy – the only joy – she notes, would be an enduring and secure peace.

The Kirshner File

# Hezbollah proves to be a formidable enemy

It took Israel six days to defeat Egypt, Syria and Jordan in the 1967 war and three weeks to subdue Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Morocco in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. But after more than three weeks of fighting, the Israeli armed forces are still battling Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon, while towns and cities in the Galilee are being constantly hammered by Katyusha rockets.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Last week, Israel expanded its ground offensive and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert grimly advised Israelis to steel themselves for "pain, tears and blood." He declared that a ceasefire was not imminent and that the offensive would continue until a multinational peacekeeping force is deployed. But as he delivered these sombre messages, Israelis were surely wondering why Hezbollah had not already been crushed.

When the war on the northern front broke out last month, most Israelis assumed that Hezbollah would be routed in short order. Their assumption hinged on several factors. Hezbollah has neither an air force nor a tank force, and its army consists of only about 3,000 full-time fighters. Israelis who claimed that Hezbollah would be no match for Israel – a regional super power that has won a succession of battles against regular Arab armies – thought Hezbollah would be smashed by a combination of devastating air strikes and decisive infantry and tank assaults. These tactics have worked to Israel's advantage in the Gaza Strip, where Israel is currently engaged in a lower-profile, low-intensity war against the forces of Islamic radicalism, as exemplified by Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

But like so many assumptions that have proven to be overly sanguine, this one melted away in the harsh, blinding light of reality. Two examples will suffice. First, when the elite Golani Brigade penetrated the town of Bint Jbail – a Hezbollah nerve centre – Hezbollah sprang an ambush, killing eight of its soldiers. Second, Israel needed four whole days to take the neighbouring village of Maroun al-Ras, only two kilometres from its border. These setbacks reminded Israelis yet again that Hezbollah – a Shiite force that emerged in the aftermath of Israel's second invasion of Lebanon in 1982 – was indeed a resilient adversary, and that Israel's relationship with the Shiites, who comprise one-third of Lebanon's population, had once been immeasurably better.

When Israel pushed into Lebanon in 1982, Lebanese Shiites, fed up with the state-within-a-state the Palestinians had created in Lebanon after the 1970 civil war in Jordan, welcomed Israeli soldiers with rice and rose water. They were glad that Palestinian militias, commanded by the PLO, had been driven out of the border area they had used as a staging ground to attack Israel. With the PLO vanquished, Israel would no longer have cause to launch retaliatory attacks, and life could return to normal in the Shiite villages of southern Lebanon. But Shiite attitudes toward Israel hardened when it prolonged its occupation. Hezbollah – an Islamic fundamentalist group supported by Iran and Syria – exploited this chaotic situation. For the next 18 years, Hezbollah fought Israel, a conventional army pitted against a guerrilla force.

Hezbollah, a formidable and tenacious enemy, constantly surprised Israel with costly roadside bombings, suicide attacks and ambushes, all of which exacted a terrible toll on Israeli troops. In one horrific incident in 1983, Hezbollah blew up an Israeli encampment in Tyre, slaughtering 75 Israelis. And in a brilliantly executed ambush in 1997, Hezbollah wiped out 12 Israeli commandos.

Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Sunni insurgents in Iraq would copy these tactics with varying degrees of success.

In general, Israel got the better of Hezbollah in clashes, but Israel's mounting casualties were such that the realization set in that its presence in southern Lebanon was untenable. Israel's hasty unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000, carried out when on-again, off-again talks with Syria over the Golan Heights finally petered out, was interpreted as a victory by Hezbollah. No sooner had Israel pulled out than Hezbollah, based in the southern suburbs of Beirut and regarded by most Lebanese as liberators, fortified the border region with a web of bunkers, tunnels and emplacements.

As well, Hezbollah took delivery of an arsenal of some 12,000 Iranian and Syrian short-range Katyushas and longer-range Fajr-3, Fajr-5 and Zelzal rockets. Hezbollah also came into possession of laser-guided anti-tank missiles and explosive mines. Compared to the Palestinians, Hezbollah had a highly sophisticated armoury of weapons.

Hezbollah, whose network of schools and health clinics endeared it to Shiites, had the added advantage that its fighters lived among the population, could cynically use civilians as shields and could store weapons, munitions and rockets in homes, institutions and mosques.

Hezbollah, which has 25 seats in Parliament and three posts in the cabinet, never intended to disarm and thus comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, passed in 2004. And Hezbollah had the support of Emile Lahoud, the pro-Syrian president of Lebanon. On the sixth anniversary of Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon, he said that Hezbollah was entitled to keep its weapons until the Arab-Israeli conflict was resolved.

Shortly after the Israeli army evacuated southern Lebanon, Hezbollah, Syria's surrogate in Lebanon since the withdrawal of Syrian forces last year, began to bombard the Shebaa Farms area – where the borders of Israel, Syria and Lebanon converge – and northern Israel with sporadic rocket and mortar barrages. Israel's response was usually mild. Hezbollah claimed that Shebaa Farms was Lebanese territory, notwithstanding the fact that the United Nations had classified it as Syrian and certified that Israel had officially withdrawn from Lebanon to the international border. The Lebanese government remained complicitly silent as Hezbollah committed aggression.

**An Israeli soldier in battle in southern Lebanon**

Israel's patience with Hezbollah snapped when it crossed the border in a brazen incident on July 12 in which eight Israeli soldiers were killed, two others were kidnapped and Hezbollah shelled the Galilee. Hezbollah hoped to trade the abducted soldiers for its operatives in Israeli prisons. But Hezbollah miscalculated. Israel hit back hard with air strikes aimed at Hezbollah's bases, rocket launchers and facilities. And Israel struck Lebanon's infrastructure –Beirut airport, power plants, bridges and roads – so as to jolt the Lebanese government and army to act against Hezbollah.

As of last week, Israel claims to have killed 300 Hezbollah fighters and destroyed two-thirds of Hezbollah's long-range missiles and military infrastructure. But much of Hezbollah's arsenal is still intact, which explains why Israel escalated the war by calling up 30,000 reservists, attacking more towns and villages in Lebanon, sending commandos to Baalbek, targeting the Lebanese army and moving toward the Litani River.

Having warned Lebanese civilians to leave the battleground, Israel is raiding localities where rockets have been fired from and where sympathy for Hezbollah is strong. Israel's objective is not to occupy Lebanon, but to "cleanse" the border region of Hezbollah so that a secure buffer zone, patrolled by international peacekeepers, can be established

In the meantime, Israel has not succeeded in neutralizing Hezbollah's rocket-firing capacity, a sure sign that Hezbollah is far from finished. On Aug. 2, Hezbollah lobbed 231 Katyushas, a record, into Israel, and one landed near Beit Shean, the farthest town to come under fire. Nevertheless, Israel is determined to obliterate Hezbollah's military capabilities before a truce takes hold. As Israeli Justice Minister Haim Ramon put it, "If [the war] ends today, it means a victory for Hezbollah, with far-reaching consequences."

Even if a ceasefire is imposed on Israel sooner rather than later, Hezbollah, led by the charismatic Hassan Nasrallah, has already left a deep impression on Israel's psyche and accomplished what no Arab army has achieved since 1948. Hezbollah rockets have pounded Haifa and the Galilee: Afula, Nahariya, Acre, Safed, Tiberias, Rosh Pina, Nazareth, Maalot, Karmiel, Kiryat Shmonah and kibbutzim. Twenty seven civilians, including seven Israeli Arabs, have been killed, hundreds have been injured and nearly 2,000 have been treated for shock. Numerous buildings have been damaged, the port of Haifa has been forced to close and tens of thousands of Israelis have sought refuge in bomb shelters or fled southward. The economic and psychological impact will be felt for years to come.

There is a sense of déjà vu about this conflict. During the 1948 War of Independence, Israel lost one per cent of its population (6,373 civilians and soldiers). During the 1967 war, Jordanian shells hit more than 900 buildings and killed 20 civilians, while Syrian artillery fire damaged a string of settlements. Syrian Frog missiles crashed into kibbutzim during the 1973 war, and in the 1991 Gulf War, 39 Iraqi Scud missiles damaged 4,096 buildings, mainly in Tel Aviv and Haifa, and directly killed one civilian.

Now, in the war in Lebanon, Israel wants to end this vicious cycle once and for all.


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בית צדק

# Gesher reaches out to kids in Nigeria

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Campers who attended Camp Gesher last month, as well as seniors from the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation, are reaching out to schoolchildren in Nigeria as part of an international program called Art in All of Us.

Rochelle Michaels, the mother of a camper and a Lodzer member, was the catalyst who brought the groups together. She learned of the program after its co-founder, Belgian photographer Anthony Asael, e-mailed her in June to wish her well in her efforts to rid a website of some hate-related postings.

He also asked if she would help bring his project to North America.

When Michaels learned that the headmaster at Nigeria's Rantya School, which has 400 children from ages two through 18, was eager to become involved with the intercultural program, she thought of Camp Gesher and contacted its director Shaul Zobary.

"It was a perfect fit," Zobary told *The CJN*. "Although we are a Zionist camp concentrating on Judaism and Israel, we also teach our campers to know that we are part of the world... We want to do things to repair the wold because part of our camp is tikkun olam."

The 160 campers, age 10 to 16, who attended the July session of the Labour Zionist summer camp, which is affiliated with the Habonim Dror youth movement, all took part in the project. They used markers to draw pictures and write messages on 10-inch by 10-inch pieces of fabric for the Nigerian children, who are English-speaking Muslims and Christians.

One square depicts three figures, identified by the Muslim crescent, Christian cross and Jewish Star of David over their heads. The accompanying quote reads, "'Let's be friends.' – God."

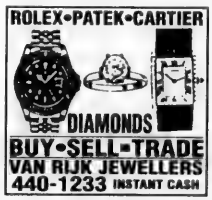
Members of the Lodzer Congregation, where Habonim Dror's youth program will run as of September, used that square and 29 others to create a tapestry that will be sent to the school as a gift. The remaining 120 pieces will also be sent to the school.

Art in All of Us (artinallofus.org) involves at least 90 countries. It aims to develop creativity, curiosity and artistic sensitivity in children through poetry, drawing and photography.

In addition to finding a school to pair up with the Rantya School on a longer-term basis, either through an exchange of art or letters, Michaels is hoping to help Art in All of Us attract schools across Canada to join its programs. She said the program is "a very simple and grass roots way to bring children together," particularly at a time of "uncertainty... and diminished hope."

For more information about the program, call Michaels at 905-881-8907 or e-mail her at rochelle_michaels@yahoo.ca. Asael can be reached at anthonyasael@artinallofus.org.

**Campers and staff at Camp Gesher show off the tapestry that is being sent to a Nigerian school as part of the Art in All of Us program.**
**[Rochelle Michaels photo]**

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**Do you see anyone you know? Campers at Camp Arrowhead are seen here in 1971 enjoying their summer.**

# Camp Arrowhead holds 50-year reunion

By CYNTHIA GASNER
*Special to The CJN*

Excitement is mounting as alumni, parents and campers prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Camp Arrowhead at a reunion on Sunday, Aug. 13, from 2 to 10 p.m.

The fun-filled day will include activities for the entire family, such as memorabilia exhibits, a corn roast, carnival games, sports, arts and crafts, a live animal show, and waterfront activities with boat rides and a ski show. The day will culminate with a fireworks display.

Spearheaded by the Posluns family, Arrowhead was founded on the west side of Lake Simcoe near Belle Ewart in 1955. Many area cottagers who are now parents and grandparents were once campers and have children and grandchildren who attend the camp.

In the 1990s, due to financial problems and a declining camper population, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto took over the camp's land and gave its parent association a 99-year lease while specifying that it be run with Jewish content.

Today, the non-profit camp has 150 campers from ages three to 14 and boasts 280 feet of shoreline in what is now Innisfil.

Heather Goldberg, an early childhood specialist whose family members are longtime cottagers in the area, is president of the Arrowhead Parents Association. A former camper whose two children, Grant, 12, and Emily, 9, now attend Arrowhead, she said that the camp started with 20 children in 1955 and today, "each year the numbers are increasing, as many young people are buying cottages in the area."

Campers, staff and parents "can all remember the fun times and numerous stories of our experiences at the camp," said reunion chair Charles (Chuck) Katzman. "It was a place where everyone knew your name, and of course, knew two more members of your extended family. Camp provided us all the opportunity to form some great friendships, learn some valuable life skills, but most of all, it was a great place to have fun."

Debbie Snider, who attended Arrowhead from 1956 to 1965, said she has fond recollections of its early days: Sabbath services led by Freda Steinberg, the first Arrowhead camp director; songs written by Joanne Rutherford; skits performed by campers; and visits to nearby Watermans grocery store for candy.

Goldberg said there was always a special Camp Arrowhead spirit, "and we hope that it will continue for many years to come."

The cost for the reunion is $30 for adults and $12 for children under 12. For details, call 416-638-9687, or visit www.camparrowhead.ca.

# *Yad Vashem program helps teachers at non-Jewish schools*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

When Clint Lovell, a 43-year-old history teacher in Barrie, Ont., began his career almost 20 years ago, many students in Ontario were learning nothing about the Holocaust.

"Quite honestly, unless you [as a teacher] did [Holocaust education] yourself, it didn't happen," he said in a phone interview last week. Until last year, when Holocaust education was made mandatory in the Ontario high school curriculum, teaching of the subject was "sort of haphazard."

Clint Lovell

Last month, Lovell, along with 12 other teachers from across the country, attended an intensive 18-day seminar at Yad Vashem in Israel on teaching the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. A total of 41 educators, including some from the United States, England, Poland and Slovakia, took part in the program.

Thousands of educators from around the world have completed the seminars, which have been held at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies since 1981.

"All our efforts now are in the direction of sending more and more teachers," said Goldi Steiner, chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem's continuing Holocaust education committee. "Our hope is that we will build a strong team, and that we will bear on the educational system in Canada."

Lovell, who teaches at Barrie's Eastview Secondary School, said that many of his students probably have not met a Jewish person.

Steven Rosseel

He sees bringing in guest speakers who are Holocaust survivors as "a huge responsibility," knowing that such opportunities will be available only for a finite time.

The Yad Vashem program, with faculty that "you've only read about," helps teachers avoid common pitfalls in teaching the Holocaust, Lovell believes. "Often, there's a huge emphasis on perpetrators and, partially, on victims. There's very little on bystanders or life before the war."

Limited teaching time is a problem, he noted. A typical course unit runs only for six or seven periods of 76 minutes each.

Steven Rosseel, 38, who teaches at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, said one of the reasons he felt it was important to take part in the seminar was the "incredible amount of racism and discrimination" in the world.

"I think if we're not well informed about the past, these types of atrocities are going to continue to happen."

When he taught the Holocaust as part of a section on Judaism in a world-religions course at the high school level, he never felt completely confident, Rosseel said. "Now I have a much better understanding of the events that took place during the Holocaust, and what life in Jewish prewar Europe was like as well."

He believes that his experience at Yad Vashem will have an exponential impact through the 150 future teachers in his classes, he said.

He plans to discuss the Holocaust in the justice and ethics section of a theology course for prospective teachers in the Catholic school system, and to include it in a world-religions course he also teaches. In addition, he said he would like to plan an evening program for OISE students on Holocaust education. Like Lovell, however, he noted that the time he can devote to one aspect of a course is limited.

*With files from Janice Arnold.*


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# More than going through the motions

By RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC

RABBINICAL REFLECTIONS

Judaism is commonly understood to be a very action-oriented religion. We've even come to describe commitment to Judaism based on levels of "observance." Demographers and community planners are drawn to visible indicators of Jewish commitment that can be quantified – Shabbat observance, kashrut, tzedakah, Torah study and involvement with Israel. Yet the Torah repeatedly whispers to us that there is more – an inner and ultimate goal – to "love the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 11:13, 22).

The contrast between religion and spirituality has been compared to the difference between reading a menu and eating the meal. When we recite the foundational *Shema Yisrael* prayer twice each day – "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart" – we are encountering Judaism's menu. We only begin to nourish ourselves spiritually when this recitation leads to contemplation. What does it mean to love God? Why should I love the Creator? How do I express this love? What should I do if I'm not feeling anything?

We have a long history of writers who have lamented the all-too-common reality of the practice of Judaism falling short of this mark. The prophet Isaiah (29:13) relates how God Himself bemoans those who serve Him "with their mouths and lips, but their hearts are far from Me and their reverence of Me is acted out mechanically." In the 18th century, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto's seminal work *Path of the Just* begins with an observation of how common this superficiality is and the vital need for a conscious engagement with the spiritual bottom-line of Judaism.

Love of God is often associated in the Torah with the directive to "serve Him with all your heart" (Deuteronomy 10:12; 11:13). The service of God is identified by the Talmud as prayer (Taanit 2a). Significantly, the love and service of God are connected with the ultimate spiritual goal of *dveikut* – cleaving to God, striving to totally attach ourselves to Him (Deuteronomy 10:20; 11:22). One of the meanings of the Hebrew word for prayer, tfillah, carries the idea of bonding and connection. Clearly, prayer is meant to be far more than the mere recitation of liturgy. According to Rav Chaim Soloveitchik, prayer is to be a time when we are to palpably experience ourselves standing in the presence of God.

Rabbi Luzzatto describes the fostering of this personal connection with God as life's greatest achievement and greatest pleasure. Along these lines, the chassidic master Rabbi Shlomo of Karlin offered a wonderfully creative take on the Torah's directive to thank God after consuming a meal. The portion of Eikev contains the source for our *Birkat HaMazon* (Grace after Meals): "and you shall eat and you shall be satisfied and you shall bless the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 8:10). The Karliner refocuses us: "and you shall eat, and you shall be satisfied when you bless the Lord your God!"

Of course, the sensitivity needed to nurture and take pleasure in developing this relationship with God doesn't come easily. Bachya Ibn Pakuda's classic *Duties of the Heart* suggests that it's impossible to progress spiritually if we are preoccupied with mundane pleasures and worldly concerns. The Torah relates that the miraculous daily manna that God provided to the Jewish people during their desert trek after leaving Egypt was a test. The Italian Bible commentator Rabbi Ovadiah Sforno explained that the test was whether the people would be attentive to God if they wouldn't have to worry about their livelihood.

The lure of materialism is certainly powerful, and we must be extremely determined to withstand the test of affluence. One of the miracles in the Holy Temple was that the rains (*geshamim*) never extinguished the pyres on the altar. May we, as well, retain our spiritual passion amidst the bounty (*gashmiyut*) that we have been blessed with.

*Rabbi Skobac is director of education with Jews for Judaism.*

# YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

## ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

## מיר מוזן זיי געדענקען יעדעס יאָר

**(צום 54סטן יאָרצייט פֿון די סאָוועטישע ייִדישע שרײַבער)**

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

**דו מיינסט איך געדענק וואָס איז דעמאָלט געווען?**
**מיר דאַכט, אַז ס'איז דעמאָלט קיין וועלט ניט געווען,**
**אַזוי ויך — אַן אויסטויש פֿון שוואַרץ און פֿון רויט,**
**אַזוי ויך — אַן אומבייט פֿון לעבן און טויט.**

שמואל האַלקין

אַזוי באַצייכנט דער אַלייך־געליטענער דיכטער שמואל האַלקין דעם פּאָגראָם פֿון דער סטאַליניסטישער סאָוועטישער מאַכט איבער די ייִדישע שרײַבער, איבער דער ייִדישער שפּראַך און ליטעראַטור און איבער דער ייִדישער קולטור בכלל. די דאַטע פֿון 12טן אויגוסט, 1952, סימבאָליזירט דעם יאָרצייט־טאָג, ווען דער סאָוועטישער סטאַליך־רעזשים האָט פֿאַרשטומט אויף אַ גרויליקן אופֿן די געדאַנקען פֿון אונדזערע בעסטע ייִדישע דיכטער, שרײַבער, אַרטיסטן, דענקער און אַלע אַנדערע ייִדישע גייסט־מענטשן און קולטור־טוער.

עס זײַנען שוין פֿאַרלאָפֿן 54 יאָר זינט עס האָט זיך געעפֿנט אַ שפּאַרטקע אין דעם קאָמוניסטישן אײַזערנעם פֿירהאַנג און די ייִדישע און נישט־ייִדישע וועלט האָט דערזען די שוידערלעכע טראַגעדיע, וואָס עס האָט געליטן דאָס דרײַ־מיליאָניקע ייִדנטום אין דעם געווענע־נעם ראַטן־פֿאַרבאַנד. עס איז דעמאָלט צום ערשטן מאָל באַוווּסט געוואָרן צו דער וועלט, ווי אַזוי די דאָזיקע ייִדן (און איך שטרייך אונטער ייִדן, ווײַל דאָס איז געווען זייער גרעסטע זינד) זײַנען פֿאַרפּײַניקט געוואָרן אין דער לובּיאַנקער תּפֿיסה; ווי אַזוי ייִדישע אינסטיטוציעס זײַנען געשלאָסן געוואָרן; ווי אַזוי די ייִדישע פּרעסע איז פֿאַרמאַכט געוואָרן; ווי אַזוי די ייִדישע קולטור איז כמעט פֿאַרשוווּנדן אינעם „לאַנד פֿון פֿרײַהייט און סאָציאַליזם".

עס האָט נישט געהאָלפֿן, וואָס די ייִדישע מאַרטירער האָבן ווילנדיק און נישט־ווילנדיק געמוזט זינגען לויב־געזאַנגען צו סטאַלינען, דעם „פֿאָטער פֿון די פֿעלקער". זיי האָבן, ווילנדיק און נישט־ווילנדיק, געמוזט לויבן די קאָמוניסטישע אידעען און געמוזט זיך צופּאַסן צו דער סטאַליניסטישער דיקטאַטאָרישער פּאָליטיק. עס האָט נישט געקענט העלפֿן. דער אמת איז, אַז זייער טויט־אורטייל איז פֿאָרמולירט געוואָרן נאָך אין יאָר 1903, בעת לענין האָט געפֿירט זײַן פּאָלעמיק מיטן „בונד" און דערקלערט, אַז די ייִדן זײַנען נישט קיין נאַציע. דאָס איז אויך שפּעטער געווען סטאַלינס טעאָריע, אַז ייִדן זײַנען בלויז אַ „פּאַפּירענע נאַציע".

ווען איך דערמאָן אויבן, אַז מיר מוזן זיי געדענקען, מיין איך נישט בלויז אַ רוטינע יאָרצייט. בלויז דערמאָנען אַ נאָמען פֿון אַ פֿאַרזענלעכקייט אָדער שרייבן וועגן אַ געוויסער ייִדישער אינסטיטוציע אין געווענענעם ראַטן־פֿאַרבאַנד איז נישט גענוג. מיר דאַרפֿן און מוזן זיי אַלע דערמאָנען, כּדי די עלטערע דורות זאָלן דאָס נישט פֿאַרגעסן און, ספּעציעל, כּדי די ייִנגערע דורות זאָלן זיך דערוויסן וועגן דעם גרויסן גײַסטיקן אוצר, וואָס מיר האָבן פֿאַרמאָגט און וואָס איז אַזוי אַכזריותדיק אומגע־בראַכט געוואָרן אין 20סטן יאָרהונדערט דורך דעם קאָמוניסטישן סטאַליך־רעזשים.

אין אַ טרויער־אַרטיקל אין „ייִדישע קולטור" פֿון 1998 האָט דער גענויאַלער רעדאַקטאָר איטשע גאָלדבערג געשריבן: „אם אשכחך – אויב מיר זאָלן זיי פֿאַרגעסן, זײַנען מיר נישט ווערט די ירושה, וואָס זיי האָבן אונדז איבערגעלאָזט. אין תּוך זײַנען מיר, דער ייִדיש־רעדנדי־קער און ייִדיש־שאַפֿנדיקער דור, דערווײַל נאָך אַלץ די הויפּט־שומרים פֿון זייער ירושה".

כּבֿוד זייער ליכטיקן אָנדענק!

# Yaakov's lesson has urgent resonance

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

This week's Torah portion, Eikev, describes the commitments that both God and Israel have to each other through the Covenant. The parshah is filled with beautiful statements of loyalty and trust, and involvement and outcome. The sense of responsibility that one feels when reading it serves to underscore how every action we take and every interaction we have with others is an expression of ourselves at that moment, as well as of our eternal and never-ending relationship with God. And as always, the text makes timeless connections for us through the use of a single word. In this instance that word is the name of the portion, Eikev.

Most often in this verse, the word "eikev" is translated as "because" or "since." Quite literally, the word "eikev" means "on the heels of," but it's easy to see how it gains the meaning "because." If one event occurs on the heels of another event, we see the two as connected by cause and effect. In this sense, the second event is seen not just as occurring after the first, but rather occurring because of the first. In English, the translator will skip the literal meaning of "on the heels of," since it makes a sentence complex. The word "because" conveys the meaning of the literal phrase while not bogging a reader down with difficult and flowery ancient language. After all, what difference could one word make?

Yet to anyone hearing the word "eikev" in Hebrew, the immediate connection is made by the ear. Our patriarch, Yaakov, bears the Hebrew name that comes from the same root, "eikev." He was born on the heels of his twin brother, Eisav, and, therefore, was named for this action. In fact, Eisav will accuse his younger twin, Yaakov, of nipping at his heels several times, and this will express itself in a dangerous anger that Eisav feels toward Yaakov.

As a result of Yaakov gaining the birthright blessing from his father, Isaac, Eisav vows to kill Yaakov, and Yaakov must run to his uncle's camp outside the Land of Israel. He will remain with his uncle for many years while he builds his family and his fortune. When it's time for Yaakov to return to the Land of Israel, he must face the challenge of facing his brother Eisav after so many years of what has likely been a build-up of rage on Eisav's part.

Yaakov is the only Patriarch to willingly leave Israel and build a life elsewhere. He is the first Patriarch to then return to what is likely an unstable and dangerous situation. We watch as the Torah describes Yaakov carefully strategizing how to encounter his brother. We listen as the Torah describes how Yaakov sends messages of goodwill and peace toward his twin. We take note as the Torah describes how Yaakov makes preparations, should the worst occur.

The midrash at that moment tells us that Yaakov sent a final message to Eisav. It stated: if you are prepared for peace, I am with you. If you are prepared for war, I am ready. Yaakov taught us that we must stand prepared at all times. Inviting peace includes being ready for its rejection. Both positions are positions of strength.

In the Torah portion Eikev, in the book of Deuteronomy, which speaks of Moses addressing the children of Israel, the descendants of the Patriarch, Yaakov, the appearance of that single word is essential. "Eikev" connects the Jewish Patriarch who re-entered the Land of Israel to the nation as it prepares to enter the land after hundreds of years, and to us as we stand with Israel now and forever.

Jewish Life

# Getting shivers from a piece of clay

By ALEX GROPPER

Past Forward

This year, as we approached one of the darkest days in our religious calendar, it was worthwhile to ponder the historical/archeological evidence behind this commemoration. We know that the Temple was destroyed twice in our history. It is interesting to note that archeology has revealed a number of other shrines with altars that were set up at different places. These shrines sometimes competed with the central Temple in Jerusalem, especially those in the breakaway northern kingdom of Israel that were set up in direct competition with Solomon's Temple. It's interesting to note that almost all of the shrines that have been excavated ceased to exist by the reigns of the reforming monarchs, Hezekiah in the eighth century BCE, and Josiah in the late seventh century BCE.

It was in Hezekiah's reign that Judah had to face the devastating assault of the Assyrian armies led by Sennacherib around 701 BCE. We have accounts of this invasion in the Bible, as well as Sennacherib's version. Sennacherib destroyed many cities as he converged on Jerusalem. Archeology has vividly borne out the ferocity of his attack, especially at the city of Lachish. Baruch Halpern, chair of Judaic studies at Penn State University, has put forward the idea that the centralization of both worship and the monarchy can be traced to Hezekiah's efforts to preserve a remnant of the kingdom from the invading Assyrians. His reforms were centred on Solomon's Temple and the institution of the monarchy.

Jerusalem escaped the wrath of the Assyrians, but 115 years later, it would not be so fortunate. Seventy-five years after Hezekiah's reign, his grandson Josiah ascended the throne. Josiah completed the reforms of his grandfather and destroyed those shrines that had survived Hezekiah's zeal. Josiah was considered to be the most righteous of Judah's rulers. Some have even thought of him as a prototype for the Messiah. But his premature death in battle at Megiddo (Armageddon) against the Egyptians was a complete mystery to those who believed that a righteous life ensured one of a death at a ripe, old age. Less than 25 years after Josiah's death, Jerusalem would lie in ruins and the Temple would be destroyed.

I was involved in the excavation of one of the most fascinating series of artifacts found on Israeli soil dating to these tumultuous years. It was a hot Jerusalem summer in 1982, around the Ninth of Av, when we were digging at the base of the Stepped Stone Structure in the City of David. The destruction wrought by the Babylonians more than 2,500 years ago was still vividly visible in an ash level that was over a metre thick. Out of that ash would emerge more than 50 bullae (inscribed clay seals). As we cleaned them, a name emerged that sounded familiar: Gemaryahu Ben Shaphan, a man who was inextricably linked to those tumultuous events and to the prophet Jeremiah. We quickly went to our Tanachs and read the following amazing words:

"In the fifth year of Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and all the people who came from the cities of Judah to Jerusalem, proclaimed a fast before the Lord. Then in the hearing of the people, Baruch read the words of Jeremiah from the Scroll, in the house of the Lord, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan, the secretary, which was in the upper court, at the entry of the New Gate of the the Lord's House." (Jeremiah 36:9-10)

I tried to to make personal sense of this small piece of clay that I held in my hand. It tied me to one of the pivotal events in our long history. Even now, I get shivers thinking about it. Here I was in a new Jewish state that had arisen, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the old. My wife was pregnant with our first child. Her parents had survived the awful cataclysm of the Holocaust. For me this event symbolizes our history: past–forward.

# Tehillim/Psalms – Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

*I will lift up my eyes to the mountains.*
*From where does my help come?*
*My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!*
– Psalm 121:1-2

The Jewish Highway

As thousands of Jews around the world recite Psalms on behalf of their brothers and sisters in Israel, I continue my look at Internet Tehillim resources.

Although the Psalms are most closely identified as being the work of King David, Rabbi Boruch Clinton points out that Jewish tradition tells us there were contributions from other personalities such as Moses – although King David is credited with the vast majority. Rabbi Clinton adds that although the popular image of David is that of a tremendous warrior king, we should not lose sight of his role as a great Torah scholar…" **[http://tinyurl.com/judjk]**

Judaism has always believed in the power of prayer, particularly when it is said as part of a community. Tehillim Hotline is a network of volunteers who divide Tehillim among the volunteers and together complete reciting 10 cycles of the book of Tehillim daily. As well, you can submit a name of someone to be added to the list of people on whose behalf the Tehillim is being said. **[www.tehillimhotline.org/]**

Similarly, GlobalYeshiva operates a bulletin board onto which you can add the names of people who need prayers. The site includes some details about the suffering that these people are enduring – everything from serious illnesses to natural disasters. **[http://tinyurl.com/kmv3p]**

If you want to have a deeper understanding of the prayers you are reciting, then listen to Rabbi Yaakov D. Homnick, who presents four one-hour lectures on Tehillim. The series starts with an in-depth look at the first chapter of Psalms and delves into what makes a good person. **[http://tinyurl.com/jm7g5]**

Speaking of portability, technology makes it easy to read Tehillim when you want where you want. JewishContent.org offers for your Palm device a download of the entire book in the original Hebrew. This site offers every book of the Tanach for download, as well as complete prayer services. **[http://tinyurl.com/fk68k]**

Perhaps one of the most well-known and beloved psalms is number 145, better known as Ashrei. Rav Avraham Yitzhak Kook, the first chief rabbi of Israel, examines the importance of this psalm, which is organized alphabetically according to the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. "These letters are the 'building blocks' of the Torah. When we praise God with all of these letters, we recognize that closeness to God is attained through the Torah's enlightenment." Rabbi Kook offers insights to dozens of other psalms on this site. **[http://tinyurl.com/edyjm]**

Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub suggests an interesting and practical way to help you internalize and understand the Psalms. "Words of Psalms can be valuable tools in refocusing, centring and quieting oneself, as a kind of Jewish mantra." He lists 18 phrases that can be recited at almost any time in order to help you elevate the most routine activities of your day. **[http://tinyurl.com/pso8g]**

If you come across a psalm that you have difficulty comprehending, Rabbi Weintraub has created a form you can fill in to help you extract the essence of the psalm's message. **[http://tinyurl.com/mzpgk]**

When Varda Branfman was growing up, she thought that the Psalms had been written in "High English by some medieval cleric" and never associated anything Jewish with them. In two lovely essays, she explains how she rediscovered the beauty and importance of Tehillim after she moved to Israel. **[http://tinyurl.com/fwuqu]**

Branfman then explains how important Tehillim were to her as she saw her mother succumb to illness. "In the last three months of my mother's life, I say more Tehillim than I have said in the last 15 years. She is semi-conscious, and I sit beside her bed as the Tehillim pour out of me… When I open up the Tehillim, I sense my soul speaking to her soul in a time and place that is beyond the reality of the hospital bed. I am shaking inside, but my voice is steady. The words of Tehillim are absorbed through her permeable skin. They are the last words I speak to my mother before she leaves this World." **[http://tinyurl.com/j3yth]**

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*


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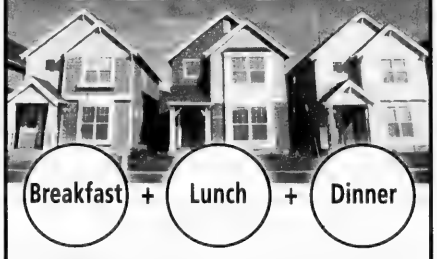


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# Camp Robin Hood celebrates its 60th anniversary

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Two hundred families spent a hot Sunday at Camp Robin Hood recently celebrating its 60th anniversary.

"There was swimming, archery, canoeing and use of the climbing wall," said Howie Grossinger, the camp director.

The Duffle Bag Theatre Troupe performed the play *Robin Hood* in the afternoon. Other activities at the July 30th event included playing on inflatable slides and trampolines.

Camp Robin Hood day camp, located in Markham on 50 acres of land, offers nearly 50 activities to campers, including low ropes, a petting zoo, biking and pottery.

There are 900 campers, from the ages of three to 15, and 320 staff members at Camp Robin Hood.

The camp was established in 1946 by teachers and social workers, said executive director Larry Bell, who has owned it since 1964.

Bell began his career as a swimming director at the camp in 1961. Bell's wife, Pearl, also started her career as the camp nurse in the early '60s.

"The camp actually started out of Sherwood Park in Toronto. The park had recreational facilities, and they used North Toronto Collegiate and Northern Secondary School for their swimming pools," said Bell.

Pearl and Larry Bell
[Jenna Rosman photo]

"The kids all day long would be walking uphill to the school and downhill to the ravines and the areas where the program was taking place."

Camp Robin Hood is non-denominational, but about 75 to 80 per cent of the campers as well as staff members are Jewish, said Bell.

"We've always felt that that it has been very healthy in that the non-Jewish children get to meet the Jewish children and recognize that children are children, and we all live by the same values, so we learn to respect the other community," he said.

"[Camp Robin Hood] has always been a very open environment," he noted.

Michael Lipson, who sends his seven-year-old son, Jonah, to Camp Robin Hood, has complete trust in the camp.

"The staff and environment are wonderful for the kids. We love the people here and love supporting Robin Hood," he said.

Other Robin Hood-owned camps include Robin Hood Sports Academy, Madawaska, Roger Neilson's Hockey Camp, S.A.C. Summer Camps and Camp Walden overnight camp.

Summer Dreams, an organization that helps send disadvantaged children to summer camps throughout Ontario, was established by 12 former Camp Robin Hood campers and staff members of 10 years ago. Since its inception, Summer Dreams has raised more than $200,000 and 300 children have attended summer camp.

# Parents of kids with disabilities not alone: activist

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Author and social activist Miriam Edelson was in the midst of writing her latest book, *Battle Cries: Justice for Kids with Special Needs* (Sumach Press), when her son Jake died.

Born in 1990 with the neurological disorder lissencephaly, Jake was not expected to live more than a few years, but he beat the odds and celebrated his bar mitzvah in 2003. He died the following spring.

Edelson had begun writing the book because she wanted to know how other parents of children with disabilities managed.

"I wanted to know what worked for them in terms of services, and how they built a sense of community around them," Edelson said in an interview.

Although she stopped writing for a time after Jake's death, she said, she eventually carried on ."I have another child, Emma-Maryse, now 14. She needs me not to lose my balance, so I grieve and keep going."

Also the author of *My Journey with Jake: A Memoir of Parenting and Disability*, Edelson's message in her new book is that having a child who is disabled can be difficult, "but parents are not alone."

In addition to a section on current services and support available to disabled children and their families, she interviewed eight Canadian families, including one living in Sweden, and talks about the roadblocks families face.

"When a disabled child is born, parents [need to become] a sponge for information about services and programs. Start making phone calls. Ask questions, and always have a notebook ready."

Parents need formal support, she said, but they also need a sense of community. "They need to find families in the same situation and build community around the child.

"Look on the Internet, or ask the hospital to set you up with a support group. Sometimes you're not ready, but when you do take the first step you'll find a great deal of support."

At the beginning, she said, "it's like you're in a different country. You don't know the language and customs. Suddenly, however, you find people who speak your language.

"Advocating for your child isn't rocket science, but you do have to take steps that no one teaches you. Learning to advocate means learning not to take 'no' for an answer. You have to be insistent and assertive. Not everyone has honed these skills. Mothering [brings on] adrenaline."

Edelson said she wouldn't change anything about her experience with Jake.

"There is a lot of richness. Children give back an enormous amount within their limits. [Jake] made me more compassionate. Our kids will not be prime ministers, but they have the same need to be loved and cared for," she said.

"It's not that parenting [a child with disabilities] is totally different, but there are aspects that are more intense. There are ongoing appointments, and you are always going to the doctor. Parenting [can become] very public."

Canadians are better off than people living in a number of other countries, she said, but one of the key issues here is respite care.

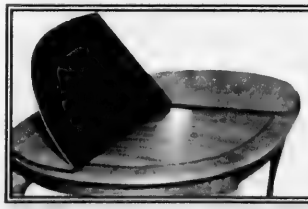
"It can come in a number of ways. Sometimes people come into the home, or the child can go away for a week. Mothers have to pace themselves. They can't think of themselves as supermoms. Respite care would enable parents to care for their kids longer. A lot of parents feel marginalized if they can't get out."

In Edelson's interview with the Canadian parent living in Sweden with his disabled child, he talks about the support the child receives "in a wide range of publicly funded programs, schooling and personal assistance. He decried the lack of programs and resources available to Canadian children with severe disabilities and their families."

Edelson feels strongly about the need for a spectrum of support. "Some kids are better off with their parents, while others may benefit from a positive, well-run facility. There has to be room for both possibilities."

Edelson felt a "kind of kinship" with the parents she interviewed for her book, she said. "We felt we were members of the same club, and we even kibbitzed, because that is the way to deal with things.

"Disabilities come in many packages, and so do families, but the challenges are universal."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# United Church should reconsider resolution

By MANUEL PRUTSCHI

Comment

There are currently two United Church of Canada (UCC) resolutions aimed at punishing Israel economically. Both are allegedly intended to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace. One is a 2003 Toronto Conference motion, and the other is a national proposal. The Toronto Conference motion was revived in June 2006. The national proposal has been submitted for the consideration of the UCC's General Council, which is meeting Aug. 13 in Thunder Bay.

While the UCC has attempted to distance itself from the Toronto Conference, the two resolutions are quite similar. The UCC's proposal essentially differs from the Toronto motion only in that the latter speaks of both boycott and divestment, while divestment is the single focus of the former. A fair reading of the two documents would conclude that this is a distinction without much of a difference.

UCC's national proposal is an unequivocal call for divestment. It is totally one-sided, recognizes only a whitewashed version of the Palestinian narrative (ignoring corruption, terrorism and anti-Semitism), identifies Israel as the guilty party, unjustly seeks to punish Israel and is counterproductive.

The proposal describes the occupation in a way that places Israeli responsibility at the heart of the situation. Nothing has better shown the fallacy in the idea that ending the occupation will end the conflict than the lethal missiles Hamas and Hezbollah have been raining down upon Israeli cities, towns and agricultural settlements from precisely the two areas where there is no longer an Israeli occupation: Gaza and Lebanon.

Boycott and divestment are egregious policies. The Toronto Conference on June 28, however, went shockingly far beyond this in its publicly expressed endorsement of an anti-Israel resolution passed by Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario at its convention on May 27.

Manuel Prutschi

CUPE Ontario's resolution No. 50 smears Israel as an "apartheid state." In other words, the Jewish state (where all its citizens, irrespective of race, religion or ethnicity, enjoy full and equal rights) is obscenely accused of practising in the 21st century the racism that apartheid South Africa practised in the 20th, with the clear implication that a Jewish Israel, like an apartheid South Africa, has to be dismantled. This intention is reinforced by Resolution 50's support of the so-called Palestinian "right of return." The resulting demographic shift from the influx of millions of Palestinians exercising this "right" would bring the existence of Israel as the world's only Jewish state to an end.

The Toronto Conference's actions demonstrate how boycott and/or divestment policies put their proponents on a slippery slope that can quickly lead to the pursuit of an extremist, anti-Israel agenda. The United Church's boycott and divestment initiatives have to be understood in the context of the fact that this is a well-orchestrated global campaign to clothe what are in fact calculated anti-Israel actions in the fig leaf of so-called "ethical" economic measures that allegedly have "peace" as their objective.

The real purpose of these measures is to isolate Israel from the international community, and no matter how "nuanced" (and nuance is, in fact, part of the strategy) they might be, their ultimate effect is to marginalize and delegitimize Israel and give comfort and encouragement to its enemies.

Divestment, in its misguided attempt to punish Israel, is unjust, based on wrong premises and counterproductive to achieving peace. Moreover, it detracts from the UCC's constructive involvement in promoting reconciliation among the faith communities of the Middle East and endangers the good, carefully nurtured relations between the United Church and the Jewish community in Canada.

We call on the United Church at its upcoming national General Council to reject divestment as a policy and instead opt for positive investment in Palestinian and Israeli economic development and the promotion of confidence-building projects and coexistence programs that build bridges for peace.

*Manuel Prutschi is national executive vice-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.*

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On Campus

Devora Schwartz, left, of Hillel of Greater Toronto, Jeff Justiz of York University and Alizah Benchetrit of University of Toronto pitch in at the Habitat for Humanity building site in Etobicoke. Below: U of T students Sara Greenwood, left, and Elayna Fremes staple waterproof paper to a new townhouse.

# *Hillel volunteers build with Habitat for Humanity*

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Jewish students traded in their textbooks for hard hats one day last month when Hillel of Greater Toronto volunteered to help build homes for families in need.

Sixteen students from York University, Ryerson University, Seneca College and the University of Toronto gave their time at a construction site in Etobicoke with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds homes with the help of soon-to-be homeowner families, volunteers and donations.

The families that will receive these homes must contribute at least 500 hours of volunteer labour and hold a job.

Devora Schwartz, director of social action programming for Hillel of Greater Toronto, was inspired to organize a volunteer day for Habitat in Toronto after leading two groups of Jewish students to the Gulf Coast of the southern United States to help build homes with the organization after Hurricane Katrina.

"When we came back [from the Gulf Coast], I thought it would be great if the students got involved here. This is our first time Hillel is volunteering for Habitat in Toronto," Schwartz said.

"At Hillel we believe that tikkun olam [repairing the world] extends beyond the Jewish community. There was a need for help in Toronto, and we felt compelled to respond. I'm hoping that this will be the beginning of a regular volunteer program with Habitat for Humanity."

Hillel's group helped to construct what will be 10 brand-new townhouses on Etobicoke's lakeshore, mostly for single-parent families with children. A long waiting list exists for families who want to benefit from Habitat.

This is not the first time Hillel of Greater Toronto has reached out to the non-Jewish community. In the past, students have helped the homeless with Ve'ahavta's van program, and they've also volunteered at food drives and run tutoring programs for disadvantaged youth.

U of T students Elayna Fremes, 20, and Sara Greenwood, 21, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for the first time on July 26.

"It's a project I always wanted to be involved in but never had the opportunity," said Fremes as she and Greenwood put up Tyvek paper to waterproof the outside of some houses.

"If you're raised in a Jewish environment, you want to help other people — not just by giving money but by physically helping those who are less fortunate," Greenwood said.

"There are many different ways to be striving toward a better society, whether it's policy-making, lobbying or volunteering. All the pieces are important in order to truly make a difference," Fremes added.

With only 16 spots available for this session, Hillel received such a substantial response that it could not accommodate everyone who was interested in volunteering.

"A lot of people want to volunteer with Habitat. People like the hands-on aspect and want to do something physically," Fremes said.

"The difference between Habitat for Humanity and other charities is that here, you can see your results," Greenwood said.

# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

Elizabeth (Weller)& Darren Abrams welcomed Gabrielle Sydney on April 27. Grandparents Marilyn & Ivan Abrams, Breena Weller, and Auntie Stacey & Uncle Allan are thrilled.

Mazel tov Dasha & Sam Vinsky on your 50th wedding anniversary, July 22. Love from all your family.

Happy fifth birthday to Emma Shayne Charney. Parents Angie & Allan and Bubbies Violet and Ruth. We love you.

Mazel tov to Jordan Glick on your graduation. Parents Marilyn & David; siblings Leora, Shira and Tamara; Zaidy Morris and Bubbies Rose & Ruth.

Dr. Irving & Joan Keltz announce the engagement of their daughter Debbie to Neal, son of Garry & Linda Wolk. Grandparents Ralph & Florrie Kay, Fay Wolk.

Mazel tov and best wishes on Heather's seventh birthday and Maya's third birthday. Love, Mommy and Daddy Lane.

Mazel tov to Mark & Tatyana Mendelson on your marriage July 7 2006. Love, your family.

Happy fifth birthday Samantha Taylor, daughter of Michael & Fara Forman. Love, your sister Jordyn Bailey and brother Joshua Ethan.

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!**

Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to:
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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Monday, Aug. 14, is the deadline for the Aug. 31 issue and Monday, Aug. 28, is the deadline for the Sept. 7 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 10

**YIDDISH VINKL**

**Miriam Beckerman** shares her experiences at the recent Conference of Yiddish Clubs at a meeting of the Yiddish Vinkl at Free Times Café, 320 College St. 12:15 p.m. RSVP to yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca, **Bess Shockett**, 416-630-7222, or **Bill Stern**, 416-665-3081.

**FAMILY SUMMER FUN FEST**

Join Beth David Congregation 5:30-7:30 p.m. for its "Family Summer Fun Fest," with BBQ, games, and more. Adults $10, children $5. Register at 416-633-5500. Non-members are welcome.

**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents "Family Fun Summer Festival," with activities 5:30-7 p.m. Includes a jumping castle, games, parachutes, hockey activities and crafts followed by a performance by Dufflebag Theatre at the Zukerman Theatre. Earl Bales Park. Free. 416-395-7873

## Sunday, Aug. 13

**SINGLES WALKING GROUP**

Join Walk and Talk Etc. and discover the history and charm of the Humber River and Valley. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Etienne Brule Park, on Old Mill Rd. across the bridge, past the Old Mill Inn. Info and registration at walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

**A HEALING SERVICE**

The Toronto Healing Project offers a healing service with **Judy Shier Weisberg**. 3-4 p.m. at Lipa Green, 4600 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. 416-944-3359

## Tuesday, Aug. 15

**GYPSY FLAME BAND**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents Tuesday Night Live, a series of concerts at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Tonight, Gypsy Flame Band. 7 p.m., free admission. For information, call 416-395-7873.

**GARAGE SALE**

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada holds a garage sale every Tuesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through the summer. 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100

## Other news

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Temple Har Zion invites the community to participate in its daily morning minyan, weekdays at 7:15 and Sundays at 9 a.m. 7360 Bayview Ave. For information, call 905-889-2252.

**SUMMER SPEED-DATING**

Aish Toronto hosts a "Summer Speed-Dating" evening, a quick way for singles to meet one another. Tuesday, Aug. 29, women 22-28, men 24-32. Registration required. Call **Aliza** at 905-764-1818, ext. 316, or visit speeddating.com.

**EMUNAH WOMEN EVENTS**

Join Emunah Women for a trip to Stratford to see the play *South Pacific* at the Avon Theatre on Wednesday, Aug. 30. For details, contact 416-636-0036.

**GOLF OUTING**

Join Temple Israel, London, for a day of golf and fun, Sunday, Aug. 27, at Westminster Trails Golf Club. $80 golf and dinner, $45 dinner only. 519-858-4400

**HEBREW CLASSES**

Karen Hatarbut Institute is accepting registration for the fall session of Hebrew-language classes for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Classes are taught

**Continued on page 21**

On Campus

# Brock U's new president is an expert in Judaism

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Brock University's new president, Jack Lightstone, is an expert in early Judaism.

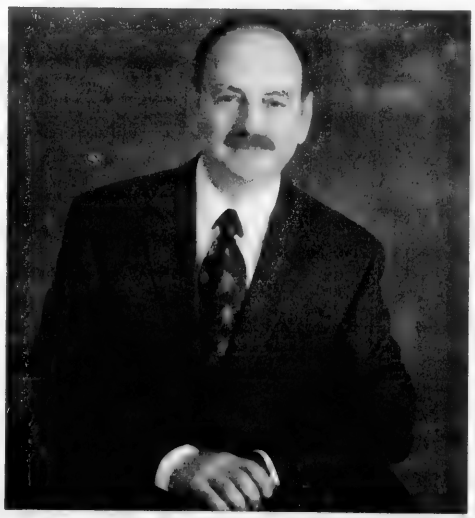
Lightstone, 55, assumed his position in St. Catharines last month, a day after his daughter's marriage in Montreal, his home for many years.

Prior to his latest appointment, he spent 10 years as provost and vice-rector of Concordia University, where he was also a professor of history in the school's department of religion.

Born in Ottawa, Lightstone wrote his Brown University doctoral thesis on the history of religions, concentrating on Judaism.

"My research interest was the origins of the rabbinic movement in the first several centuries after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE," he said.

"I still have an abiding interest in this question, but today go about exploring it in a very different way than I did when I was pursuing my PhD studies and research.



**Jack Lightstone**

"Most of my published work and conference papers deal with Judaism in the cultural, political, economic and social contexts of the Hellenistic and Roman worlds in the Middle East and Mediterranean basin.

"Our knowledge of the period and of the primary documents from the early rabbinic movement are much more developed and sophisticated today. Therefore, approaches to research in this field have also changed."

At Concordia, Lightstone's area of expertise was in what he describes as "the social, historical and social anthropological study of religion."

While at Concordia, Lightstone also founded the Institute for Cultural and Social Diversity, which facilitates individual and team research in the dynamics of contemporary societies.

An avid reader, hiker, jogger, swimmer and skier, he is Brock University's fifth president and succeeds Terry Boak. His term of office is five years.

Asked whether he is Brock's first Jewish president, he replied, "Honestly, I do not know, though I suspect I am. I never asked, and they never told me, and that is how it should be in our society today, a complete non-issue."

At Brock, he has clear goals in mind.

"Brock has undergone rapid and significant development. Its enrolment has grown from about 9,000 full-time students to about 17,000, and it has hired almost 300 new professors," Lightstone said.

"Having grown so rapidly, Brock will likely not significantly grow in size over the next few years. What it will do is grow significantly in vocation," he added.

"For most of its existence, Brock was a largely undergraduate teaching university. Now it has taken upon itself the task of adding significant research activities and post-graduate programs in a wide gamut of areas and disciplines."

Lightstone believes that the faculty can achieve these objectives.

He accepted the presidency because he wanted to be part of Brock's transition to a new era. "To facilitate such a self-transformation seemed an opportunity not to be missed," he said.

Fluent in French and Hebrew, Lightstone has a strong personal affinity to the traditions of Judaism and keeps kosher.

"My area of academic expertise immerses me in classical Jewish sources on a daily basis," he said. "If study of these texts is an important Judaic ritual, then that is one I fulfil in spades."

Lightstone's wife, Dorothy, is also a teacher, being a professor of psychology and applied human science, as well as a clinical therapist.

What's New

**Continued from page 20**

in the morning and evenings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of Sept. 5. Reasonable tuition. 788 Marlee Ave. To register, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

**PAGES OF TESTIMONY**

The Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto is assisting Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as it assembles the Pages of Testimony, a collection of the names and biographical details of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. So far three million have been collected. If your loved one's name does not appear on the website www.yadvashem.org, JIS can help include them in the list. Call 416-635-5600.

**MELTON MINI SCHOOL**

Registration is open for the Melton Adult Mini School, a text-based course of study for people of all ages and backgrounds. Classes begin Oct 4. Choice of either morning or evening. Call **Loretta Tanenbaum** at 416-789-7400 for information.

**JVS TORONTO CELEBRATES**

In September 2006, Jewish Vocational Service Toronto celebrates 60 years of helping people succeed in school, work and life. If JVS helped you or a family member in the past, share your memories as it begins to build a living library of the past, present and future. E-mail marketing@jvstoronto.org or call 416-787-1151, ext. 287.

**JEWISH 411**

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto has information on community events, holidays, shuls, camps, kosher restaurants and more. Call JIS 416-635-5600 or visit the website www.jewishtoronto.com and click on Doing Jewish In Toronto.

**RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS**

If you are a caregiver looking after your spouse or parent at home and would like some time off, call **Sharon**, respite co-ordinator at the Bernard Betel Centre, 416-225-2112, ext. 118.

**IT'S IN YOU TO GIVE**

Call Canadian Blood Services and arrange to donate blood. 1-888-236-6283, 416-974-9900 or www.bloodservices.ca.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered at BJCC and at Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext.28.

Family To Family Project is looking for Canadian families who are interested in hosting new immigrant families as they begin their lives in Canada.

## FOR SENIORS

**The Association for Jewish Seniors** installation breakfast takes place Thursday, Aug. 17, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation with entertainment by **Mickey Lewin**. Members free, guests $2. To reserve, call **Tammy Parker**, 416-635-2860.

**Chai Shalom** presents a multicultural concert with violinist **Michael Ziskind**, Monday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. Reserve by Aug. 24. Members $6, non-members $8. Yearly membership $15. On Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m. join them for a trip to Stratford to see *South Pacific*. $75 includes transportation. Call 416-633-3838 for tickets to both events.

**Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Aug. 29; Casino Rama, Tuesday, Sept. 12; mah-jong, Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Hebrew conversation, Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon; bridge, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Sunday dances begin again on Sept. 3; Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

"Good Government: What Constitutes Good Government? Why Can't We Have More of It?" with **Hugh Innes**, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Summer Festival with special lunch, market and entertainment, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Blood Pressure Awareness Presentation, Thursday, Aug. 17, 1 p.m. Free.

*The Sound of Music* at the Capitol Theater, Port Hope. Thursday, Aug. 24. Bus leaves at 10 a.m. Members $50, non-members $60.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. All welcome. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

Join the Bernard Betel Centre for High Holy Day services with Cantor **Ron Graner**. Members $75, non-members $85. Add $15 for reserved seating.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Aug. 11 and 25, 1-3 p.m. in the Volunteer Lounge. Call **Melissa**, ext. 2297, for details.

The Visionaires: Low Vision Group meets the third Thursday of each month. Next meeting Aug. 17, 3:15-4:15 p.m., in the common room.

Lunch and Learn with **Jacqueline Wallace**, a holistic practitioner, Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 11:30 a.m. $5 includes dairy lunch. Call ext. 2267 to reserve.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

This summer the Family Place at the Jewish Discovery Museum, Toronto's hands-on Jewish children's museum for kids aged five and under and their families, is running Wednesday Morning Circle Time and Thursday Morning Shabbat Parties. Both programs include song, dance and stories, and are run in the museum at 10:15 am. Free with museum admission of $2.50 per person. Museum members free. Call ext. 390 for details.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts is offering Painting With Sadko, Aug. 14-18, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Printmaking With Vicki Cowan, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 1-4 p.m.; and Life Drawing With Brian Smith, Aug. 28-Sept.1, 1-4 p.m.

Limited spaces available for September 2006 morning Tic Tac Two program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers and senior kindergarten. For more information, call ext. 248, or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

Arts Limited Theatre Group: shows for the entire season are on sale now. Call ext. 235.

Tickets on sale now for the 55 Plus Annual Variety Show.

Mah-jong, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Starts Sept. 13.

Bridge, Tuesdays: beginner, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; intermediate, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Starts Sept.12.

The exhibit "Fray" runs at the Koffler Gallery through Oct.13. Artists explore the implications of memory embodied in the design, materials and processes associated with textile traditions.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

## Volunteers wanted

**CIRCLE OF CARE**

Circle of Care Kosher Meals is celebrating its 40th year delivering meals to shut-ins. Join the team by volunteering to deliver meals or co-ordinating meals at the food source and welcoming drivers. For information, contact 416-635-2860.

**HOSPICE-THORNHILL**

Men and women are needed to drive clients to medical appointments. If you have a few hours a month, call **Kay Holker**, 905-764-0656, or e-mail kholker@bellnet.ca.

**AMBASSADOR HOSTS VETS: Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada recently hosted a group of 10 injured Israeli veterans for two weeks in Toronto and Ottawa. The organization raises funds to help build and maintain rehabilitation facilities for Israel's disabled war veterans. From left are Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker and Dahlia Baker at their Ottawa home with four veterans.**

***SINGLES EVENTS WILL RETURN***

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To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

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| Peggy Cohn | Jul 19/06 | 5708 Palmer Avenue |
| Dorothy Atlin | Jul 20/06 | 1035 Eglinton Avenue, West |
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| Donna Mecklinger | Jul 20/06 | 425 Walmer Road |
| Ken Schwartz | Jul 20/06 | 523 Bourbon Hotel |
| Moshe Tamari | Jul 21/06 | 110 Bloor St. West |
| Gerald Greenberg | Jul 21/06 | 1925 Steeles Ave. E. |
| Esther Brown | Jul 21/06 | 1079 Spadina Road |
| Pepi Mozes | Jul 22/06 | 22 Danby Avenue |
| Ruth Sadowski | Jul 24/06 | 45 Clareville Crescent |
| Yetta Kushnir | Jul 24/06 | 280 Robert Street |
| Harold Metter | Jul 25/06 | 31 Tichester Road |
| Michael Leszner | Jul 25/06 | 27 Granite Street |
| Beatrice Shulman | Jul 26/06 | 545 King Street, West |
| Ray Laytner | Jul 27/06 | 645 Castlefield Avenue |
| Sally Switzer | Jul 27/06 | 505 Spadina Road |
| Mary Itzkovitch | Jul 28/06 | 10 Tangreen Court |
| Blanche Brunswick | Jul 28/06 | 4866 Bathurst Street |
| Sair Charney | Jul 28/06 | 3270 Bathurst Street |
| Toby Ironstone | Jul 29/06 | 140 Darlington Private |

## Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wenus, Gerald Nathan | July 12/06 | Private |
| Shefer, Roy | July 13/06 | 7 Green Acres Rd |
| Freedman, Betty Adele | July 13/06 | Private |
| Dyan, Dr. Howard | July 13/06 | |
| Schwartz, Doris Ruth | July 14/06 | Private |
| Simon, Francine Beverley | July 14/06 | Private |
| Rotshtein, Hedva | July 15/06 | shiva in Israel |
| Schwartz, Harry | July 16/06 | 601 Clark Ave. W. |
| Gelb, Mary | July 16/06 | 23 Stubbs Dr |
| Kurinnoy, Angelina | July 17/06 | Private |
| Brik, Haim | July 18/06 | 5935 Bathurst St |
| Wosnick, Hyman | July 19/06 | 541 Finch Ave. W. |
| Shafman, Nahema | July 20/06 | Private |
| Abrams, Sally | July 20/06 | 48 Festival Dr |
| Kurtzbard, Jeanette | July 20/06 | Florida |
| Franklin Itzkovitz , Leonard | July 21/06 | 2 Artreeva Dr. |
| Pesses, Ruth | July 22/06 | 333 Clark Ave. W. |
| Radzinski, Thomas | July 23/06 | 3 Evanston Dr. |
| Miller, Morris | July 24/06 | 2 Mary Gapper Cres |
| Lowy, Flora | July 25/06 | |
| Burke, Ralph | July 25/06 | 1 Evanston Dr. |
| Friedmann, Andrea | July 25/06 | 472 Spring Gate Bl |
| Uryn, Regina | July 26/06 | 3560 Bathurst St. |

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Allan Sliwowicz | Jul 8/06 | 1131 Steeles Ave W |
| Helen Berkan | Jul 10/06 | 718 Sheppard Ave W |
| Ruth Zuker | Jul 22/06 | 142 Baycrest Ave |
| Diana Rubin | Jul 23/06 | 90 Brighton Ave |


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Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
9186 Wilson Ave
Beth Sholom New Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARAH AJZENSTAT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 20th, 1:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lubliner Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IRENE BELLA HERSHBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 13th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., 1 km. n. of Major Mackenzie
Toronto Grand Order of Israel Section C
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PHILIP SIMMONS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 13th, 2:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., 1 km. n. of Major Mackenzie
Beth Emeth Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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CECIL Z. HALPERN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 20th at 12:30 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Goel Tzedec Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK GOLD ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 20th at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Apter Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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Coast to Coast

# CIJR marks 18th year

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — It began as a project in the basement of Concordia University professor Frederick Krantz's home in the days of the first intifadah with a few academics trying to counter what they viewed as media bias against Israel.

Eighteen years later, the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) may not be as grand as its name suggests, but it's still working daily to make Israel's case known and to represent an unapologetically hawkish viewpoint.

Its main activity today is an online digest of topical articles about Israel, the Middle East and Jewish affairs gleaned from English-language publications worldwide and e-mailed to an estimated 60,000 recipients internationally.

The CIJR also continues to put out the quarterly hard-copy *Israfax*, which contains reprinted and original articles, and is the sole supporter of the student publication *Dateline*, which appears once a semester. Equipping Jewish students to be knowledgeable advocates for Israel on campus and after graduation is another major activity for the institute.

It maintains a massive archive of articles and documents, collected and indexed over its history, which will soon be accessible on its website. From time to time, the CIJR also sponsors or co-sponsors speakers to come to Montreal.

All this has been accomplished without any secure funding. The CIJR receives no money from the organized Jewish community, although it has repeatedly sought support, said Krantz, its volunteer director.

The CIJR has only one professional staff member, its youthful assistant director Jacqueline Douek, who works with a full-time volunteer, research chair Baruch Cohen, now 86, who has been with the CIJR since it began. They are assisted occasionally by student interns, as funds allow.

In recognition of its milestone anniversary, the CIJR's annual fundraiser was a little more elaborate this year. On Aug. 9, Irwin Beutel, its national chair for 12 years, was honoured with the Lion of Judah Award.

The next edition of *Israfax* is due to be published this month. As for the future, Krantz said his hope is to increase the distribution of the CIJR's publications and possibly launch a monthly magazine, as well to strengthen the institute's presence outside Montreal and organize a mission to Israel.

# *Longtime Winnipeg rabbi moves to St. Louis*

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Winnipeggers who regularly attend the alternative High Holy Day services at Etz Chayim Synagogue will be happy to know that Rabbi Neal Rose and his wife Carol will once again be leading them this year.

But Winnipeg will be seeing much less of the couple after that. That's because for the next two years, Rabbi Rose will be serving as scholar-in-residence at Congregation Bnai Amoona in St. Louis, Mo.

Rabbi Rose was drawn to Congregation Bnai Amoona by the presence of his son, Rabbi Carni Rose (a former chief rabbi of Tokyo), who is the 125-year-old Conservative synagogue's senior rabbi. The elder Rabbi Rose and his wife also have four grandchildren in St. Louis.

Bnai Amoona, he said, has a membership of more than 800 families, some of whom are descendants of its founding members.

Originally from New York, Rabbi Rose and his wife arrived in Winnipeg in August 1967. For the next 33 years, he taught at the University of Manitoba first in the Judaic studies department and, later, after the department was disbanded, in the department of religion.

He taught courses on Yiddish, the Holocaust and Jewish thought, as well as courses on good and evil, death and the afterlife, religion and art, and religion and dreams. He also served as a rabbi in the Jewish community, and he and Carol offered family counselling services. For the past five years, he has been serving as director of spiritual care at the Sharon Home seniors residence.

Carol Rose first taught adult education courses for the evening program at Rosh Pina Congregation (which merged with two other north Winnipeg Conservative congregations four years ago to form Etz Chayim), and she worked for Temple Shalom's Sunday school. She also did some USY work and served as an assistant in the Rosh Pina kindergarten.

When her two older children reached school age, she returned to university to complete degrees in religious studies and education. She taught preschool in the Jewish day school system for many years. She and Leona Lakser started the first all-day kindergarten program in the community, and she was also involved in starting Aleph Bet, Winnipeg's first Jewish day-care centre.

In more recent years, she has become a published author and poet, and a teacher of spirituality.

The couple was in St. Louis from mid-January to mid-May. "I was doing some special projects," Rabbi Rose said. "As a result, [Congregation Bnai Amoona] invited me to serve as scholar-in-residence for the next two years.

In his new role, Rabbi Rose said he will be continuing his educational programs, doing outreach to intermarried couples, teaching advanced courses and doing interfaith work. Carol will remain in Winnipeg until November. In St. Louis, she will be teaching imagery courses and conducting workshops, and she also hopes to do some writing.

Rabbi Rose notes that he will continue to be available to advise the Sharon Home as it proceeds with its expansion and consolidation plans in south Winnipeg. He and Carol also hope to be back in Winnipeg to lead High Holy Day services next year.

As to returning to Winnipeg, they say they intend to come back in two years, but that could change.


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UJA FEDERATION

# ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2007

# THE ISRA CAMPAIG

## Prime Minister

Dear Friends,

For the past several weeks, the State of Israel has been engaged in a struggle for its very survival. Following the complete withdrawals from Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, we were subjected to unprovoked attacks on our sovereign territory, culminating in the kidnapping of three of our soldiers and the deaths of 10 others. Since then, Israel has been subjected to a barrage of missiles launched from both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, intentionally targeting over one million innocent civilians, killing several and wounding hundreds of others.

We will continue to take determined and forceful steps to bring our captured soldiers home safe and sound, keep the Hezbollah out of Southern Lebanon and weaken the terrorist infrastructures established in Gaza and Lebanon. We have every desire to live in peace with our neighbors, however we must determinedly reject every attempt to subjugate us and force us to relinquish our right to security and peace: we will not rest until the security of Israel's citizens is ensured, and until there is peace and tranquility in our land. Our greatest desire is a peaceful and normal life – something taken for granted in many places.

The unexpected conflict has led to a major increase in defense spending, and the repercussions are likely to be felt far into the future. In addition, agriculture, manufacturing and the tourism industry have been severely impacted by the constant missile attacks in the North.

At times like these, I am strengthened by the courage, fortitude and stamina of the citizens of Israel, and the unwavering solidarity of our fellow Jews around the world. United Israel Appeal of Canada and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto have long been staunch partners in the Zionist enterprise, especially in our most troubled times. We appreciate your generosity and steadfastness.

Wishing you a successful campaign,

Sincerely,
Ehud Olmert

"Not since 1948 have the people of Israel suffered this type of attack on such a widespread scale. Israel deserves our steadfast support."

*Ariella Rohringer*
*UJA Federation*
*Israel Emergency Campaign*
*2007 Co-chair*

"The world as we know it is on the shoulders of Israel and it's incumbent that the Jews of the Diaspora turn all their energy towards Israel."

*Fred Waks*
*UJA Federation*
*Israel Emergency Campaign*
*2007 Co-chair*

# AEL EMERGENCY

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As you read this, the State of Israel is enduring one of its most difficult periods ever. Terrorist rocket attacks have displaced the lives of more than one million Israelis, many of whom find themselves without homes, jobs or peace of mind. Today, large stretches of Israel resemble ghost towns.

That's why UJA Federation is launching a special **Israel Emergency Campaign 2007**, a single vital campaign to respond to Israel's emergency situation in conjunction with the Annual UJA Campaign.

**UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007** is committed to raising an **additional $20 million to Israel** on top of our regular annual campaign total. With your help, we will provide desperately needed Israeli social services and, at the same time, maintain our vital support for local needs here at home.

And because of initial, generous donations, you can be assured that each and every dollar of increases over last year to this Emergency Campaign will go directly to Israel and the vital needs created by the current confrontation.

Here are some of the many short and long term needs that **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007** will fund:

- Trauma counseling
- Overnight camps in safer areas of Israel for children of the north
- Mobile Activity Vans with specialized programming for children still living in shelters
- Specialized emergency assistance for those with special needs, such as the physically and developmentally disabled
- Temporary housing
- Vocational training and business loans for the newly unemployed
- Re-equipping damaged community services, such as libraries, community centres, day cares and homes for the elderly
- Upgrading emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks and ambulances
- Restoring home care, meals-on-wheels and medical care to the elderly

Our partnership with Israel is unwavering and enduring. We've always been there for Israel. And, today we need to be there again.

**Together with Israel.**
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**To make your Israel Emergency Campaign contribution, please visit www.ujadonations.com or call 416.631.5705**

# An increasingly common whisper grows louder

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

*New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman ("On the Eve of Madness," July 28) observed: "A religious militia that calls itself 'the party of God' takes over a state and drags it into war, using high-tech rockets – mullahs with drones – and the world is paralyzed."

Well, not quite. Much of the world is active enough to increasingly blame Israel, mostly for "overreacting."

First came the United Nations and the European Union, but now even a number of American liberals are jumping on the bandwagon.

For instance, liberal economist and *Times* columnist Paul Krugman, casting himself in the role of military/strategic analyst ("Shock and Awe," July 31), wrote the following one day after the Qana tragedy: "Hezbollah has acquired heroic status, while Israel has both damaged its reputation as a regional superpower and made itself a villain in the eyes of the world." Not a villain in the eyes of just the Arabs or Europe, but "of the world."

"There is a case for a full-scale ground offensive against Hezbollah," Krugman conceded. "It may yet come to that, if Israel can't find any other way to protect itself." But Krugman sees "restraint" and "diplomacy" along with "limited counterstrikes" as the preferable option. He believes, as so many others do, that diplomacy will result in getting "other players to rein Hezbollah in."

But Israelis may be forgiven a measure of cynicism when France's foreign minister, while in Beirut (July 31), praises Iran, Hezbollah's principal backer, as a "great country… which plays a stabilizing role in the region."

* * *

There is another negative media trend, one that extends far beyond the immediate conflict but that also deals with the existential threat to Israel. This one comes from those who, even unwittingly, badly misconstrue what Israel is all about – the fulfilment of Jewish national liberation in their ancient homeland. Instead, they declare or imply that Israel was a "mistake."

In his *Globe and Mail* column, "A doctrine of cruelty and folly" (July 29) Rex Murphy warned that we all should pay careful attention to "the number of voices starting to remind us that maybe Israel was a mistake to begin with. In Western opinion, this thought is but a whisper, but how common a whisper it is becoming."

On the very day that Murphy's admonition appeared, Doug Saunders wrote a piece from Damascus for the *Globe*'s "Focus" section ("Who started the fire in Lebanon? You might blame Canada"). He argued that if you trace the cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict – including the latest crisis – back far enough, you end up with the sad fact (in Saunders' eyes) that the United Nations decided in 1947, at the urging of Canadian Supreme Court judge Ivan Rand, to propose a two-state solution, instead of a binational one, for Jews and Arabs in Palestine. "It's hard to avoid concluding," said Saunders, "with the luxury of hindsight, that the decision made by the UN committee almost 60 years ago was the worst, and the most irreversible, of all possible choices."

Lost entirely on Saunders is the irony that India and Yugoslavia, the very countries that strongly backed a binational state in Palestine in 1947, have both been torn apart by ethnic tensions.

As well, a binational state in Palestine would have left Jews an extremely vulnerable minority among a majority Arab population.

The lesson is that the conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbours does not originate with the *inherent* fact of Israel's Jewish character. Rather, it's that persistent Arab/Muslim intolerance – including, foremost, the refusal to accept the right of the Jewish people to a state in its ancient homeland – will not allow the conflict to end.

In his column, cited above, Thomas Friedman asked the essential question: "When will the Arab-Muslim world stop getting its 'pride' from fighting Israel and start getting it from constructing a society that others would envy, an economy others would respect, and inventions and medical breakthroughs from which others would benefit?"

Saunders would do well to ask the same.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

# *Moose Jaw's shul is now a dance studio*

By LAUREN KRAMER
*Special to The CJN*

**MOOSE JAW, Sask.,** — It's Friday night and I'm in Moose Jaw, Sask., standing outside the House of Israel Synagogue and wishing there were an Erev Shabbat service that I could attend. As it happens, I'm late – by more than 15 years.

The synagogue closed its doors in September 1990, leaving only a cement plaque outside as evidence that it was, indeed, a synagogue, having served a Jewish community in this small prairie town for almost 75 years, beginning in 1926.

Today it's a dance school, with windows boarded up to keep out the sunlight and weeds growing prolifically around the building. But there was a time when the House of Israel Synagogue was a hub of activity, with regular Shabbat services and social get-togethers.

At its height in the 1950s, the Jewish community of Moose Jaw had about 57 families, or approximately 90 people, former residents say. But like other small towns around the country whose once-thriving Jewish communities have dwindled, the town only has about five Jews who still live there.

"Everybody pitched in and was friendly in our Jewish community, it was like a big family," recalls Sam Cohen, who lived in Moose Jaw from 1957 to 1988 and now resides in Vancouver.

"We had a Hadassah that was very active, and a B'nai Brith [chapter] that did a lot of work in the gentile community. We kept kosher, and we knew we were Jews, but ultimately the community disintegrated because you brought up the children to leave. You didn't want them staying, you wanted them in more of a Jewish environment."

His brother, Jack Cohen, who owned a pharmacy with Sam, agrees. "Moose Jaw was a good place to be a Jew between the 50s and the 70s, except that there weren't enough kids for our children to socialize with," he reflects. "But we had lots of fun as a community. I remember we'd have dances, picnics, card games and lots of get-togethers. There would be services Friday nights and some Saturday mornings, and there was a Jewish cheder for the children after regular school hours."

Lillian Butts, 85, remembers the cheder well. The daughter of a Russian-born father and a Romanian mother, she was born in this town in 1921 and lived there until 1943.

"We had to go to cheder three times a week, and I hated it," she says with a gleam in her eyes. "My mother, Rose Schwartz, was one of the few Jews who kept a kosher home in Moose Jaw, so when Jewish travellers came to town and required kosher meals, they came to us. My mother would be up at 5 a.m. on Fridays baking challah, and all week we'd look forward to our traditional Shabbat dinner of chicken soup and meat."

Butts remembers a childhood marked by poverty as her father, a junk dealer, struggled to make a living.

"In a way, Moose Jaw was a sad place, we being the only Jewish family at our school," she says. "One neighbour took to chasing me home every day, because I was Jewish and we 'killed Jesus.' There were a lot of anti-Semites in town when I was growing up, but I thought to myself, 'I have just as much right to be here as you have.'"

Still, she has good memories of life in Moose Jaw, and of attending dances at the Temple Gardens Dance Hall with her friends as a young adult. She recalls the natural spring well that was discovered accidentally in 1910 when someone was drilling for oil. When she lived there, a natatorium was built around it, and "everyone went there for health baths," she says.

The dance hall has long been demolished, but its name lives on as the Temple Gardens Mineral Springs Resort, attracting a wide range of travellers who come to experience its hot mineral water drawn from more than 4,500 feet beneath the earth's surface.

They come to luxuriate in the hot water and to explore the Tunnels of Moose Jaw, a series of underground interconnected passages that snake their way beneath the city's downtown roads and stores.

"When I lived there, I was not aware that the tunnels existed," Butts says. "We knew there were bootleggers in town at one point, but not how they dealt or where exactly they were located."

That's because for some 75 years, Moose Jaw city leaders denied the tunnels' existence, hoping to keep its unkosher history under wraps. Their plan was foiled in 1985, when a heavy truck travelling downtown on Main Street disappeared into a hole after the pavement collapsed under its weight.

After that, the tunnels were transformed into the town's hottest attraction. Today, the Tunnels of Moose Jaw offers tourists two theatrical-style tours that aim to educate and entertain simultaneously. One discusses the living conditions of impoverished Chinese labourers who lived in the tunnels in the early 1900s.

The second describes the bootlegging history of the tunnels during the Prohibition years. Perched at the end of the Soo Line that still runs to Chicago today, Moose Jaw became a convenient retreat for the mob. The tour insinuates that Al Capone came to town at least once and the legend of his visit lives on. It provides good comedy during the tour, rich imaginative fodder for visitors and a convenient theme for city hotels, restaurants and bars.

Between the tunnels and the mineral springs, Moose Jaw has regained some of its former vibrancy. The mayor's office estimates the tunnels alone bring $15 million a year into the local economy.

One thing they can't bring back to this town, however, is its Jewish community, whose descendants are now scattered throughout Canada, mostly in the large cities, with only a handful remaining in town.

Before he left town for Vancouver in 1988, Sam Cohen says he considered the fate of the synagogue and tried to inscribe its history into Canadian Jewish archives.

"I wrote to the Jewish Historical Society in Winnipeg and to the Canadian Jewish Congress, but we couldn't find anybody who was interested in Moose Jaw's Jewish history," he says. "Eventually our Torah scrolls went to Kelowna, B.C., but nobody seemed to care what happened to our synagogue."

# Haifa hospital treats injured Israeli soldiers

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Even as Haifa remains under the constant threat of rocket attacks, Rambam Medical Center continues to offer world-class care for both soldiers injured on the front lines and civilians.

According to Rambam's director, Prof. Rafael Beyar, the hospital has received close to 400 wounded civilians and soldiers, but it is optimistic about each patient's recovery.

"Even the most severely wounded are currently at different stages of improvement, and we do hope that everything will continue to improve with them," Beyar said.

"Everyone who has come through the doors has survived," he added.

He said some of the patients are being treated for shock due to blood loss, multiple fractures, chest injuries, brain injuries, shrapnel wounds, limb trauma and other injuries.

"Today we still continue to get casualties. This morning, we received some 20 additional soldiers from the frontier, but they are also improving," Beyar said.

Although Rambam is not the only hospital receiving wounded soldiers, it does receive most of them.

David Green, the president of the Canadian Friends of the Rambam Medical Center based in Toronto, said there are medics on the front line, but when there are injuries they can't treat, most patients are sent to Rambam by helicopter.

"It has a world-class trauma centre, maybe the best in the country, one of the best in the world," Green said.

"We have a tremendous trauma and surgical team. They are extremely successful in doing things quickly and efficiently," Beyar said.

He added that while the 4,000 workers at northern Israel's largest hospital, third-largest in the country with 1,000 beds, are doing their best to maintain a kind of routine, the influx of war casualties have made it a challenge.

"It is not business as usual. Even today, we heard a couple of sirens here that tell people to go into shelters. Luckily, Haifa didn't get any hits today, but since the beginning of the war, when it became clear that missiles were falling in the cities near the hospitals – some of the hospitals were directly hit – we have had to reorganize the hospital to deal with the threats."

Beyar said that late last month, a rocket hit the hospital's parking lot, causing damage to 30 cars.

"One of the security guards was lucky in that he wasn't physically hurt, but he suffered major mental trauma from that event."

A cardiologist, Beyar said he remembers the day clearly because he was in the middle of performing cardiac surgery when he heard the explosions of the rockets falling around the hospital.

In response to these kinds of threats, Beyar said that staff have moved entire departments from one area of the hospital to another, while continuing with treatment.

"We had to move children, patients, from the intensive care unit on the top floor, which is unsafe, to the basement, which until now was just a storage area," he said, adding that the hospital even made arrangements for a kindergarten in the basement of the faculty of medicine campus.

He said the hospital doesn't have bomb shelters, because when the hospital was built, it was assumed that hospitals would be spared from direct attacks.

"In the past, people didn't think that hospitals would be targets of a continuous attack, and that is probably not true. We do have a basement – it is not designed to be a bomb shelter – but it is safer there. But we know where the missiles come from, so we can calculate [what is the safest option]."

Despite the attacks and the growing number of patients, the hospital staff is dedicated to treating patients as well as they can.

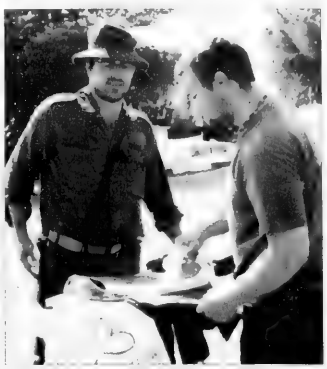
"We still have to treat the civilian population's medical problems. We still have heart problems, we still have deliveries of babies, we still have the flu, and [we try to] continue at the same pace," he said.

Beyar is proud of his hospital, which he said "is the main academic hospital in northern Israel and the place where, together with the faculty of medicine at the Technion [Israel Institute of Technology], the two Nobel laureates, the scientific Nobel laureates of Israel [Aaron Ciechanover, Avram Hershko] are working."

Green said the fact that the hospital is a leader in medicine, science and technology is the not only reason he chose to become involved.

"Because they are the largest hospital in northern Israel, they have a patient population that crosses all religious and demographic lines. They are part Druze and Arab, as well as Jewish. I thought to myself, what better way to promote a peace process than to treat the children of people who would otherwise hate you?" Green said.

"The people are very strong – it's unbelievable," Beyar said of his staff. "People are concentrating on what they need to do. When you hear the sirens and you hear that people are on their way to us, [the hospital staff] just stand where they need to be, and nothing matters to them other than the patients that need to be treated."



**PRESSING NEEDS: Volunteers from the "Friends of the IDF" organization arrived at an IDF base in the north of the country to offer a uniform cleaning and pressing service to soldiers returning from duty in Lebanon. [Israel photo]**

# Technion students hard hit by war

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

The Hezbollah shells raining down on Haifa have, at writing, only come close to striking the Technion Israel Institute of Technology on Mount Carmel, threatening the institution whose graduates are most sought after by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) for their technological and scientific expertise.

But the impact has been profound in other ways.

The Technion and Haifa University are Israel's two institutions of higher learning under immediate risk of attack by Hezbollah.

But Arnold Ludwig, the Canadian Technion Society's new national president, said in an interview that the Technion has been especially traumatized.

It was Ehud Goldwasser, an IDF soldier and Technion graduate whose abduction – along with Eldad Regev – by Hezbollah on July 12 triggered the continuing crisis.

The Technion was closed for an entire week starting July 16 and the first exam period was delayed indefinitely. Because so many in the student population of over 13,000 are native-born Israelis (courses at the Technion are in Hebrew), Ludwig said, a great many were called up for reserve duty.

In addition, the psychological and financial toll on students has been great.

Like so many others in the north of Israel, Ludwig said, many were forced into shelters during the attacks, and/or had to move to the safety of Israel's south.

Students have had to forego summer jobs around Haifa that help pay tuition. Some have spouses who had to give up their own employment so that they could tend to children whose day-care centres have shut down. Others have had their homes damaged, and new immigrant students and those from "poor socioeconomic backgrounds [have been] particularly hard hit," the institute reported.

"There is just this tremendous uncertainty," said Ludwig, who last visited the institute about a month before the war. "This whole thing just struck like a thunderbolt, with thousands directly impacted."

Like other Israel-based institutions, Ludwig said the Technion has launched an emergency international fundraising campaign, in this case, to directly help students affected by the crisis, including students called up for reserve duty (70 per cent of Technion students are male). Ludwig said no "targeted" fundraising goal has been established among Canadian Technion supporters, but he estimated that internationally, it could tally into the tens of millions of dollars.

Funds raised will be directed toward providing students in the IDF reserves with extra tutoring, video courses, free summer courses, a "ninth" semester, scholarships, economic aid and extra psychological counselling and treatment, as well as to meet the needs of non-reservist students also affected by the war, including help to deal with emotional stress and forced unemployment.

"There is not a single student unaffected by the current emergency," the institute said.

In Canada, an initial e-mailing to supporters is being followed up by a direct mailing.

"We are concentrating all our efforts on friends we already have," said Ludwig, a former president of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation who for decades worked at the highest executive levels in concerns associated with the Bronfman family, including at Seagram's Canada, CEMP Investments, and Claridge Ltd.

Seagram's founding patriarch Samuel Bronfman was one of the original signatories to the charter of the Canadian Technion Society. Another faithful supporter is developer David Azrieli, an alumnus himself whom Ludwig said has attributed much of his success in life to having attended Technion.

Ludwig said plans remain in gear for a Canadian Technion Society mission to Israel for November.

"Unless the Israeli government tells us otherwise, we're going," he said.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# Lawyer fulfils his dream of moving to Israel

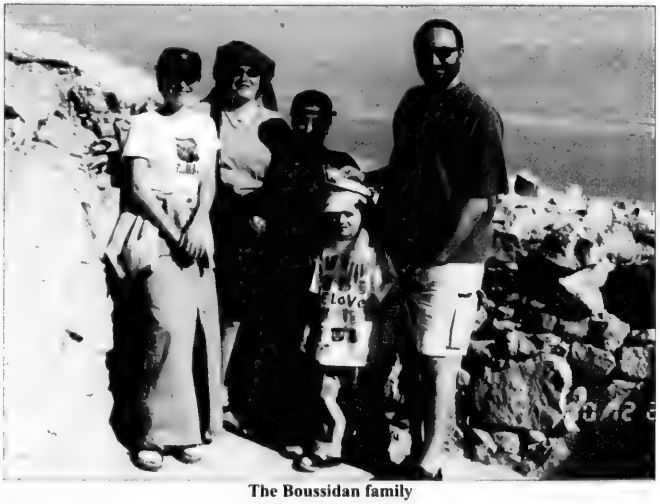
By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Messod Boussidan, 46, made a five-year plan to move to Israel after his first trip there at age 19.

Next week, along with his wife and two of his children – his 19-year-old daughter made aliyah last year – he will be on a flight chartered by Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization that assists Jews who want to move to Israel by removing bureaucratic, logistic, financial and other obstacles.

This summer, about 3,000 North American Jews, including next week's planeload from Canada, will be moving to Israel on Nefesh B' Nefesh flights.

Boussidan, a litigation lawyer who came to Canada from Morocco with his family in 1964, said he's never forgotten the five-year plan. "It just kept getting extended."



The Boussidan family

Now, he said, the timing is perfect to make aliyah. "One daughter is there, one just graduated high school, and my 11-year-old son hasn't begun high school. Their education will not be disrupted."

As for making the move during the current crisis in Israel, Boussidan said that anyone from North America who decides to make aliyah always takes into consideration that they're moving to a country that has a history of armed conflict with its neighbours.

"Of course, they factor in the situation as part of a responsible and informed decision process. The element of surprise is minimal," he said.

"[No one] should just pick up and move without thinking carefully about what they are doing. They wouldn't be taking into consideration any number of factors including economic and social unknowns – not just the armed conflict."

Boussidan said news reports make it seem that "all of Israel is under siege, but there is still a country that gets up in the morning, goes to work, and functions in every way."

He has been to Israel "at least" 15 times since 1996, he said, "including during the Gulf War and the intifadah.

"For me, Israel is home logically, emotionally and spiritually. I feel fortunate that I am able to realize the dream of my ancestors. Our people have dreamed about moving there for 2,000 years, and we are actually doing it."

He said he will be "shuffling" back and forth between his family's new home in Modin – located midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem – and Canada for business purposes, he said, "because litigation files have a long lifespan. I hope to have an association here for a long time."

His family is appreciative of Canada, he said, "and of the blessings this country has bestowed on us. We are going to Israel always mindful that we have had the good fortune of living in one of the greatest countries in the world."

# Jewish state needs full support despite mistakes: ex-MDA head

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

It may have been a mistake on the part of Israel not to have anticipated or prepared for the fierceness of Hezbollah resistance or the number of civilian deaths being encountered in south Lebanon.

But now is not the time to cast blame, and the Israeli government and Israel Defence Forces (IDF) deserve complete backing, the former head of Magen David Adom (MDA) for Israel said.

"We must have only one voice. Let's not criticize," said retired Brig.-Gen. Avi Zohar, who ran MDA in Israel until this year.

Zohar spoke at the YM-YWHA Ben Weider JCC just two weeks after the most recent conflagration began.

Avi Zohar

He retired about six months ago from MDA's top post of director general, which he held for eight years. He was succeeded by his longtime assistant Eli Bin. He was reflective as he spoke to the audience of several hundred.

Zohar, whose home is Haifa, was at one time responsible for IDF infantry operations in northern Israel.

However, most of his remarks focused on the critical needs of MDA at this time. Only during the audience question-and-answer session did Zohar offer an opinion on the war with Hezbollah.

He is committed to the idea that the IDF must be allowed to "finish the job" at the very least, Hezbollah must be weakened to the extent that it no longer poses a military threat.

"It's simple. We cannot live with such an an enemy north of Israel," Zohar said in heavily accented English. They must not have weapons, and it is the Lebanese government that should rule there."

The tragic bombing of a UN observation pose, he said in reply to a question, was an obvious mistake.

Why, Zohar asked, was the United Nations placed in a "clear Hezbollah town"?

"The war started so fast, and that's why there are mistakes," he said. Forgotten, he added, is the fact that in 1982, at the time of Israel's previous incursion into Lebanon, the Israel Air Force accidentally killed 60 of its own troops.

"I was in the infantry, and with all that smoke and dust, it can be very difficult [for aircraft] to identify what's on the ground."

Zohar acknowledged that the most difficult question to answer is whether the Israeli government underestimated Hezbollah's strength.

Already he said, there have been Israeli officers who have criticized the fact that more infantry were not initially called into action because the air force was not enough to "do the job," and that the civilian population was not cleared out of the area before bombing began.

But even if there were mistakes, Zohar said, second-guessing is pointless while Israel needs the total support of the Israeli nation and the Jewish people.

He said the morale of Israelis is not the best at the current time, but "they are streadfast in their desire to ensure that Hezbollah be crippled to the extent that it can't hound us for the next century."

Zohar emphasized the importance of supporting MDA during the crisis.

On average, MDA responds in less than five minutes and supplies close to 95 per cent of ambulance services, he said.

Given the current situation, MDA "is running short of supplies," Montreal MDA president Miriam Lang told the audience, and has put out the call worldwide for support during the war.

MDA is among scores of Jewish organizations and institutions that have launched emergency fundraising drives in light of the war.

Zohar cited Canada as among MDA's top supporters besides the United States, Great Britain, France and Australia. While he was in Canada, he also spoke last week in Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto.

# 'There is a lot of work to be done in the Zionist world'

**Continued from page 5**

Israel has a different appeal for different people, she says. "Some have a sense of belonging, some are pulled by Israel's vibrancy, and retirees find Israel the place to be for family, social, cultural and [climactic] reasons."

About 50 per cent of olim are between the ages of 18 and 30, she says. "Some go to university because olim [get funded] for three years. Israel's logic is to invest in these young people because they could stay and raise their family there."

Others go because of a sense of adventure, Gidron says, and some fall in love with the country after going on a free birthright israel trip.

Since she arrived, she says, Friends of Israel Scouts and the Jewish Agency have brought a project to Canada that encourages young Israeli adults to go back and join the army.

"Israel Scouts [their main sponsor] help them – non-Israeli citizens can join – organize as a group and settle them on a kibbutz. About 15 are going this summer, and in November they will go to the army."

Gidron says she wants to continue working in the field once she's back in Israel. "There is a lot of work to be done in the Zionist world, and I hope to continue my work in Israel. I love the fulfilment and the rewards."

Gidron will be replaced by Liane Sela, who worked for the Israel Defence Forces in its education office.

Israel at War

# Vancouver rally supports Israel 'in her time of need'

By LAUREN KRAMER
*Special to The CJN*

**VANCOUVER** — More than 2,000 Vancouver Jews came out to show their support at a July 31 Stand With Israel rally held at Schara Tzedeck Congregation.

They gathered in the shul's sanctuary, outside the building and in the basement of the synagogue, where the speakers' words were heard via live audio hookup. In the aftermath of the July 28 shootings at the offices of the Seattle Jewish federation, in which one woman was killed, there was a strong security presence at the shul, with 12 guards and several Vancouver police vehicles outside the building.

"As we gather here, 4,500 miles from Israel, our hearts and prayers are with the innocent victims on all sides who have been killed or injured as a result of extremists who

Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt of Schara Tzedeck Congregation addresses last week's rally.

value death as we value life," said Jason Murray, a member of the Canada-Israel Committee's Pacific region advisory committee.

"Canada and Israel share so many values: democracy, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, equality for all citizens – and that is why as Canadians, we must support Israel in her time of need."

Murray urged Vancouver's Jewish community to advocate on Israel's behalf by writing to the prime minister and to their MPs, as well as by writing to newspapers and taking every opportunity to inform other Canadians that Canada must stand with Israel.

Ed Fast, the Conservative MP for Abbotsford, echoed the latter sentiment in his speech.

"Your federal government supports the right of sovereign states to protect themselves against aggression," he declared to loud applause. "There's no such thing as a dialogue for peace with people dedicated to the destruction of a free state. We defend the right to live in freedom and are committed to working towards long term peace."

Shira Gold, a young woman who had recently returned from a Jewish leadership mission to Ethiopia and Israel, spoke of how she accompanied a group of Ethiopians on their aliyah, learning, as they did, that Haifa, their resettlement destination, was facing rocket attacks from Hezbollah. Only hours later, steps from her hotel, a suicide bomber was apprehended and killed, giving her a first-hand understanding of the immediacy of the violence.

In closing the rally, Craig Diamond, interim chair of Vancouver's Combined Jewish Appeal campaign, called on the audience to contribute financial support to Israel for emergency relief and to aid Israelis in rebuilding their lives and communities.

"We received about $670,000 even before this appeal from our top donors, and last night people contributed about $18,000," said Mark Gurvis, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

"We've been on the phones all day today taking commitments, and have received over $100,000 today alone. So, people are making their gifts, but our goal is to raise at least $2.75 million for the [Israel] emergency campaign between now and November 2006."

Pictured at last week's rally are, from left, Craig Diamond, interim chair of Vancouver's CJA campaign; Jason Murray of the Canada-Israel Committee; Rabbi Philip Bregman, chair of the Rabbinical Association of Vancouver and Shira Gold.
[Lauren Kramer photos]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# Symposium focuses on high-conflict families

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Jewish Family & Child Service's second annual symposium on high-conflict divorce attracted more than double the number of participants organizers expected, says the forum chair.

"With about 480 mental health professionals and lawyers taking part, we realized that people are thirsty for knowledge," said Howard Hurwitz, director of children's services at JF&CS.

Titled "Divorce Poison," the day-long symposium, organized in conjunction with the High-Conflict Forum, provided participants with an understanding of the dynamics of child alienation in families undergoing a separation or divorce.

Keynote speaker was Richard Warshak, a research psychologist who specializes in child custody, including child alienation and the role of children's preferences in custody disputes.

Hurwitz said they chose this year's topic because there is a lot of confusion about how to work effectively with families in which children are alienated from one parent.

"It could be a situation where one parent deliberately withholds contact, or it could be that the children do not want to see one of the parents."

There are no Canadian statistics, he said, "but about 10 per cent of families going through separation are considered high conflict, and within that 10 per cent, there is a smaller percentage in which children are alienated."

High-conflict families often come to the attention of JF&CS, he said, when one parent makes allegations of abuse against the other. "We have to investigate by law, but in most cases we cannot verify any abuse of a physical or sexual nature."

Children within these families suffer psychologically and emotionally, he said, and their behaviour is affected. "They often have difficulties in school and in their relationship with peers. There could also be other psychological symptoms, such as eating disorders, phobias, depression or obsessive-compulsive disorder.

"We see a direct correlation between high conflict levels and the emotional well-being of children."

Health and legal professionals need to work in a co-ordinated manner in order to deal effectively with these families, Hurwitz said.

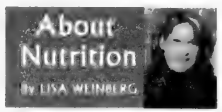
"In severe cases of alienation, court orders can set out conditions, but we would like to see lawyers work in conjunction with therapists to assist families.

"We also need to put a priority on recognizing high-conflict families and providing individual and group counselling for parents and children."

By taking a preventative approach, he said, "we can intervene early and teach families problem-solving so the situation does not turn into high conflict."

Research tools are being developed by JF&CS along with several other agencies, to aid professionals in detecting levels of conflict within families going through separation, said Hurwitz.

"Currently, there are no tools to define conflict. By using these tools – they are still in the preliminary stages – we will have a clinical indication of low, medium and high-conflict families."




**Q.** I have been reading a lot about nutrition over the years, and it seems that even though we are obsessed with dieting, reports say we're heavier than ever. Why aren't all these diets working and what is contributing to our being overweight?

**A.** This is a very astute question because we, as Canadians, are on more diets than ever before, and we are bombarded with diet and nutrition advice. So why aren't we successful at reducing our weight, and why are so many young people overweight?

I think there are several answers. First, many of the trendy, extreme diets that we hear advertised promise enticing results, luring us to the idea of a quick fix, but these diets and the weight reductions they produce often can't be sustained. We can't stay indefinitely on diets that are 800 calories a day, or are free of all carbohydrates, or where we can eat only the food produced and sold by a specific company. Many are simply unhealthy, but they are appealing because we can achieve dramatic and speedy results. However, one year later most of us gain back all of the weight we lost and more.

If you really want to lose weight and keep it off, you have to do it slowly and steadily. Most dietitians, including myself, promise only a one- to two-pound loss per week. For my patients who are compliant, that isn't nearly as enticing, but at least they're losing some fat, not just water or muscle, and the weight will stay off if they continue to eat in a healthy manner.

Also, in order to be successful at losing weight, you have to be motivated. This does not just mean that you say you really want to lose 20 pounds or look the way you did at some previous time. It means that you are actually willing to do the work – and it's hard work – required to reach your goal. This is where the disconnect comes in for many people. In my practice, I find people say they want to lose weight, but they are not committed to doing the work.

Success comes from understanding what foods fill you up and what foods make you hungry, and most importantly, from understanding appropriate *portion sizes*.

This is where I believe most of our problem lies. Many people eat healthy food, but far too much of it, and most of us have no idea what an appropriate portion size is for us. Our kids also routinely eat far too much, and often, that's our fault as parents telling our kids what we think is an appropriate amount for them to eat. We are giving them the message that they shouldn't listen to their tummy, but eat the amount we deem appropriate. We need to re-think this if we are doing it.

Here are two examples to convince you that you likely eat portions that are too large, and I am sure everyone can relate to one of these two scenarios.

Have you ever gone to a restaurant and ordered an appetizer and a main course? You eat the appetizer and you're waiting for the main course and the service is slow, and you start thinking, "You know, I'm not even hungry anymore." Well, look how little food actually filled you up.

In a perfect world, we would ask the waiter to wrap the main course to go, and go home satisfied. But we don't. We eat the main course anyway, often for fear of being hungry later. However, if we listen to our hunger cues and get hungry later, we can eat then.

In another scenario, you're eating a meal, maybe at work at your desk or at home. The phone rings, someone walks into your office or comes to your door, and you're distracted for a short time. When you return to your food, you look at it and think, "I'm not really hungry anymore." Without the distraction, you would have eaten all the food and believed that you needed that amount – but actually you don't.

It takes our metabolism about 20 minutes to shut off, and most Canadians eat in about three to seven minutes, leaving us still feeling hungry even after eating a large meal.

I suggest that to control our weight we need to turn our attention to portion sizes. We need to eat smaller portions of foods that fill us up and avoid the foods that make us hungry, those with white flour or white sugar. We should choose whole grains, lean protein, and fruits and vegetables, and eat slowly, taking time to enjoy our food.

*Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist in Toronto, in private practice and at the Genesis Professional Group. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to* The CJN.

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# The rocket hunters – best in the world

By URI DAN
*Jerusalem Post*

Comment

Israel is "lucky" this war was forced on it in summer 2006. It made it possible for us to learn – almost too late – about the terrible death trap being prepared in Lebanon, with almost Nazi precision, against the Jewish state.

Iran, fuelled by Islamofascism's uncompromising hatred of Israel, set the trap via Syria. It's a good thing we woke up in time, before Iran could arm itself with nuclear weapons.

Israel is lucky, too, to have such good intelligence services and the best pilots in the world, a combination that has minimized the inevitable damage Ahmadinejad's death machine has caused Israelis and their property.

There is no greater lie than the claim propagated by some Israeli journalists, eager irresponsible egomaniacs, that Israeli intelligence lacked sufficient information about Hezbollah and Iran's preparations. Just the opposite. Israel's intelligence community has provided the finest intelligence information of the last few years.

The question – if there is one – is what the various governments, and the Israel Defence Forces' top command, did with that information.

Certainly the air force was prepared for the war both by its previous commander, current Chief of Staff Dan Halutz, and its current chief, Gen. Eliezer Shkedi, and it has made the best of that excellent intelligence since the war's onset.

At the start Israeli Air Force pilots destroyed a crucial Hezbollah arsenal of long-range missiles capable of reaching distances of 200 to 250 kilometres – one of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's promised "surprises," gifted by Iran in order to threaten areas in Israel "beyond Haifa" and as far as the greater Tel Aviv area. This danger was neutralized in the first half hour of the war.

But the dangers are still out there. Iranian trainers integrated into the Hezbollah forces may yet try to fire long-range missiles from the launchers they retain before they, too, are bombed from the air.

The vast system of tunnels Hezbollah dug from south Lebanon into Israeli territory has yet to be uncovered – another reason why it is important to control a buffer zone of two or three kilometres along the border. The amazing hunt for rocket launchers is still going on, with unprecedented success, day and night and in all weather conditions. Never have IAF bombers had such sophisticated radar systems for precision bombing.

IAF pilots are, of course, not always successful in destroying their targets. The intelligence information flows in real time, sometimes in less than a minute, but the authorization to attack and destroy is often delayed too long, and the target disappears.

Or, as happened in Bint Jbail during the heavy fighting, an aerial strike was postponed for a humanitarian reason: a Lebanese with American citizenship managed to contact the American authorities to ask them to intervene with Israel so it would not bomb the village from the air until his family could be safely evacuated. Israel naturally complied.

The supreme importance Iran attributes to the outcome of the war in Lebanon is what is causing it to urge Syria to try to supply weapons of every kind to Hezbollah – on trucks making their way secretly along "military roads," those numerous trails leading from Syria across its border with Lebanon.

It may be assumed that the IAF has prepared an extensive and detailed bombing timetable.

Another important role for the IAF is to support the Israeli ground forces moving northward in the direction of the Litani River, in order to make sure to crush Hezbollah at least in that area of south Lebanon, from the border with Israel to the Litani River.

The fighters of Israel's infantry units are now being sent to war, reminding us of their importance to Israel's security for many years to come.

Neglecting them has been a colossal mistake. The cutbacks in their training exercises and the closing down of reserve units must stop.

The outcome of this war will be a measure of the United States' standing in the Middle East. U.S. President George W. Bush understands this well, which is why, besides his basic friendship for Israel, he is trying to enable Israel to achieve as much as possible on the battlefield.

It was unpleasant for Defence Minister Amir Peretz to hear U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hint last week in Jerusalem that she was disappointed with the IDF's achievements because the current situation has not yet enabled the United States to broker an American settlement for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

The administration knows that it is not only Iran trying to cause this type of initiative to fail. Russian President Vladimir Putin is craftily exploiting anything he can to undermine America's standing in the Middle East so Russia can take its place.

That is how the abduction of Israeli soldiers and this war in Lebanon, which the current government of Israel was dragged into against its will, has turned into a major acid test in the struggle between Islamofascism – which is trying to use the Kremlin to its own ends – and the American president's campaign for democratization and peace in the Middle East.

An Israeli victory could prevent a third world war.

# *World must deal with Iran*

**Continued from page 1**

The international community has to make it possible for the Lebanese government to be able to govern free of threat – to marginalize Hezbollah's capacity to browbeat and to threaten, to fulfil 1559 to the maximum."

Looking at the wider picture, Lubrani said stability in this region and beyond required facing up to the threat posed by Iran. "The wider reality here is that we are at the beginning of a much wider confrontation," he said. "There are those who prefer not to think or talk about it. There are those who believe Iran can be talked to, reasoned with. Don't count me among them."

Regarding Iran, Lubrani elaborated that "the world has to come to the conclusion that the Iranian threat requires root-canal treatment. I take [President Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad seriously. People think he's a clown, a buffoon. He's not."

Leaders of the Iranian hardline regime, he said, "believe they have a direct line to God, and they'll do whatever 'divine inspiration' requires them to do. Talking to them is pointless. They want to wipe out the U.S., and us, too, in the bargain, as the representatives of western culture. This can't be swept under the carpet."

Turning his attention to the buildup to the current conflict, Lubrani said Israel erred in not raising a diplomatic rumpus over Hezbollah's arms accumulation in the six years since Israel withdrew from the security zone to the international border. "We let them put us to sleep for six years while they built up an arsenal. And we did nothing, not even diplomatically. That was our screw-up.

"When they built up this array of missiles, this arsenal, they knew it wasn't planned for use against Syria or Turkey. It was clearly for use exclusively against us. They built this up even though they knew we had left Lebanon, that we never had designs on its territory, that we weren't going to carry out attacks there since we were obligated to an internationally demarcated border line. We almost never responded to provocations at the border.

"We should have prompted an international scandal. The United Nations Security Council passed a binding resolution, 1559, backed by all, celebrated by all, and it wasn't being fulfilled. We should have said [to the UN], 'Either you ensure that 1559 is implemented, or we will.' We should have created the climate to legitimize the actions we needed to have taken."

Now, Israel has to insist that 1559 – a resolution, he noted, that France co-initiated – is fully implemented.

The international force set to deploy, he added, "has to be supplied with effective teeth."

Hundreds of North American Jews will be "Living the Dream," making Aliyah to Israel this summer.

*Tuesday, August 15, 2006:*
Two Aliyah flights will depart from New York and Toronto enroute to Israel. A third flight, from London, England, will join them at Ben Gurion Airport.

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# Spanish leader leads anti-Israel chorus

By JEROME SOCOLOVSKY
JTA

**MADRID** — The prime minister poses for a photo wearing a Palestinian headdress. The opposition accuses him of anti-Semitism and "Israelophobia."

The war between Israel and Hezbollah is having repercussions in Spain in ways not seen before. After decades of pro-Arab sympathies, Spanish governments in recent years have made efforts to moderate their views on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But amid the latest flare-up of violence, the Socialist prime minister, José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has been one of the fiercest critics of Israel in the European Union, accusing it of using "abusive force" and failing to learn what he sees as the lessons of the Iraq war – that military action produces "radicalization, fanaticism and instability."

At a July 19 rally, Zapatero was photographed wearing a keffiyah, the Palestinian headdress that in Europe symbolizes the radical anti-Israeli left.

Even though Zapatero didn't put the keffiyah on himself – a member of the Al Fatah youth group did so – the prime minister later said he didn't regret posing for the photo, and would do it again.

"When in the heat of a tough and bloody war, the prime minister of a country wears the Palestinian symbol and doesn't do something similar with a Jewish symbol, he is sending plenty of messages, none of which are of neutrality," Pilar Rahola, a pro-Israel commentator, wrote in the *El Pais* newspaper. "Do we need a reminder that that quaint symbol is also used to fire tens of thousands of rockets against Israel, or to indoctrinate suicide bombers?"

Zapatero's comments and keffiyah pose led Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, to say that the "Spanish prime minister wears his anti-Israel bias on his sleeve."

Zapatero was elected following massive terror bombings on the Spanish train system in March 2004 and immediately pulled Spanish troops out of Iraq.

He has been promoting an "alliance of civilizations" as an alternative to U.S. President George W. Bush administration's war on terrorism, arguing that the threat from Islamic terrorism should be reduced not through military action but through dialogue and mutual understanding between Islam and the West.

José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero

José Maria Lassalle Ruiz, a member of Parliament representing Spain's conservative Popular Party, said Zapatero's idealism is leading him to see everything as "good guys vs. bad guys," blinding him to the complexities of the Middle East conflict.

"He wasted no time in rising to Olympian heights of progressivism with the wings of his dove disguise" and "attacking Israel, blaming it for virtually everything," Ruiz wrote in the *ABC* newspaper.

Ruiz acknowledged that popular sentiment in Spain is anti-Israeli, and he accused Zapatero of pandering to it.

Indeed, protesters burned an Israeli flag at a demonstration in front of the Israeli Embassy, while Spanish media have focused on the suffering of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians and underreported the threat to Israel.

The Portuguese Nobel laureate Jose Saramago wrote in *El Pais*, "As long as a single Palestinian is still alive, the holocaust will continue."

The stepped-up criticism began in late June, as Israel responded with military strikes in the Gaza Strip to the killing of two soldiers and kidnapping of a third by Hamas. At the time, the president of the Madrid regional government, Esperanza Aguirre, made a trip to Israel.

Aguirre wanted to see if Israeli water-management technology could be used in the greater Madrid area, where reservoirs are running low after two years of sustained drought. When she returned, the head of the Socialist faction in the regional assembly criticized her for going while Israeli tanks were "mercilessly invading Gaza."

The Socialist politician said Aguirre's visit had helped legitimize "the aggressive, warlike and I would even say genocidal policy by the State of Israel toward Palestine and its population."

Then Zapatero added his voice.

At a Socialist Party meeting several days after Israel began retaliating for a July 12 Hezbollah attack that left eight Israeli soldiers dead and two captured, Zapatero criticized the death of civilians and said the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq "has only produced radicalization, fanaticism and instability."

He said it should serve as a "lesson for always, that there should not be another unjustified and illegal military intervention."

When Socialist Party official José Blanco went further and said Lebanese civilians were "deliberate targets" for the Israeli military, Zapatero defended him. He also responded to criticism that his foreign policy was anti-Semitic.

"When somebody disagrees with Spain, you don't have to call him anti-Spanish," he said, "and when somebody criticizes Israel, there's no need to call him an anti-Semite."

The allegation of anti-Semitism had been levelled by Mauricio Hatchwell, a prominent Spanish Jewish businessman who is a member of a commission investigating Nazi gold transactions during World War II.

Several days later, Gustavo de Aristegui, the Popular Party's chief foreign affairs spokesperson in Parliament, backed up Hatchwell's accusation, saying Zapatero's views on Israel are the product of "anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and Israelophobia."

He said the prime minister had gone further than other European leaders in criticizing Israeli military actions.

"We think it's scandalous," de Aristegui told the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. "Far from adopting a balanced position, he only referred to the State of Israel and didn't talk about 1559" – the U.N. Security Council resolution that calls for disarming and disbanding all militias in Lebanese territory – "and at all times avoided criticizing Hezbollah."

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# *Blair optimistic about ceasefire*

By JONNY PAUL
*Jerusalem Post*

**LONDON** — British Prime Minister Tony Blair says he's hopeful a United Nations resolution will be agreed to soon, paving the way for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Speaking last Thursday at a monthly news conference at 10 Downing Street, Blair said, "I'm now hopeful we will have such a resolution down very shortly and agreed within the next few days. The purpose of that will be to bring about an immediate ceasefire and then put in place the conditions for the international force to come in support of the Lebanese government."

Calling it a "very critical time," Blair said Britian, the United States and France have "been working very hard" on a UN Security Council resolution and that remaining differences were very slight.

Blair refused to condemn Israel's actions as "disproportionate." Instead, he called for restraint on both sides.

"The solution will not come by condemning one side simply by statements we make. It will only come with a ceasefire on both sides," he said.

He did, however, condemn comments by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who said last Thursday that the main cure to the Lebanese conflict was "the elimination of the Zionist regime."

"We do need some balance on how we look at this situation, with the Iranian president's call for the elimination of Israel, how helpful is that at this moment in time?" Blair asked.

Blair said it's vital to have a genuine ceasefire as well as security on Israel's northern border. He also said the death of civilians is unacceptable.

"The loss of civilian life in Lebanon is unacceptable. What is happening in Lebanon is a catastrophe, and it's my job to make sure it stops," Blair said.

"I stand in complete solidarity and sympathy with people in Lebanon, innocent people who have died in Israel as well, in what is a terrible, terrible situation, but my job is to bring it to an end," he said.

Blair also called for a "revival and re-energizing" of the internationally sponsored "road map" Mideast peace plan, once the Lebanon conflict calms down.

# Israeli military, civilian losses in the conflict with Hezbollah

The following are the names of the Israeli civilian and military casualties in the conflict with Hezbollah as of Aug. 3. Each list includes the victim's name, age and city of origin, and is in chronological order. Israel has lost 67 citizens in the conflict. The names of one soldier and two civilians who were killed on Aug. 3 have not yet been released.

**Civilians:**
Monica Seidman Lehrer, 40, of Nahariya
Nitzan Roseban, 33, of Safed
Omer Pesachov, 7, of Nahariya
Yehudit Itzkovitch, 58, of Meron
Shmuel Ben Shimon, 41, of Yokneam Illit
Asael Damti, 39, of Kiryat Yam
Nissim Elharar, 43, of Kiryat Ata
David Feldman, 28, of Kiryat Yam
Rafi Hazan, 30, of Haifa
Dennis Lapidos, 24, of Kiryat Yam
Reuven Levy, 46, of Kiryat Ata
Shlomi Mansura, 35, of Nahariya
Andrei Zelinksy, 36, of Nahariya
Rabia Abed Taluzi, 3, of Nazareth
Mahmoud Taluzi, 7, of Nazareth
Shimon Glickblich, 60, of Haifa
Habib Isa Awad, 48, of Iblin
Dou'a Abbas, 15, of Kfar Mrar
David Lalshouk, 52, of Kibbutz Sa'ar
Shimon Zaribi, 44, of Acre
Mazal Zaribi, 15, of Acre
Albert Ben-Abu, 41, of Acre
Sanati Sanati, 17, of Tarshisha
Amir Naeem, 17, of Tarshisha
Mohammed Fahur, 17, of Tarshisha

**Military**
Sgt.-Maj.(res.) Eyal Benin, 22, of Beersheba
Sgt.-Maj.(res.) Shani Turgeman, 24, of Beit Shean
Sgt.-Maj. Wassim Nazal, 26, of Yanuah
Staff Sgt. Alexei Kushnirski, 21, of Nes Ziona
Staff Sgt. Yaniv Bar-on, 20, of Maccabim
Sgt. Gadi Mosayev, 20, of Acre
Sgt. Shlomi Yirmiyahu, 20, of Rishon le-Zion
Sgt. Nimrod Cohen, 19, of Mitzpe Shalem
Staff Sgt. Tal Amgar, 21, of Ashdod
Sgt. Yaniv Hershkovitz, 21, of Haifa
Cpl. Shai Atias, 19, of Rishon le-Zion
1st Sgt. Dov Steinshuss, 37, of Carmiel
Staff Sgt. Yonatan Hadasi, 21, of Kibbutz Merhavia
Staff Sgt. Yotam Gilboa, 21, of Kibbutz Maoz Haim
Maj. Benjamin (Benji) Hillman, 27, of Maccabim Re'ut
Staff Sgt. Refanael Muskal, 21, of Mazkeret Batya
Staff Sgt. Nadav Baeloha, 21, of Carmiel
Staff Sgt. Liran Saadia, 21, of Kiryat Shmona
Staff Sgt. Yonatan (Sergei) Vlasyuk, 21, of Kibbutz Lahav
Maj. Ran Yehoshua Kochva, 37, of Beit Hanania
2nd Lt. Lotan Slavin, 21, of Hatzeva
Staff Sgt. Kobi Smileg, 20, of Rehovot
Col. Zvi Luft, 42, of Kibbutz Hogla
1st Lt. Tom Farkash, 23, of Caesarea
Maj. Ro'i Klein, 31, of Eli
Lt. Amihai Merhavia, 24, of Eli
Lt. Alexander Shwartzman, 24, of Acre
Sgt. Shimon Adega, 21, of Kiryat Gat
Staff Sgt. Edan Cohen, 21, of Jaffa
Staff Sgt. Shimon Dahan, 20, of Ashdod
Cpl. Ohad Klausner, 20, of Bet Horon
Cpl. Assaf Namer, 27, of Kiryat Yam.
Lt. Yiftah Shreirer, 21, of Haifa
Staff Sgt. Yonatan Einhorn, 22, of Gizmo.
Lt. Ilan Gabai, 21, of Kiryat Tivon
Sgt. Michael Levine, 22, of Jerusalem
Sgt. Adi Cohen, 18, of Hadera
Sgt. Itamar Zur, 19, of Be'er Tuvia
Sgt. Andrei Brudner, 18, of Rishon le-Zion.

*– Compiled by JTA Staff*

**Israelis, standing at the entrance to a bomb shelter, grieve at the news of a death. [Reuters/RNS photo]**

## Israel Briefs

***Kana death figure revised***

A Lebanese hospital has revised the death toll from the Israeli attack on Qana to 28, down from initial reports that as many as 57 people were killed. An Israeli army inquiry found that an intelligence failure led to the attack on the southern Lebanese village. The army said it fired missiles because it believed Hezbollah fighters were sheltered there, not civilians.

***Peretz links Hezbollah, Iran***

Israel's defence minister described Hezbollah as an advance fighting force for Iran. "Hezbollah is Iran's advance commando unit. In effect, it is the Iranian vanguard," Amir Peretz said in a televised address to Israeli troops. "Had these events happened a year from now, and were combined with a nuclear threat that would already be in the works, the State of Israel would have found itself in a much more complex situation," Peretz said.

***Ex-spy chief: Talk to Iran***

A former Israeli spymaster called for talks with Iran aimed at ending the crisis in Lebanon. Efraim Halevy, a former head of the Mossad, said that along with trying to force Hezbollah to free two soldiers abducted last month, Israel should be speaking to the militia's sponsors in Iran. The remarks were unlikely to be taken seriously by Israeli officials, who have publicly ruled out negotiations on the hostages, or with Iran, whose president calls for the Jewish state's destruction.

***UJC sets fundraising goal***

The United Jewish Communities wants to raise at least $300 million (US) for Israel. The efforts by the umbrella group for North American Jewish federations, which have been ongoing for several weeks, have garnered $84 million so far, a spokesperson said. The revamped Israel Emergency Campaign is meant to usher in a new wave of fundraising that will include events in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, as well as a solidarity mission to Israel for major donors. As of last Thursday, UIA Federations Canada had sent $3.5 million to Israel from across Canada. Of that, $2.9 million was the cash portion of the $8.5 million in pledges made to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "We're committed to trying to reach the $40 million mark," said Perry Romberg, UIAFC's director of campaign and community services.

*– JTA and Frances Kraft*

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# Canadian campers hang with Galilee teens in Israel

By JOEL JACOBSON
*Atlantic Correspondent*

The Partnership 2000 program is living up to its goal of creating a "living bridge" between Israel and the Diaspora.

Young Israelis from the Galilee met last week in Israel with their counterparts from Camp Kadimah in Barss Corner, N.S., building links between themselves and the Canadian youths. That's exactly the aim of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership 2000 project, which hopes to build relationships between Jewish communities in Israel and the Diaspora. In Canada, part of the goal has been to connect smaller communities in Halifax, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver with towns in the northern Galilee.

Some 120 young Canadians have been in Israel since early July as part of the six-week Canadian Young Judea Experience. Thirty-six of them are with the Kadimah Israel program, a bridge connecting their final year as campers at Kadimah (ages 15 and 16) with their year at the camp as counsellors-in-training (age 16 and 17).

In past years, some of that time was spent in northern Israel, where Atlantic Canadian United Israel Appeal dollars have been of great assistance. But this year, due to ongoing Hezbollah rocket attacks on the north, the Canadians have been touring southern Israel, where the Kadimah campers, including five from the Atlantic region, met teens from the Galilee in a *mifgash* (encounter). Several of the Israelis have been in Canada, either at Kadimah for a summer or representing Israeli youth at various programs.

Through the efforts of Sharon Schwartzman and Nurit Biderman, Israelis who are working with Partnership 2000, 17 young Israelis were brought from northern to southern Israel to spend a week with the Canadians.

"Some of the [Israeli] kids were at Camp Kadimah with us," said Aubrey Cohen, 16, of Toronto, by telephone from Israel. "It was great seeing them again, and to meet new people. For them to make the trip from the north makes it that much more exciting."

Schwartzman and Biderman "located families in bomb shelters or in a refugee status away from their homes, then found the kids," said Lorne Klemensberg, director of Israel Programs for Canada Israel Experience. "There were so many issues for the youths, damage to their areas, having to leave home quickly and it's certainly a time the families want to be together."

He said "that we still wanted to continue the [Partnership 2000] 'Living Bridge' project with what's been going on" and that the teens' parents were overjoyed to have their children included in the Kadimah experience.

Klemensberg said both groups of kids are "having an amazing time. For a week, at least, the Israelis can forget about the war."

Toronto's Meredith Bacal, 17, who's attended Camp Kadimah for five years, said the Canadian group was in Tiberias when they were moved to Jerusalem as the conflict escalated.

**Canadians from Nova Scotia's Camp Kadimah spent a week with teens from the Galilee as part of their time in Israel this summer.**

"We were concerned, but where we are now, we're sheltered and protected. We certainly know what's going on, but [trip leaders] tell us what's appropriate. My mom has said I can come home any time, that she'd book the ticket, but I feel completely safe."

Prior to arriving in Israel, the Canadians spent four days in Poland learning about the Holocaust. They were slated to return to Canada Aug. 10.

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Me Avi Bitton, Attorney with the Paris Bar association, represented in Canada by Me Annie Kenane, Attorney.

Following the case Lipietz v. S.N.C.F. and State France, the Administrative court of Toulouse has issued a judgement, on the 6th of June 2006, sentencing a national railroad company S.N.C.F. and the State of France to pay damages to heirs of the victims of the Shoah for transporting and interning the said victims in conditions incompatible with human dignity of the French territory.

All direct victims, legal heirs and other relatives should contact Me Annie Kenane representing Me Avi Bitton, French Attorney representing these cases in France **before September 1st 2006 against the S.N.C.F.** and December 31st 2007 against the state of France.

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# *World Jewish Congress drops suit against critic*

By URIEL HEILMAN
*JTA*

**JERUSALEM** — A long, ugly and public brouhaha at the World Jewish Congress seems to have reached a quiet end, with the termination of a lawsuit brought by the group and its longtime leader against the chief critic of the WJC's financial management.

The withdrawal of the defamation suit against Isi Leibler by Rabbi Israel Singer, now chairman of the WJC's policy council, ends a two-year saga that brought into public view a spat between two Jewish communal leaders, exposed financial mismanagement at the WJC and tarnished the reputation of the 70-year-old organization.

The WJC announced in an internal newsletter last week that its steering committee "is withdrawing its lawsuit against Isi Leibler without prejudice and takes Leibler at his word that he will cease his 'war' and other agitation against the organization and its leadership."

The move came days after the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, an Australian group that is affiliated with the WJC, announced it was quitting the international organization. That followed a warning by the Australians several weeks ago that they would quit the organization unless WJC leaders in New York dropped the lawsuit by July 25.

Leibler, a former senior vice-president of the WJC who is a native of Australia, said he feels vindicated – as he did when the New York state attorney general's report on the WJC came out six months ago.

That report found that the WJC lacked "appropriate financial controls" and made "inappropriate disbursements" to top WJC officials, including $300,000 (US) to Rabbi Singer. But it did not find any criminal misconduct.

In an interview with JTA, Leibler suggested that the filing of the defamation lawsuit against him by WJC leaders in New York – WJC president Edgar Bronfman, Rabbi Singer, and WJC secretary-general Stephen Herbits – was a case of hubris gone overboard.

"Arrogance and rage led them into this irrational libel suit, which simply drew attention to everything and made this whole scandal continue," Leibler said. "I just hope the World Jewish Congress has learned a lesson, and I hope they find new leaders and implement the reforms of the attorney general."

Before the release of the attorney general's report, Rabbi Singer had accused Leibler of using "McCarthyite tactics in a situation where he had no substance." Reached by phone last week, Rabbi Singer declined to comment.

The lawsuit against Leibler – whose 12-page memo two years ago set off the controversy with questions about the group's governance and financial management – was dropped without fanfare.

Other WJC officials in New York declined to discuss the matter with JTA. A statement by Herbits suggested the organization wants to shift its focus away from internecine bickering toward matters of greater substance to the Jewish people.

"At this time of increased peril to Israel and the Jewish people, it is time to focus on the organization's critical work on behalf of Jews and Jewish communities around the world," Herbits said in the statement. "Jewish communities around the world are united by their support for Israel, the commitment to seeing the safe return of their soldiers and the fight against terrorism. That is our united focus. Anything else is secondary."

Grahame Leonard, president of the Australian Jewish organization, which had withdrawn from the WJC, said Australian Jewry would not be so quick to return to the WJC.

"I'm more than happy at the decision" to drop the lawsuit against Leibler, Leonard said, "but it does not mean we will automatically return to the fold. We made it very clear that we stay out until we are sure there is fair and proper governance in place and that the WJC is being run in a manner fitting to such an important body. I am looking forward to hearing from them."

*JTA correspondent Henry Benjamin in Sydney, Australia, contributed to this report.*

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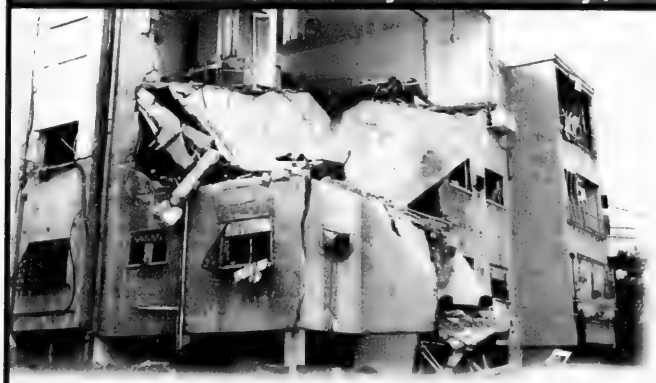

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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## TORONTONIAN'S PORTRAITS OF JAPANESE VILLAGERS ON EXHIBIT

Toronto artist **Vivian Reiss** was the only representational painter invited to participate in the 2006 Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial in Japan this summer. "Satoyama Storehouse," her series of portraits of villagers in Hachi, Japan, went on view July 28. The entire rural village (population 140) attended the opening to see a unique and unexpected reflection of themselves.

Reiss, who has been living in the Hachi community and immersing herself in the culture, also has a solo exhibit of portraiture of Canadians in the arts currently on view in Tokyo. Subjects include dancer **Peggy Baker**, restaurateur-chef **Jamie Kennedy**, concert pianist **Eve Egoyan** and fashion maven **Jeanne Beker**.

After their display in Japan, both sets of portraits are scheduled for exhibit at Toronto's Reiss Gallery in late fall. For a sneak preview, visit the website www.msnusers.com/satoya-mastorhouse/shoebox.msnw.

* * *

**Bookstore Imbroglio:** The scene, a gathering at a major bookstore in Kitchener in 2004. Toronto author **Howard Rotberg** had just started reading from his first novel, *The Second Catastrophe* – a book highly supportive of Israel – when all hell broke loose.

The source of the trouble was two men, a self-described Iraqi Kurd and a Palestinian, who disrupted the event with anti-Israel rants and an anti-Semitic epithet. After the shouting had died down, the bookstore compounded Rotberg's sense of injury by blaming him as well as the provocateurs for the incident, then pulling his book from the shelf.

He supplied affidavits from witnesses to confirm his version of events, but still his book was "banned" (Rotberg's term). "Suddenly, I was in an Orwellian world where the victim of racism was now the racist," he later wrote.

The good news is that the book chain has apparently relented and put the novel back in stock. Rotberg reports that the store's main Toronto branch (at Bloor and Bay streets) recently ordered 30 copies. While he said he had no idea whether the order was by accident or design, he's happy the public will finally have a "window of opportunity" to buy the book.

"With Canadian public opinion split equally about our government making moderately pro-Israel noises, it would be nice to encourage [the bookstore] to carry a pro-Israel book," he said.

* * *

**Names in the News: Marty Green** brought his musical version of Y.L. Peretz's Yiddish poem *The Ballad of Monish* to the Winnipeg Fringe Festival in late July. The poem is a Faustian spoof about a talmudic prodigy led astray by the devil. Green has previously performed the work in Toronto, Montreal, Florida and Colorado. His website address is www.onforeignsoil.com.

* * *

**Summer Camp for Peace:** Thirty young people, mostly from Israel and the Palestinian territories, are enrolled in Peace It Together 2006, a summer camp on Galliano Island, B.C., that focuses on conflict resolution and transformation through filmmaking. The participants, including some Canadian youth from multicultural backgrounds, were selected by the Creative Peace Network. The camp began Aug. 4 and concludes Aug. 20 with a gala film screening in Vancouver.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

**Vivian Reiss' Japanese portraits will be exhibited in Toronto this fall.**

• Renowned Israeli pianist **Menahem Pressler** joins celebrated violinist Ian Swensen on stage at the Toronto Summer Music Festival. They will play a repertoire of **Mozart** and **Beethoven** favourites. MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park. Sunday, Aug. 12, 8 p.m.

• **The Sisters of Sheynville** are at the Rex Hotel Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St. W. Sunday, Aug. 13, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. 416-599-2475

• Mezzo-soprano **Renee Barda** performs at the Scarborough Arts Council's 22nd Arts Festival in the gardens of the Guild Inn by the Bluffs, 201 Guildwood Parkway (416-698-7322), Aug. 13, 3 p.m. She also performs at Mel Lastman Square Aug. 14 and 21. 416-395-7582

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After all, points out the Cafe's event manager Marcelo DeOliveira, it was a Hard Rock crew that provided backstage catering for last year's Live8 concert, as well as its illustrious predecessor, Live Aid, two decades prior.

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Says DeOliveira: "We've hosted countless bar and bat mitzvahs, corporate receptions, product launches, press conferences and weddings. We've put on events for 50 guests and for 500, hosting everyone from Deloitte & Touche to the big music company BMG. And people love the place. It's a very special environment."

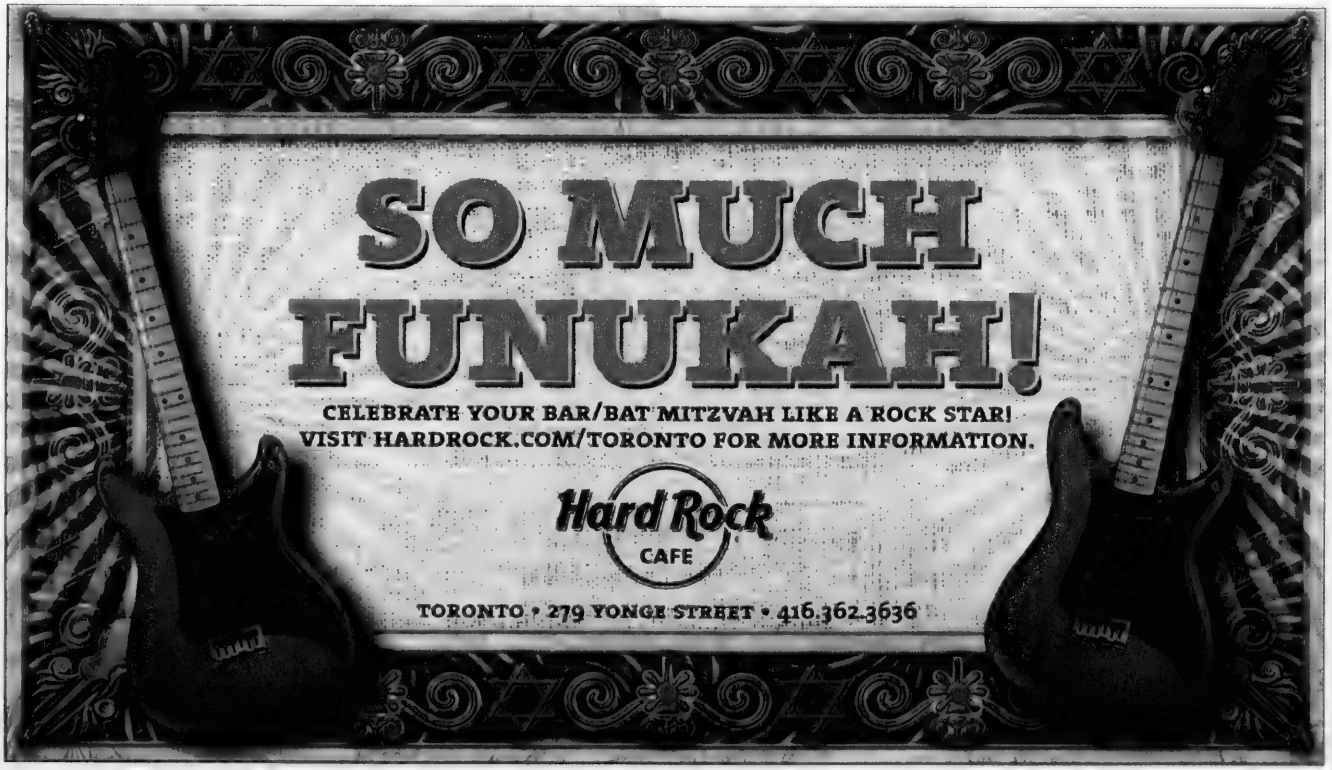
As if to make his point, DeOliveira walks a visitor past some of the priceless rock memorabilia hanging on the wall. There's Bob Dylan's autographed guitar from the cover of a 1984 live album and a handmade mariachi suit he wore on tour. There's a pair of sketches by John Lennon, a fur-trimmed purple jacket that belonged to Prince, and an outrageous pair of platform shoes from the closet of Stanley Eisen—better known as Paul Stanley of Kiss. That's not to mention the beautiful custom instrument once owned by Canadian guitar virtuoso, Alex Lifeson, of Rush.

DeOliveira explains that his staff will design exactly the experience a guest is looking for. "You can do a sit-down dinner or a buffet—for instance, our bar and bat mitzvah buffet includes, among other things, lox canapes, spanikopita, caesar salad, roasted chicken and lasagna. We have great sound, great lighting and video monitors throughout the Cafe. We can set up for dancing or karaoke. We can even put together really fun loot bags from our Rock Shop. Whatever you need. Because to us—whether you're a certified public accountant or a certified 13-year-old—you're a rock star."

Hard Rock CAFE

***For more information, contact Marcelo DeOliveira,***

***Hard Rock Cafe, Yonge St. at Dundas. 416-362-3636. hardrock.com/toronto.***



# 'Canada's Steven Spielberg' profiled by CBC-TV

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Robert Lantos, the son of Hungarian Holocaust survivors, is Canada's answer to Hollywood's Steven Spielberg.

In terms of box-office receipts, visibility and clout, Lantos is hardly a match for Spielberg, the most successful director of his generation.

But in Canada, Lantos is king, a homegrown movie mogul who has produced a succession of fine films, notably *Sunshine* and *Exotica*, and high-profile television shows.

Sometimes referred to as "the godfather of Canadian cinema," Lantos has lived life to the fullest as he has struggled to escape the ghosts of the past.

Not bad for a guy whose father was a forced labourer during the Nazi occupation of Hungary and who fought off anti-Semitic taunts in a Uruguayan high school.

The subject of Peter Gentile's absorbing CBC-TV documentary, *The Outsider: The Life & Times of Robert Lantos*, which will be aired on Aug. 14 at 8 p.m., Lantos has come a long way since his birth in Budapest after World War II.

Lantos' parents, Laszlo and Agnes, regarded their son as a harbinger of hope. But life was hard in postwar Hungary. Laszlo's trucking business was expropriated by the Communist government, and in 1956, the Soviet army invaded Hungary, prompting the family to flee to South America.

He and his parents remained in Uruguay, supposedly a land of milk and honey compared to Hungary, for only a few years. But for Lantos, the object of anti-Jewish jeers from his fellow students, Uruguay seemed anything but congenial.

Due, perhaps, to these incidents and the Holocaust, Lantos' parents did not raise him as a Jew. Today, however, he has returned to his Jewish roots. Two weeks ago, as Israeli soldiers fought Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon, he appeared at an Israel solidarity rally in Toronto

In 1963, after immigrating to Canada, the Lantos family settled in Montreal, a melting pot of Quebecois and new immigrants like themselves. Only at this point, when Lantos is about to enter McGill University as a major in literature and cinema, does the documentary begin to concentrate on the trajectory of his career as a budding mogul.

Along with his friend and future business partner, Victor Loewy, Lantos brought the New York Erotic Film Festival to the staid McGill Film Society. Buoyed by his success, Lantos formed a movie distribution company and then produced a racy film, *In Praise of Older Women*, that established him as an up-and-coming force in the industry.

Temporarily blocked by the Ontario Censor Board as obscene, *In Praise of Older Women* was a turning point in his life. Hollywood beckoned and offered Lantos jobs. But he chose to stay in Canada, where he felt he had a future.

**Robert Lantos**

The Canadian film industry was tailor-made for an outsider like Lantos. As he puts it, "When films first began, it was something that drew only outsiders and immigrants because it was a new field wide open to all, as opposed to having an establishment and kind of clubby atmosphere in which only insiders were welcome."

Riding high after his success with *In Praise of Older Women*, Lantos churned out a series of forgettable tax-shelter films and created Alliance Entertainment, for which he produced prize-winning films like *Black Robe* and television shows such as *Night Heat*.

Under the strain of a heavy work load, his marriage to the actress Jennifer Dale floundered, but it produced two children, Ari and Sabrina, who appear to be close to him.

Gentile suggests that Lantos is a hard-nosed character. "Robert is a really tough business guy, fair but tough," says an associate, one of several acquaintances and friends who appear in *The Outsider*.

Lantos, who models himself after the legendary Hungarian filmmaker Alexander Korda and essentially regards himself as a storyteller, agrees with the assessment that he is no soft touch when it comes to business. His late father taught him to be hard, cynical, suspicious and constantly on guard. But to the people he loves, he is supposedly gentle, generous and loyal.

Judging by his comments, Lantos regards *Sunshine* – a film about Hungarian Jews – as his most personal film and *Joshua Then and Now* as one of his favourites. But as the actor Jeremy Irons observes, Lantos is fiercely protective of all his films.


Class Environmental Assessment Study

## Earl Bales Park Area Stormwater Management Plan

### Notice of Study Completion

The City of Toronto has completed its Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to identify a preferred method(s) for managing stormwater runoff in the Earl Bales Park drainage area. Opportunities for increasing stormwater source controls are limited because most of the catchment area already meets the City's enhanced targets, while conveyance controls were limited by the clay soils. The components of the preferred alternative include the construction of a large stormwater pond in the valley of Earl Bales Park to meet provincial water quality objectives for urban stormwater runoff, various ravine restoration measures, water substitution for golf course irrigation and snowmaking, and preservation of local terrestrial habitats.

The project was undertaken in accordance with the requirements for Schedule 'B' projects under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000). A Study Report has been prepared which describes the problem, the assessment of alternatives and the preferred alternative as well as the public consultation process and its results. This Notice places the report on public record for a 30-day review period. Subject to comments received as a result of this Notice, the City of Toronto intends to proceed with this project. The Study Report is available for review at the following locations:

**North York Central Library**
5120 Yonge Street
(Reference Desk)
Tel: 416-395-5535

**Earl Bales Community Centre**
4169 Bathurst Street
(Site Office)
Tel: 416-395-7873

**Urban Affairs Library**
Metro Hall, Main Floor
55 John Street
Tel: 416-397-7241

Please call to confirm hours of operation.

Interested parties should provide written comments within 30 calendar days from the date of this Notice. Comments should be addressed to:

Ms. Josie Giordano, Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto,
Metro Hall, 55 John Street, 19th Floor, Toronto, ON M5V 3C6
Tel: 416-338-2859
Fax: 416-392-2974
TTY: 416-397-0831
E-mail: jgiorda@toronto.ca

If concerns arise regarding this project, which cannot be resolved in discussions with the City of Toronto, a person or party may request that the Minister of the Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (referred to as a Part II Order) which addresses individual environmental assessments. The Minister must receive requests for a Part II Order by August 28, 2006.

Please send requests to: The Honourable Laurel C. Broten, Minister of the Environment, 12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5, Tel: 416-314-6790, or Fax: 416-314-7337. A copy of the request for a Part II Order must also be sent to the City of Toronto at the address listed above. If there is no request for a Part II Order received by August 28, 2006, the City will proceed with the implementation of the preferred solution as presented in the Study Report.

This Notice issued July 28, 2006

TORONTO

# Hollywood quiet on Gibson's anti-Semitic outburst

By TOM TUGEND
*JTA*

**LOS ANGELES** — Hollywood's top guns have answered actor-director Mel Gibson's vicious anti-Semitic slurs – with deafening silence.

Gibson, director of the controversial *The Passion of the Christ*, was pulled over in the early hours of July 28 while speeding along the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, Calif. He was booked on suspicion of drunk driving.

In the original report filed by the arresting officer, Gibson was described as belligerent and cursing the "F-----g Jews. The Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world."

Mel Gibson

He then asked Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy James Mee, "Are you a Jew?"

In an apology a few days later to "everyone in the Jewish community," Gibson admitted to the anti-Semitic slur and asked to meet with Jewish leaders "with whom I can have a one-on-one discussion to discern the appropriate path for healing."

Gibson added that "there is no excuse, nor should there be any tolerance, for anyone who thinks or expresses any kind of anti-Semitic remark. Please know from my heart that I am not an anti-Semite. I am not a bigot. Hatred of any kind goes against my faith."

Prior to Gibson's statement, attempts by *JTA* to elicit reactions from some 15 leading Jewish producers, directors, actors and writers proved fruitless. A remarkably large number were said to be on vacation or out of the country, while others did not return messages.

> *'Everyone takes it for granted that Gibson is an anti-Semite'*

Even Alan Nierob, a Jewish man who is Gibson's official spokesperson, was said to be on a two-week vacation at the height of his employer's crisis.

Well-connected entertainment industry journalists ran into the same reticence. Michael Speier, managing editor of the trade publication *Variety*, explained the reluctance to speak out in this way: "In Hollywood, you can never help yourself by saying something critical on the record. You don't want to piss anyone off because you never know when you might need him later on. Who knows, in a few years Gibson might be a changed man and give $10 million to the Anti-Defamation League."

> *'Standing up against bigotry is more important than money'*

Bernie Brillstein, a veteran talent agent and manager, said, "Hollywood is a small company town and you figure everyone is entitled to his position. Anyway, everybody takes it for granted that Gibson is an anti-Semite, so people say, 'Well, he did it again.'"

However, he added, "if Gibson's statement, if true, had been anti-gay or anti-black, there would be an uprising in Hollywood like you've never seen before."

Jewish defence organizations, usually quick to respond to anti-Semitic slurs, were initially a bit muted. But Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League and a fierce critic of Gibson's 2004 film *The Passion of the Christ*, said, "We would hope that Hollywood now would realize the bigot in their midst and that they will distance themselves from this anti-Semite."

After Gibson's specific apology to the Jewish community, Foxman said it "sounds sincere" and that after Gibson's "rehabilitation for alcohol abuse, we will be ready and willing to help him with his second rehabilitation to combat this disease of prejudice."

David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, also welcomed the apology and said "we look forward" to "Gibson matching his contrition with his own deeds."

The one exception to the general silence in Hollywood was talent agent Ari Emanuel, the model for agent Ari Gold in the HBO series *Entourage* and brother of Congressman Rahm Emanuel.

In a widely circulated statement to *The Huffington Post* blog, www.Huffingtonpost.com, Emanuel said, "At a time of escalating tensions in the world, the entertainment industry cannot idly stand by and allow Mel Gibson to get away with such tragically inflammatory statements. When *The Passion of the Christ* came out, Gibson was quoted as categorically denying anti-Semitism attributed to him.

"Now we know the truth… People in the entertainment community, whether Jew or gentile, need to demonstrate that they understand how much is at stake in this by professionally shunning Mel Gibson and refusing to work with him, even if it means a sacrifice to their bottom line. There are times in history when standing up against bigotry and racism is more important than money."

While many in Hollywood have privately praised Emanuel's gutsiness, hardly any were willing to emulate him. It has been left largely to some outspoken bloggers to hold Gibson to account.

After scoring Hollywood executives and talent for lack of moral courage and putting dollars ahead of principle, commentator and author Arianna Huffington urged Disney studios to scrap plans to distribute Gibson's next film, *Apocalypto*, or to show his miniseries on the Holocaust on ABC-TV.

ABC, which is owned by Disney, announced it was going ahead with the film but cancelling the Holocaust series, ostensibly because it had yet to see a script.

As to Gibson's future, Huffington said, "it depends on how much pressure Hollywood people will exert in this case," she said.

Such pressure will have to come mainly from the public, said Meyer Gottlieb, president of Samuel Goldwyn Films.

"Personally, and as a child survivor of the Holocaust, I find Gibson's statement despicable and unforgivable. But the public generally forgives a celebrity if he shows contrition and apologizes for his trespasses," Gottlieb said.

The day after his arrest, Gibson issued a written apology, blaming his heavy drinking and history of alcoholism for acting "like a person completely out of control." He added: "I said things that I do not believe to be true and which are despicable. I am deeply ashamed of everything I said."

Some observers have wondered whether Gibson was so drunk when he was pulled over that he had no idea what he was saying. A field test showed a blood-alcohol level of 0.12 per cent, while the legal limit for driving in California is 0.08 per cent.

Gibson entered an alcohol rehabilitation centre late last month and was not available for comment. He is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 28 on the drunk driving charges.

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Arts & Travel

# Unfinished ballet tackles the Holocaust

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
*Special to The CJN*

The Holocaust has been the inspiration for many creative pursuits. Movies, plays and songs have kept the Jewish people's darkest days in the public consciousness.

One arena where the Holocaust hasn't made its mark is in ballet. Donna Greenberg, artistic director of Ballet Espressivo is hoping to change that.

"It's important to use art to understand the events of human history," Greenberg said over the phone from her Toronto home. "When we see dancers not speaking, expressing pain with their bodies and joy when they experience something wonderful, it's very inspiring."

Greenberg, who lost family in the Holocaust, is tackling the story of Mordechai Anielewicz, a courageous resistance fighter who led the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, in an original dance aptly named, *Uprising*.

In seven excerpts, which will be performed during the Toronto International Dance Festival, Greenberg explores the Nazis' brutality and the way Jews survived through love, resistance and perseverance. It's a story that Greenberg wasn't sure she should tackle.

"I saw *Schindler's List* and *The Pianist* and I was really inspired," said the Toronto-born dancer. "But I was afraid I couldn't handle it right. I didn't know if I could be objective enough about this subject. Edmund Fairfax [a ballet scholar] said, 'If you feel that deeply about this story, then go explore it and don't be afraid of feeling these things.'"

Once Greenberg started researching the project, she knew she'd be able to pull it off. Her research included a lot of reading, talking to survivors and attending conferences. "People have sent me letters and poetry," she said. "They've been very generous with their time and memoirs, and I've been immersing myself in this for the last nine months."

But not all her research involved talking to people or reading books. She was also forced to look into her own life. Her grandfather moved to Canada in the 1920s, well before the war, but his family wasn't so lucky. Greenberg lost great-grandparents, great-aunts and many cousins. It was a tragedy her grandfather rarely spoke about.

"He wouldn't talk about these things at all," she said. "He'd get extremely upset when I tried to talk about it, and that bothered me. That made me think about all the people I'd met who have these kinds of stories. How free are they to talk about these things? [Working on the ballet] did help me feel a lot more comfortable dealing with some of these feelings."

Greenberg's passion about her project is evident, so it's surprising to find out that the ballet's not yet completed and, as of now, she's not sure when it will get done.

"The reason is economic," she said. "I don't have the money to finish it. I have to pay the dancers, and it takes a lot of time to go in and work on something."

One way to make money, Greenberg said, is to solicit donations, which is why Ballet Espressivo – the ballet company this veteran dancer started three years ago – recently became a charity. "I've been trying really hard to fundraise. I hope when people see the excerpts they'll be moved."

***Uprising* explores the Nazi brutality and Jewish survival through love and resistance.**

If audience reaction is any indication, donations should soon be pouring in. Greenberg already showed her excerpts once before and the response, she said, was very encouraging. "There are people who have seen the excerpts and it had a very powerful effect on them. I was really shocked at how powerful it was. If they feel that way, just from seeing excerpts, then when we finish it, it'll be fantastic."

Greenberg's ultimate goal isn't to just put on a good show, though. She hopes to provide a new way to learn about the Holocaust. "History is very alive to me. It should be brought forward and cleaned up, like an old building, but keep the old building shining through. Give a new face to old things and you'll see things in a different light."

*Uprising* will be performed at various times throughout the Toronto International Dance Festival from Aug. 11 to 19 at The Distillery Historic District. Call 416-214-5854 or visit www.tidf.org for more information.

It will also be performed at the Ashkenaz Festival at Harbourfront on Sept. 3 at 8 p.m.

# Survivors recall Night of Broken Glass

By JOSEPH SERGE
*Arts Editor*

Acclaimed Churchill biographer and Holocaust scholar Sir Martin Gilbert documents the events leading up to the destruction of Europe's Jewish community in his latest book *Kristallnacht, Prelude to Destruction* (Harper Collins).

With his typical academic brilliance, Gilbert examines the terrifying events of Nov. 10, 1938, Kristallnacht, and how it marked the beginning of the end for Germany's Jews.

He uses two main sources: newspaper accounts from the western media of the time, and interviews with witnesses who survived that black day.

Kristallnacht was a cleverly orchestrated campaign against Germany's Jews initiated by Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels in retaliation for the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris by a young Jew.

In the early hours of Nov. 10, three days after the assassination, Nazi stormtroopers and youths rampaged through Jewish neighbourhoods throughout Germany, destroying ancient synagogues and Jewish property. Around 30,000 Jews were also rounded up and sent to concentration camps.

Gilbert examines the unprecedented government-sanctioned destruction that took place throughout Germany and annexed Austria.

Eyewitnesses who were children at the time recall how Jewish shops were broken into, how synagogue fires burned out of control and how they were awakened by the unmistakable sounds of the Gestapo racing up the stairs to arrest their fathers.

Unlike the Holocaust itself, Kristallnacht was widely reported in the western press. As the *Times* in Britain commented in the next day's paper: "No foreign propaganda bent upon blackening Germany before the world could outdo the tale of burnings and beatings, of blackguards' assaults on defenceless and innocent people, which disgraced the country yesterday."

After Kristallnacht, any hope German Jews had that Nazi anti-Semitism would blow over was shattered like the glass on their streets.

Emigration was their final hope. According to Gilbert, during the 10 months between Kristallnacht and the outbreak of the war, 120,000 German Jews emigrated, compared to 150,000 in the five previous years. But the Nazis' increasingly tough exit visa requirements and the unwillingness of western governments to open their borders sealed the majority's fate.

Fewer than 10,000 German Jews survived the war. Half that number survived in hiding, while the other half survived as a result of the Rosenstrasse protest (Jewish men married to German women were released from captivity after their wives staged a protest).

*Kristallnacht* is a welcome addition to the well-documented and painstakingly researched historical record of the systematic eradication of Germany's Jews.

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Books & Authors

# Love of the land brings together a Jew and a Palestinian Arab

***The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan, Bloomsbury.**

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

Shortly after the 1967 Six Day War, three Palestinian men rang Dalia Eshkenazi's doorbell in Ramla, a town in Israel about midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The unexpected callers were Bashir Khairi and his cousins, Yasser and Ghiath.

"This was my father's house," said one of them. "And I lived here, too."

He then asked if he could see the house. Dalia, having always wondered who the original occupants had been, invited them in. This was the start of an unusual friendship between Dalia, an Israeli patriot whose Bulgarian parents survived the Holocaust, and Bashir, a Palestinian nationalist whose ancestors were originally Moroccan Arabs.

**Sandy Tolan**

The story of their friendship, a microcosm of Israel's perpetual conflict with the Palestinians, is the subject of Sandy Tolan's *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*, a poignant book that inspires both hope and despair at a time when a deep sense of gloom has descended on the region yet again.

Tolan, a skilled American journalist, fleshes out his meandering narrative with accounts of the Khairi and Eshkenazi family history and with highlights of Dalia's relationship with Bashir, all set against the backdrop of fast-moving and jolting events in Palestine.

The Khairis arrived in Ramla in the 16th century and, as land owners, prospered. The clash pitting Zionism against Palestinian nationalism affected them, but never more so than when the United Nations passed a seminal resolution partitioning Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states. Under the plan, Ramla was to be part of a Palestinian Arab state, but when fighting escalated, the strategically located town became a flashpoint in the struggle.

Bashir and his siblings were sent to the West Bank town of Ramallah, but other Palestinians in Ramla were expelled by Israeli forces, as Yitzhak Rabin acknowledged in his memoirs.

The Khairis assumed that they would soon return to their home, but this was not to be. Tolan, a diligent researcher, quotes David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, as telling his cabinet that Palestinian refugees would be barred from returning.

Bashir's parents, Ahmad and Zakia, eventually got the message and gave up their dream to go back to Ramla. Hoping that they would have better prospects elsewhere, they went to the Gaza Strip toward the close of 1948. Having come into an inheritance, they moved back to Ramallah in 1957.

Just as the Khairis had been dealt a bad hand, so the Eshkenazis were tossed around by the whims of turbulence.

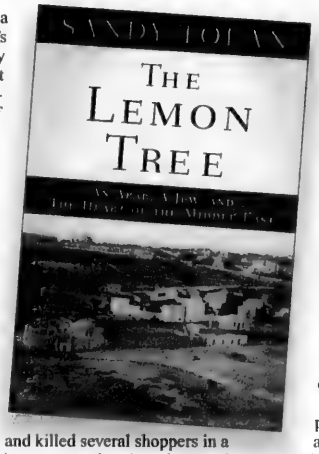
Virtually disenfranchised by the fascist, pro-Nazi government in wartime Bulgaria, Moshe and Solia Eshkenazi immigrated to Israel shortly after its emergence as a sovereign Jewish state, like many Bulgarian Jews.

Their daughter, Dalia, whose name had been Daizy, was born in Sofia, Bulgaria's capital, on Dec. 2, 1947. Not too long afterward, she and her parents found themselves in Israel. They settled in Ramla in November 1948, when it was still much of a ghost town and the embers of Israel's War of Independence still glowed.

Like all new immigrants, they were free to enter an abandoned Arab house, inspect it and claim it. Moshe and Solia chose a stone building with a garden and a lemon tree that had belonged to the Khairis.

As a child, Dalia asked her parents who had previously lived in their home, and she was always told it had been an Arab house. At school, she was taught that the Palestinian inhabitants of Ramla had left voluntarily.

When the Six Day War broke out, Dalia was an officer in the army, while Bashir was a lawyer in Ramallah. Bashir's decision to visit Ramla in July 1967 was anything but unusual, Tolan writes. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of Palestinians made pilgrimages to childhood homes in Israel in the immediate aftermath of that war.




Two months after dropping in on Dalia in Ramla and inviting her to visit him in Ramallah, Bashir was arrested, charged with being a leader of the nascent Palestinian movement resisting Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He spent 100 days in prison.

In 1969, after Palestinian terrorists detonated a bomb and killed several shoppers in a Jerusalem supermarket, Bashir was arrested again and accused of being a member of an outlawed organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

He denied any connection to the bombing, or membership in the PFLP, but was sentenced to 15 years in prison for complicity in the attack. Feeling betrayed by Bashir, Dalia, now an English teacher in a Ramla high school, cut all contact with him, and grew cynical about the future of Jews and Arabs living side by side in a spirit of coexistence.

Prior to these events, Dalia and Bashir had talked about the Arab-Israeli dispute, but their discussions had seemed like a dialogue of the deaf.

Dalia understood the Palestinian longing to return to their homes in what was now Israel, but Bashir could not understand how that could be equated with the wish of Jews to settle in their ancestral homeland. Nor did Bashir think that Jews who had arrived in Palestine after the 1917 Balfour Declaration had a right to live in Israel.

"You are living in a place that does not belong to you, Dalia," Bashir said. "Well, you realize it's also my country," Dalia countered. "No, it's not," Bashir retorted. "You stole it from us."

This exchange, as quoted by Tolan, gives a reader a flavour of the yawning gap in their respective views. Nevertheless, Bashir considered Dalia an open-minded person, "a lonely candle in a darkened room."

In 1985, following her father's death, Dalia inherited the house in Ramla. Her mother had passed away eight years earlier. Upon Bashir's release from prison, Dalia's husband, Yehezkel Landau, informed him through an intermediary that Dalia wished to meet him and discuss the future of the house, based on the claims of their families.

Dalia offered to pay reparations for the loss of the property, but Bashir rejected her offer. They finally agreed that the house would be turned into a kindergarten for Israeli-Arab children and a place where Jews and Arabs could meet in friendly encounters. It was called the Open House and inaugurated in 1991.

In the meantime, Bashir was arrested once more, charged with inciting disturbances in Gaza and the West Bank, and exiled to Lebanon. Bashir settled in Tunis but returned to Ramallah in 2001.

He and Dalia resumed their dialogue. She talked about resolving the conflict through a two-state solution, but Bashir demanded a one-state solution – a single, secular, democratic state, as outlined in the PLO's 1965 charter.

It's clear that there is little common ground between Dalia and Bashir. But what separates them also connects them, this land that means so much to Jews and Palestinians alike.

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# Oh baby! Let's eat!

By NORENE GILLETZ

My youngest grandchild, Sammy, turned one year old on July 4 and is now busy exploring the wonderful world of food. I guess it's all in the family. His father, my son Doug Gilletz, was professionally trained as a chef and enjoys cooking delicious dishes for his delicious little son. No jars or bottles of processed baby food for Sammy – although he did enjoy his chocolate birthday cake, happily shoving it into his mouth with his chubby little hands!

You can imagine how thrilled I was to receive a copy of *Super Foods for Babies and Children* by Annabel Karmel (Atria Books). Karmel, the mother of three, is the author of 14 best-selling books on healthy food for children.

*Super Foods* is an excellent resource, with more than 130 kid-friendly recipes plus terrific tips on nutrition for each stage of your child's development. The pictures are whimsical and provide visual aids to enticing eats. Karmel knows what children should eat – and what they will eat. http://www.annabelkarmel.com.

Eating by colour encourages parents to use foods in tempting combinations. Karmel provides easy instructions for creating balanced meals, with menu charts to help you plan ahead, suggestions for healthy convenience foods to keep on hand and information on allergies and common childhood complaints.

*Super Foods for Babies and Children* will guide you through your child's first five years, from first foods for your baby to delicious meals for fussy toddlers. There are creative lunch-box ideas for schoolchildren, snack suggestions, scrumptious family meal ideas, plus tips on getting kids into the kitchen to help with meal preparation. Almost all of the recipes can be used or adapted easily by the kosher cook.

Recipes include Tomato Sauce with Hidden Vegetables, Spinach and Ricotta Cannelloni, Salmon Teriyaki with Noodles and Rabbit Muffins – fun foods that will appeal to kids of all ages. This book reminds me of the *Joy of Cooking*, but with a focus on feeding kids fantastic food.

I'm not really sure if I want to pass this cookbook on to my son Doug. He'll just have to drive down the 401 from Montreal to Toronto with his wife and Sammy to enjoy some of the healthy, fun dishes in *Super Foods*! I think that's a super idea, don't you?

### BAKED SWEET POTATO AND CARROT PUREE

From six months. Baking sweet potatoes in the oven enhances their naturally sweet taste, so this is a good puree to make if you are making a roast for the rest of the family, as you can just pop the sweet potato into the oven to cook alongside. It is also very tasty without the added carrot.

1 medium sweet potato
2 medium carrots, peeled and sliced
2 to 3 tbsp. of your baby's usual milk

Preheat the oven to 375. Wash and dry the sweet potato and prick all over with a fork. Bake in the oven until tender (about 45 minutes). Meanwhile, steam or boil the carrots until tender (about 20 minutes). When the sweet potato is soft, allow it to cool a little, then cut it in half and scoop out the flesh. Puree together with the cooked carrot and the milk.

Alternatively, you can cook the sweet potato in a microwave. Pierce several holes in the potato with a fork. Place on at least two layers of microwave-safe paper towels. Microwave on high for 5 minutes, turning halfway through the cooking time. Let stand for 5 minutes. Peel and puree with the carrot and a little of your baby's usual milk. Makes 4 portions.

Tip: Sweet potato comes in two varieties – orange-fleshed and creamy-fleshed. Both have red skins and both are good sources of potassium, vitamin C and fibre. However, I prefer to use the orange-fleshed variety, which is also an excellent source of beta-carotene. This helps to prevent certain types of cancer and mops up free radicals.

### FINGER-PICKING CHICKEN BALLS

These tasty chicken balls make great finger food.

1 tbsp. light olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1/2 cup grated carrot
1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled and grated
2 5-ounce boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into chunks
1 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp. dried (optional)
1/2 cup fresh white bread crumbs
1 chicken bouillon cube, crumbled
salt and freshly ground black pepper
all-purpose flour for coating
vegetable oil for frying

Heat the olive oil in a pan and saute half the onion and the grated carrot for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Using your hands, squeeze out a little excess liquid from the grated apple. Mix together the grated apple, chicken and sauteed onion and carrot along with the raw chopped onion, parsley, thyme, bread crumbs and bouillon cube and chop for a few seconds in a food processor. Season with a little salt and pepper.

With your hands, form the mixture into about 20 balls, roll them in flour and fry in a little oil until lightly golden and cooked through (4 to 5 minutes). Makes 20 balls.

Tip: Chicken is high in protein, low in fat and low in cholesterol. Our bodies require a certain amount of protein each day and the body does not store protein, so we need to replenish it each day. Protein provides the building blocks of all cells.

### MINI-VEGETABLE BURGERS

These tasty mini-burgers in a crispy coating are bursting with fresh vegetables and flavoured with Gruyère cheese.

2 medium potatoes (do not peel)
2 tbsp. butter
1 small onion, chopped
1/2 cup chopped broccoli florets
1/2 cup grated carrot
1/2 cup washed and finely chopped white part of a leek
1 cup chopped button mushrooms
1 cup frozen or canned corn
1 tsp. soy sauce
1/4 cup grated Gruyère cheese
1 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
cayenne pepper
salt and freshly ground black pepper
seasoned all-purpose flour (flour mixed with a little salt and pepper)
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup bread crumbs
vegetable oil for frying
15 mini buns
lettuce
ketchup

Cook the potatoes in a pan of boiling water for 25 to 30 minutes, then peel and grate. Meanwhile, melt the butter and sauté the onion for about 3 minutes. Add the broccoli, carrot, leek and mushrooms, and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the grated potato, corn, soy sauce, cheese, parsley, a pinch of cayenne pepper, and salt and pepper to taste. Form the mixture into 15 mini burgers, coat with flour, dip in the beaten egg, and then dip in the bread crumbs. Dip in the egg once again and then coat with another layer of bread crumbs to make a crispy coating for the burgers. Sauté in a small amount of oil in a skillet until crisp and golden on both sides. Serve on their own or in mini buns with a little lettuce and ketchup. Makes 15 mini burgers.

Tip: Onions and leeks have a protective action on the circulatory system that helps to prevent blood clots. With children eating more and more junk food, fatty deposits in the arteries can now be found in even the youngest of children, and in later life these deposits may lead to heart disease, as will arterial blood clots. When fat deposits and blood clots break loose and clog the arteries, the result is a heart attack or stroke.

### MIXED BERRY AND WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE

**Crumb Crust:**
8 oz. graham crackers (2 1/2 cups crumbs)
1 stick butter, melted (1/2 cup)
vegetable oil for greasing pan
**Cheesecake:**
5 oz. white chocolate
10 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract or 1 vanilla bean
1 cup heavy cream (35%)
**Topping:**
14 oz. mixed summer berries, such as strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries and red currants
2 tbsp. seedless raspberry jam
2 oz. white chocolate

To make the crust, put the graham crackers in a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin, then mix with the melted butter. Press them into the bottom of a lightly oiled 8-in. loose-bottomed tart pan or springform pan (this can be done with a potato masher). Place in the refrigerator to chill.

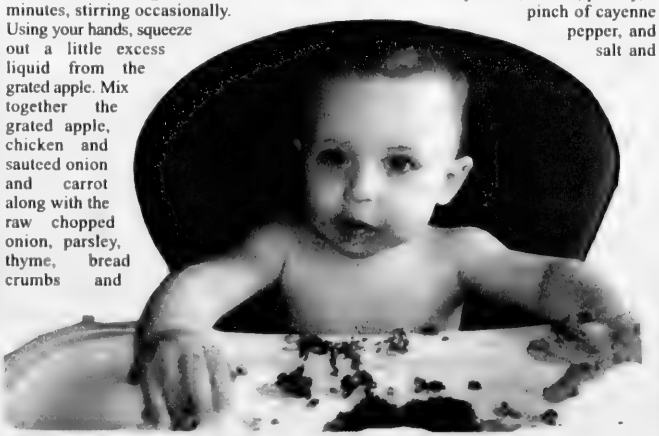
Melt the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Remove the bowl from the pan and beat in the cream cheese. Add the vanilla to the cream or, if using a vanilla bean, split it lengthwise with a sharp knife and scrape the seeds into the cream.

Whip the cream until it forms fairly stiff peaks and gently fold in the cream cheese and white chocolate mixture. Pour on top of the crust and put in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours to set.

Once the cake is set, carefully remove from the pan. Arrange the berries on top of the cake. Heat the jam with 2 teaspoons of water and strain through a sieve. Allow to cool for about 1 minute and gently brush over the fruits. Melt the white chocolate and drizzle over the top of the fruits with a teaspoon. Makes 8 portions.

Tip: Summer berries are packed with vitamin C, which helps to strengthen the immune system and fight infection. Vitamin C also aids in the absorption of iron.

*Norene Gilletz is a cookbook author, cooking teacher and food consultant. For information, call 416-226-2466 or visit her website at http://www.gourmania.com.*



One-year-old Sammy Gilletz enjoys his birthday cake.

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# CBC broadcaster lands top gigs

By DAVID SILVERBERG
*Special to The CJN*

Talking to Elliotte Friedman, you wouldn't know that CBC Sports is under pressure.

Sure, the national public broadcaster lost anchor Brian Williams to CTV, and yes, its National Hockey League and Canadian Football League television contracts expire at the end of this year. But the fresh-faced smiling attitude of 35-year-old Friedman is cool and calm, exuding a friendly warmth that says, "I'm just enjoying the time I'm here."

Elliotte Friedman

To Friedman, here is in Toronto, Canada's sports capital. Here is also CBC Sports, reporting for Hockey Night in Canada and anchoring the CFL on CBC. These flagship shows are the major leagues for Canadian sports reporters, no doubt making Friedman the envy of his peers. After all, he not only enjoys his day job, but his eyes practically twinkle when he discusses what motivates him to get up in the morning.

"Sports is one of the last unscripted forms of entertainment out there," he said in an interview at a downtown restaurant. "Even now, after 13 years in the business, I've seen the craziest and strangest things that can happen."

Forget CBC's future, focus on the present. That works as Friedman's motto, and it comes from a reporter who earned his chops in a highly competitive industry. He's nabbed exclusive interviews with a fuming Carlos Delgado, traded respectful barbs with former Toronto Maple Leafs coach Pat Quinn and engaged Philadelphia Flyers general manager Bobby Clarke in such a snappy interview that American broadcasters aired the footage.

How does he earn respect? "You have to ask questions the subject has never heard," Friedman said between sips of beer. "You have to give them something they want to answer."

Friedman's talent for sports journalism didn't come without effort, or passion. As a student at Toronto's York Mills Collegiate Institute, his name was synonymous with sports ("But more for watching them than playing them," Friedman is quick to add).

At the University of Western Ontario, he volunteered for the student paper as sports editor and finally as editor-in-chief. "I was shy and not very confident at first," Friedman admits. "But I learned I was good at something that I enjoyed doing, and I walked into locker rooms and asked tough questions with tact."

After graduation, Friedman left the world of print journalism to work at the Fan 590 radio station, where he still banters as a weekly panelist. Back in the mid-1990s, he mainly covered Toronto Raptors basketball games, also winning acclaim as 1996's Telemedia Reporter of the Year.

His biggest media transition came when he moved from radio to television, reporting on various sports for The Score network (previously known as Headline Sports). His cherubic face and measured voice appeared everywhere – six Stanley Cup finals, four Grey Cup championships, two World Series and one Olympic Games. To the casual observer, he didn't stand out like a Don Cherry would. But on The Score, his zeal for sports was infectious, and his broadcasts always included thorough research and punchy quotes.

"Athletes were willing to do interviews with me, because they felt they could say what they wanted and we would let them," Friedman said. "The Score was the kind of place that said, 'OK, we have seven minutes of footage and that's too long, but it's good stuff so we'll run the whole thing'."

At The Score, Friedman learned how to write lean scripts for TV – a medium he described as "the hardest to write for, compared to print" – and how to look sharp for the cameras.

"When I was 26, a guy in a business suit said I'm a great reporter but I would never make it on air. 'You're not good looking enough,' he told me."

Friedman half-laughs, then adds: "That's good because I remembered that, even when I was at The Score doing live interviews."

Apparently, CBC thought Friedman looked good enough to work on the country's most storied sports program. At the end of 2003, CBC Sports hired him to package the "headliner" feature before the telecast of Hockey Night in Canada. He also interviews players during intermission, and reports with mid-game updates.

Now anchoring the CFL on CBC, Friedman decides what topic to discuss at halftime and can touch a commentator's knee off camera in order to end a conversation. While the job is different from his hockey work, Friedman looks forward to his CFL stints.

"The CFL is a goofy league in a good way," he said. "Reporters can get execs on the phone without too much hassle, and the weirdest things happen in a game. I like that the league doesn't take itself too seriously."

Neither does Friedman, so the match is practically made in heaven. Friedman is so easygoing that he doesn't put too much stock in the problematic future of CBC Sports. "I'm happy where I am right now, and that's all that matters," he said.

There's a pause, and suddenly Friedman sounds like some of the athletes he covers.

"My contract isn't up until August 2008, so I'm not going anywhere."

## *Sports not immune to effects of Lebanon crisis*

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** —Israel's ongoing conflict with Hezbollah is being felt in the world of sports.

UEFA, the governing body for European soccer, has told Israeli clubs Hapoel Tel Aviv and Bnei Yehuda they will have to play their UEFA Cup games outside Israel.

And in Scotland, the Scottish Cricket Union cancelled Israel's European Championship game with Jersey after the Union received threats against the Israeli team on tour in Glasgow. The Championships are sponsored by the International Cricket Council.

UEFA chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson rejected an appeal by the Israel Football Association (IFA) to permit the games in Israel, saying the Israeli clubs must find alternative venues outside of the country due to the security situation.

Hapoel were due to host Slovenian side Domzale on Aug. 8 with Bnei Yehuda hosting Lokomotiv Sofia two days later, both at Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv.

In Scotland, meanwhile, Glasgow police approved a Muslim demonstration at a Glasgow cricket club field for approximately 2,000 people. Days later Scottish cricket officials received anonymous telephone calls saying the safety of the Israeli players at the ground could not be guaranteed, according to Israel Cricket Association president Stanley Perlman.

"The Scottish Cricket Union [SCU] has found itself in a situation in which the local cricket clubs are not prepared to host the Israeli teams for fear of a Muslim backlash," Perlman said.

# Better to laugh

ARTS IN FOCUS
By Oren Shefa

There's nothing funny about war. It's ugly, brutal and a horrific reality of today's troubled world. Israel is currently in the midst of a two-front assault on its democratic right to exist. International condemnation has reached levels not seen in nearly 25 years, and at home, while support for the military remains strong, faith in the government's competency and the country's direction is waning. With countless reasons to cry, it's amazing that so many Israelis are looking to humour to ease some of the tension they must live with every day.

Comedy, and especially political satire, is an ingrained part of the Israeli mentality. With the amount of drama that the country's politics breeds, it's no wonder that Israelis are generally an involved, educated and opinionated people. Being so in tune with what's going on in the world means that Israelis have a real appreciation for the kind of sophisticated humour that political satire is notorious for. They love a good joke, even if at times it might flirt with being grossly inappropriate.

As bombs began dropping in northern Israel by the hundreds, leftist radio and TV personalities Shai and Dror were quick to respond to the crisis. Contacting a fast food restaurant in Beirut, they ordered kosher hamburgers to be delivered by Katyusha rockets to the northern Israel border town of Kiryat Shmona.

Making light of a volatile situation while bombs rain down on innocent civilians is something that only a battle-hardened people can have the stomach for. Consider that even five years after 9/11, finding humour in a plane hijacking would be in extremely poor taste and very painful to many Americans.

Another incredibly popular show currently on Israeli television is Keshet-TV's *Eretz Nehederet* (*This Wonderful Land*). This satirical news program takes aim at some of the most topical issues in politics, sport and entertainment.

Recently, as the Israeli military called up reservists to return to service as operations in Lebanon intensified, the cast and crew of *Eretz Nehederet* were called back from hiatus and into the studio to record an "emergency" broadcast of the show, which aired July 28.

One highlight of the special edition revolved around the Israel Defence Forces' objective of killing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. An actor portraying Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Dan Halutz sat in the studio assuring the public that Nasrallah is as good as dead and that nothing has been heard from him in days. "Nasrallah" then enters the studio surrounded by dancing virgins, contradicting the statement. An IDF spokesperson, sitting beside Halutz, refuses to admit Israeli failure by suggesting that Nasrallah's presence in the studio could have been pre-recorded.

The jibes, like the bombs flying over the unstable region, land on both sides of the border.

In Israel, terrorism is a daily reality. True, the escalation in violence is cause for great concern, especially if Hezbollah is able to fulfil its promises to reach further and further into Israel with longer-range weapons, but for many, the idea of brooding over worst-case scenarios is counterproductive.

Israelis have always found a way to carry on in the best way they can. With one eye on the skies, they continue to go to work, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy life as much as possible. Being able to find a way to laugh is just another measure of normalcy that keeps Israelis from allowing what they can't control to overtake them.


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fresh mint leaves to garnish

Brown ground beef in large nonstick skillet over medium heat 8-10 minutes or until beef is not pink, breaking up into small crumbles. Pour off drippings. Stir in hoisin sauce and peanut sauce; heat through. Just before serving, add cucumber and torn mint to beef mixture; toss gently. Season with salt and pepper. Serve in lettuce leaves. Garnish with mint. Serves 4.

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**Israel Defence Forces soldiers, from their bivouac in the field, say the traditional benedictions ushering out Shabbat. [Reuters/RNS photo]**

# As bombs fall, peace calls

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

War stinks!

Ever so slightly, for a brief moment on the night of July 28, I felt like the world was out of control.

My mind, which has a propensity to respond anxiously to events, began to spin while I considered that day's attack on the Jewish federation building in Seattle. I reasoned that such an attack would likely be the model for others, possibly, and God forbid, one here in Toronto, based on our government's strong support for Israel and for the war against terror.

In a tizzy for another second, I reasoned that terror attacks in North America could encourage anti-Semitism throughout the Diaspora, a classic condition whereby the victim is blamed, as is common with Israel.

Rational once again, I purposely stopped the "flight or fight" chemicals that were surging through me, determining instead that we're a different sort of nation. Our culture is predicated on co-existence, and we need to be strong.

War, when it comes, as it has once again with the Jewish war against Hezbollah and terrorism, washes away our sense of security and the belief that we are citizens of a sane world. War stinks, as it takes that comforting illusion away from us and causes us to feel dirty and base as we witness bloody violence and the destruction of objects and property made by creative builders and students. War is shamefully ugly, and shockingly appalling to our senses.

Similarly, war reminds us that it's incumbent upon the Jewish People to be eternally vigilant of the evil that prowls around our block.

War stinks. It does many things to us of a negative nature, but its insidiousness also reminds us that the alternative is peace. Those who have gone through war know this well. The late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin voiced the belief that having known war, it is paramount that Israel pursue peace.

In this column, my goal is not to criticize or undermine Israel's operation against Hezbollah, which is tantamount to taking action against a psychotic neighbour who is intent on burning down your house and killing your children.

Not at all.

My hope is that the world community might finally wake up to the devastation of war, and to our collective potential for goodness, by opening another front – that being the wholehearted pursuit of peace.

We must do so, because hate is vile. It is humanly debilitating. This is so painfully clear to all of us, having just lived through the most violent century in history and witnessing the murder of hundreds of millions of people in World War I, World War II, Stalinist Russia, Maoist China, Cambodia, Yugoslavia, Rwanda, the Congo, Sudan, Somalia, South America. The list goes on.

Israel must fight until it has achieved its goal of eradicating the threat of those intent on wiping it out. But the smells of more burning bodies, be they in Israel or in Lebanon, and the images of mass destruction must also act as an urgent push for a movement that encourages all people of reason to draw upon the positive and peaceful components of their respective ideologies and invest heavily in achieving a world where coexistence and understanding is a reality.

Eli Wiesel refers to himself as a weeping optimist – a person who cries at the inhumanity of man against man, yet retains an affirmative view of our potential to become better at the job of living and cultivating righteousness.

We should consider his position, a healthy one, rather than choosing to be laughing pessimists, as this has only brought sorrow and grief to millions of people throughout history.

For a moment, I thought the world was out of control. People of the world, it's time that we choose peace once and for all.

*Avrum@yeahavta.org Sudan!*

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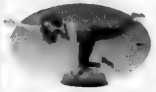

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## This Week

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# Fragile ceasefire takes hold

By YAAKOV KATZ
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — A ceasefire took effect in Lebanon on Monday, as Israel ordered its air force, navy, artillery and other units to halt offensive operations there.

Since fighting erupted over a month ago, 166 Israelis had been killed – 114 Israel Defence Forces soldiers and 52 civilians.

While the ceasefire agreement was "fragile," the IDF planned to uphold its part in the agreement and to suspend all offensives against Hezbollah Monday morning, a high-ranking officer in the Northern Command told the *Jerusalem Post* Sunday night.

On Sunday, the IDF finished taking up positions along the Litani River in preparation for the ceasefire. IDF troops operating in Lebanon, the officer said, would halt their attacks on Hezbollah strongholds in nearby villages but would maintain their positions and would be ready to "jump into any village or city, including Tyre, if necessary."

If Hezbollah fired Katyusha rockets into Israel after the ceasefire went into effect, the IDF would feel it could bomb targets throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the high-ranking officer said. "If Hezbollah breaks the ceasefire, we will see ourselves allowed to respond," the officer said.

Despite the ceasefire, the Home Front Command insisted that northern residents remain vigilant and continue to abide by the current guidelines.

Two hours before the ceasefire went into effect, the Israel Air Force dropped leaflets on central Beirut Monday, warning it will retaliate for any attack launched against it from Lebanon.

Addressed to Lebanese citizens, one leaflet said Hezbollah serves the interests of its Iranian and Syrian patrons and has "brought destruction, displacement and death.

"Will you be able to pay this price again?" it asked.

"The Israel Defence Forces will return and act with the required force against any terrorist act that is launched from Lebanon against the State of Israel," it said.

The IDF held its fire Monday morning in order to allow the Lebanese government – for the first time since the conflict with Hezbollah began last month – to take control of southern Lebanon.

**Continued on page 53**

**Israeli infantry plant a flag in a military outpost in Sahlav, south Lebanon, days before the ceasefire went into effect.** [*RNS/Reuters*]

# *Red Cross asked to check soldiers' fate*

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

A Canadian senator and a U.S. congressman are asking international relief organizations to inquire into the fate of three Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Islamic terrorist groups.

Senator Jerry Grafstein has asked the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) to urge the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to look into the well-being of the three Israeli soldiers, Yair Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, captured by Hezbollah, and Gilad Shalit, captured by Hamas. Meanwhile, south of the border, Congressman Alcee Hastings was making a similar request of the American Red Cross.

Within two days of his letter to CRC secretary general Pierre Duplessis, Grafstein was told in an e-mail reply that the CRC will take "appropriate measures" with the ICRC.

But, the CRC cautioned, any ICRC activities would likely remain confidential given the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Grafstein had written to the CRC asking it "actively urge the ICRC to visit the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hamas and Hezbollah in order to verify that they are being treated in a humane fashion in accordance with the Geneva Conventions."

Though non-state actors, Hamas and Hezbollah are required to comply with international legal norms in dealing with prisoners, Grafstein wrote. "The terrorist organizations, Hamas and Hezbollah, who both form part of their respective governments,

**Continued on page 53**

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*Greater Toronto Area*

**$100M Jewish education campaign postponed by war — see page 25**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Over $1 Million Raised

**OTTAWA** — Ottawa's Jewish federation said its Israel Crisis Campaign has raised more than $1 million. The money will help rebuild northern Israeli communities and help residents move to safety.

### WORLD

#### Jews Back Lieberman

**HARTFORD** — Jews in Connecticut gave U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman more than 60 per cent of their vote in his unsuccessful bid to gain the Democratic nomination. A CBS/*New York Times* poll showed Lieberman won 61 per cent of the Jewish vote in last week's primary, while his challenger, Ned Lamont, won 39 per cent. Overall, Lamont bested Lieberman 52 per cent to 48 per cent. Lamont challenged Lieberman for backing the Iraq war and for his closeness to U.S. President George W. Bush. Lieberman, who as the Democrats' vice-presidential candidate in 2000 was the first Jew on a viable presidential ticket, will run as an independent in this fall's election.

#### Arab Men Arrested

**CLEVELAND** — Two men were arrested in Ohio on charges of laundering money for Hezbollah. Police apprehended Ali Houssaiky and Osama Abulhassan, 20, of Dearborn, Mich., on Aug. 8 for a traffic violation in Marietta, Ohio, and found $11,000 in cash, 12 cellphones, airline passenger lists and other information on airport security. The men, who also were found with a map marking Wal-Mart stores from Ohio to South Carolina, admitted to buying hundreds of phones and reselling them in Dearborn, a Detroit suburb with a large Arab population that's been a focus of investigations into fundraising for Hezbollah and Hamas.

#### U.K. Jews OK: Police

**LONDON** — Police told British Jews that they face no specific threat after a plot to bomb 10 transatlantic flights from London was thwarted last week. Anglo Jews have already been experiencing increased tension since the Israel-Hezbollah war last month, with more than 90 anti-Semitic incidents reported in July.

#### Writer Attacks Israel

**OSLO** — A popular Norwegian novelist published a viciously anti-Israel broadside in one of Norway's largest newspapers. Jostein Gaarder, author of *Sophie's World* and *The Solitaire Mystery*, wrote in *Aftenposten* that Israel is "history" and added that "we do not recognize the State of Israel. Not today, not as of this writing, not in the hour of grief and wrath. If the entire Israeli nation should fall to its own devices and parts of the population have to flee the occupied areas into another diaspora, then we say: may the surroundings stay calm and show them mercy." After the article proved controversial, Gaarder reportedly said he could have expressed himself with more precision.

#### Fund Donates

**LOS ANGELES** — A foundation started by Steven Spielberg will donate $1 million (US) to Israeli relief efforts. The Righteous Persons Foundation will give $250,000 to the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles Israel Crisis Fund and will give to the New Israel Fund and other groups assisting residents of northern Israel.

#### Museum Gets Money

**BERLIN** — Germany will contribute $6.4 million (US) for a museum on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto that traces the history of Polish Jewry. The German Finance Ministry will transfer half the money this year and the rest in 2007, it said last month. The museum will cost $44.6 million.

#### Ex-chief Rabbi Dies

**GENEVA** — Alexander Safran, the former chief rabbi of Romania who tried to prevent Romania's pro-Nazi regime from deporting Jews to concentration camps in World War II, died July 27 in Geneva at 95. He was later chief rabbi of Geneva and a professor of philosophy.

#### Jewish Youth Beaten Up In France

**PARIS** — French police are holding three young men suspected of attacking a 16-year-old Jewish boy.

According to witnesses, several groups of teenagers were hanging out in a parking lot near the northern Alps town of Annecy Lake, about 20 miles south of Geneva, early in the morning of Aug. 6 after attending a fireworks show.

Hearing a young girl call her friend "Abraham," four young men of North African origin allegedly approached, said, "You're Jewish?" and then beat up the boy, kicking him in the stomach and jaw. The Jewish teen, who is Venezuelan, was taken to hospital, treated and released. When interrogated by police, the four young men denied beating the teen up because he was Jewish. One was released, while the other three were being held pending a hearing.

David Gamrasni, president of the local chapter of the Jewish group CRIF, told the journal *Liberation* that such incidents are common in that part of France.


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# National

Israel at War

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# Issue today is Israel's existence: Krauthammer

## *UJA campaign launch moved up because of crisis*

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Israel's defensive operations against Hezbollah are part of a wider struggle that threatens the free world in a way not seen in more than 60 years, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer told a major UJA fundraising event in Toronto last week.

Israel is fighting not only for itself but for "the good and the right, the just and the true… for Canadians, Americans, members of western civilization, and people who find themselves, without having invited it, in a struggle against forces of evil, death and destruction unlike any seen since Nazi Germany," Krauthammer told UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Israel Emergency Campaign launch 2007, held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. "That's why Israel has the support of great nations like the United States, Canada, Australia and Britain, and a precious few others."

The emotional event, attended by more than 2,500 people, also marked the start of this year's UJA campaign, which was rescheduled to take place Aug. 8, a month earlier than planned, because of the crisis in Israel.

It included an address by Yair Goldwasser, brother of kidnapped IDF soldier Ehud Goldwasser; a performance by Israeli singer Liel, 17, who said she wants to use her music "to promote peace and send a message of a better world;" a video address by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert; and remarks by Israel's consul general in Toronto, Ya'acov Brosh.

Organizers of the emergency campaign aim to raise $20 million over and above the regular campaign, which last year raised $58 million, said Ariella Rohringer, who is co-chairing Campaign 2007 with Fred Waks.

Waks announced at the event that $9 million had been raised for the emergency campaign in just two weeks.

Krauthammer, a Pulitzer prize-winning columnist for the *Washington Post* who also writes every month in *Time* magazine, said the current situation feels like the 1930s, because "we live in a deeply Orwellian moral universe where black is white and white is black, where right is wrong and wrong is right, and the aggressor like Hezbollah is not just excused but extolled."

Charles Krauthammer [Nestor Ponce photo]

Acknowledging that many people are suffering in Lebanon, Krauthammer noted that "it was the Shiites of Lebanon who started this war with premeditation and deliberation.

"Has anyone spoken out for the suffering of the Jews, or the reconstruction of northern Israel which has been attacked in a way that has not happened since the Blitz in London in 1940?" he asked.

There is not a country in the world that would have responded to the kind of aggression Israel has faced with the restraint Israel has shown, said Krauthammer, who outlined a "radical asymmetry" between Israel and Hezbollah.

"Hezbollah fights in a way designed to maximize civilian casualties on both sides," he said, citing its "wanton" rocket attacks, hiding among UN personnel, and use of human shields in urban areas – a "universally recognized war crime."

Israel fights in a way designed to minimize civilian casualties, he said, citing precision weapons and advance warnings to civilians, even though the latter enable Hezbollah to escape, and result in deaths of Israeli soldiers.

"Yet which country is attacked by that disgraceful secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan? We know the answer to that."

**Continued on page 15**

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Israel at War

# War and peace

As Jews the world over are riveted to the events of the war Iran and Syria have been waging on Israel through their deputized Hezbollah army and to the long, sorrowful list of the dead, there is a sense that history is turning on itself.

Israel's past is once again its present.

The fact that Israel was not able to prevent rockets from slamming into its cities, towns and villages daily, or eliminate all the Hezbollah gunmen, or assassinate Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah even after four weeks of fighting, will undoubtedly feed the fiendish annihilationist fantasies of its enemies, among whom are a large cadre of Palestinian fundamentalists led by Hamas and Islamic Jihad and genocidal Islamists led by Osama bin Laden, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Nasrallah.

But the fact that Israel was not able to prevent rockets from slamming into its cities, towns and villages daily, or eliminate all the Hezbollah gunmen, or assassinate Hassan Nasrallah even after four weeks of fighting has also reinstilled a sense of existential vulnerability among Israelis.

It should by now be clearer than ever that Israel has been fighting for the right simply to lead a free, peaceful, sovereign life as a western, Jewish state in the Middle East. The fighting by the Hezbollah axis was not about "resistance" or "liberation," their phony claims about the "occupied" Sheba Farms (Har Dov) notwithstanding.

There is no doubt that Israel's implacable foes are already plotting their next campaign of blood-letting and murder against the Jewish state. And there is equally no doubt that Israel's foes are also the foes of the West, though, sad to say, many are the governments and the people of the West who still do not see, let alone understand, this truth.

The UN Security Council debates the language of a ceasefire resolution without any reference to the reasons that the war erupted.

The UN Human Rights Council approves a resolution, by a vote of 27-11, that condemns Israel for massive bombardment of Lebanese civilian populations and orders a commission to travel to the war-torn area to investigate whether Israel committed war crimes. Canada, thankfully, opposed the resolution.

Since the resolution makes no mention of Hezbollah, it is questionable whether the investigators will deign to look upon the destruction in the villages, towns and cities in Israel where Katyusha and other rockets landed and killed scores of innocents.

To the arsenal of rockets, missiles, terrorists, suicide bombers and, God forbid, even worse, Israel's enemies have also re-mobilized language. In a stark re-enactment of the many surreal, morally inverted debates that have been held over the years in the United Nations and its related forums, Israel once again stands accused for defending its existence. Indeed its very existence is once again delegitimized and challenged.

We have seen it before. The past has rolled back on us.

But even in the thickness of the dark clouds that seem to have returned to the Jewish horizon, it is important to be reminded that there is still a unique, resilient, unimaginably strong vibrancy to life in the tiny Jewish country that fiercely defends its right to exist, the proof of which is ubiquitous.

For example, during the height of the fighting some days ago, I telephoned Eva Etzioni-Halevy, professor emeritus of political sociology at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, and a newly emerging author.

I had just finished reading *The Song of Hannah* and was so impressed with the force of its courage and imaginative leaps that I wanted to speak with its author.

An observant woman, Etzioni-Halevy decided to write a book about the two wives of Elkanah, the father of Samuel, one of the prophets of our Bible.

In fact, the title of the book derives from the Bible, from the story we read during Rosh Hashanah. Hannah is Samuel's mother. Her heart-rending outpourings concerning her childless condition before her son is born form the centrepiece of the Haftarah reading.

But Etzioni-Halevy imagines herself as both Hannah and Elkanah's other wife, Peninah, and describes the lives they might have lived in pre-Davidic Israel.

"The book was written from a feminine but not a feminist perspective," she told me.

It is daringly sensual.

"I wrote a 'racy' book based on the Bible. It has many suggestive passages that are authentic to the times of the Bible and to human nature. Human nature is much the same today as it was then. In that way, we are very close to the people of The Book. Even our prophets were human beings. The essential message is one of tolerance for human beings. No one is perfect."

Etzioni-Halevy has imagined a complicated, but ultimately loving relationship between Hannah and Peninah. The book was thought-provoking and enjoyable both as a distraction from the war Israel has been forced to wage and as an affirmation of the creative life force that infuses Israel, the tiny and only Jewish state on earth.

* * *

Next week's column will be written in Israel.

—*MBD*

SeeJN

**CAMPERS WALK FOR ISRAEL: About 175 staff and campers from Camp Solelim, a Canadian Young Judaea children's summer camp, walked almost 10 km from Buzzy Brown's Brasserie at Four Corners Square in Sudbury, Ont., to Bell Park carrying posters and banners in support of Israel last week. Above, Erin Rabie, left, and Sam Zevy hold banners during the pro-Israel walk-a-thon.**

Israel at War

# Politicians criticized for joining anti-Israel rally

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — Israeli officials sharply criticized Quebec provincial and federal politicians who participated in a huge rally in Montreal Aug. 6 protesting Israel's military action in Lebanon.

Consul General Marc Attali told a fundraiser for the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research it is "sad and cynical to see provincial and federal politicians trying to make political gains on the back of Israel… Where were they when Israel suffered casualties from suicide bombers?"

He said it is "ironic" that these politicians don't also speak out for Israel's right to defend itself. "When they call for peace, they exclude Israel because we do not deserve it."

At the same time, he thanked Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Foreign Minister Peter Mackay for "standing alongside Israel in its war against terrorism and for the values we share with this country," drawing applause from the audience that included Liberal MP Irwin Cotler.

Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Parti Québécois leader Andre Boisclair and federal Liberal MP Denis Coderre, a former cabinet minister, addressed the rally of 15,000, according to the police estimate.

The rally was organized by a coalition of some 60 Lebanese, Arab and Muslim groups, as well as labour, human rights and political organizations. The BQ, PQ and federal Liberal party, as well as Québec Solidaire, the left-wing, sovereigntist party launched in February, also signed on to a statement issued by the coalition before the rally.

It described Lebanon as a "martyr country," called for an immediate halt to Israel's "murderous offensive" and denounced "the unconditional alignment" of the Harper government with the policies of the Bush administration in the United States. No mention was made in the statement of Hezbollah, or of what Israel has sustained, other than: "There are Israeli civilians who have also paid the cost of this war."

Premier Jean Charest waded into the issue two days before the rally when he told reporters that he favoured an immediate and unconditional ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker also criticized the Quebec politicians at a press conference on Parliament Hill.

"We're seeing the leaders of opposition parties marching in Montreal under Hezbollah flags – Hezbollah, which is a terrorist organization that's been outlawed by Canadian law," Baker is quoted in the *Ottawa Citizen*.

"Any opposition party that expresses surprise at the fact that Canada, a democratic country, is supporting the right of another democratic country to defend itself really doesn't understand where they're coming from."

Yellow Hezbollah flags and T-shirts, as well as chants in support of the group, were seen and heard among the sea of demonstrators, as well as placards that made analogies between Israel and the Nazis. David Ouellette posted a photo on his pro-Israel website, Judeoscope, of what he says was a defaced prayer shawl. What can be made out is a fringed cloth with a denunciation of Zionism written on it. Boisclair is standing right in front of it, apparently unaware.

While displays of this nature were a relatively minor facet of the demonstration, most media reports described the rally as strongly anti-Israel in tone and condemnatory of Harper for following U.S. policy.

Marc Gold, the national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, was more muted than the Israeli officials in his reaction to the politicians' participation. "I find it disappointing that our political leaders, however unwittingly, became involved in such a one-sided expression of anti-Israel sentiment."

Gold thinks there were many people of "goodwill" at the rally who had gone believing it was "for justice and peace," as publicized, and not an exercise in Israel-bashing and support for terrorism.

The Quebec-Israel Committee (QIC) placed a full-page ad in Montreal dailies the day before the rally, addressed to Coderre, Duceppe and Boisclair, as well as Françoise David, co-founder of Quebec Solidaire with Amir Khadir, and Henri Masse, president of the Quebec Federation of Labour. It asked them to "respect the memory of all innocent Israeli, Lebanese and Palestinian victims, and refrain from using this human tragedy for purely electoral and political purposes."

It urged them to call for a "real peace initiative" and not an unconditional ceasefire, which the QIC says would allow Hezbollah to prepare for further aggression against Israel.

Duceppe and Coderre did call for the disarming of Hezbollah as part of a ceasefire agreement, which prompted booing.

Gold added that it is "very sad that the innocent victims [in the conflict] have become victims a second time for political and partisan purposes."

He does not believe the rally organizers' position is representative of Quebecers' views, pointing to a number of letters to the editor in *La Presse* expressing concern about the rally.

But Gold agreed that the Quebec Jewish community is in a distinct situation in advocating for Israel, compared to the rest of Canada and North America. Polls consistently show a lower level of support in the province for the Harper government's stance on the conflict. Quebec is home to the largest Lebanese community in Canada (about double the size of the Jewish community), which included the eight local members of the Al-Akhrass family killed by Israeli shelling while they were vacationing in southern Lebanon last month.

Cotler, who left last Thursday on a private "fact-finding mission" to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, said he had a "good talk" with Coderre, "an old and good friend.

"He went into it as a peace rally. He supports Israel's right to live in peace and security, as well as Lebanon's. He regards Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and in no way countenances support for it."

Cotler gave credit to Harper for "coming out early and clearly" in support of Israel's right to security, "a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy and a principle endorsed by successive governments." He admitted the Liberals, who have 11 candidates vying for its leadership, have not been able to enunciate that principle as forthrightly, but hopes the party will be able to do so when a leader is elected in December.

The rally has increased the unease of some ordinary Montreal Jews. "What is Quebec society coming to when our politicians and population are supporting a terrorist group – which our Canadian government deems terrorist – along with people sporting posters saying Hezbollah has put the first nail in Israel's coffin?" asked Chantal Clabrough, 29. "I no longer feel like Quebec society is where I want to live and raise a family."

Meanwhile, the Hillel Jewish student society is preparing for what staff member Yacov Fruchter expects will be "a great deal of activism on campus." It called a meeting of students last week to discuss strategy for Israel advocacy.

"We hope everything will remain peaceful. And everyone will feel safe and comfortable [this semester]," he said.

Concordia University and the University of Montreal are fast-tracking the applications of Lebanese students who want to study abroad.


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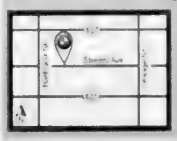

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# Israel rally kicks off Winnipeg CJA campaign

***$142,000 contributed to crisis fund immediately after rally***

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — The Winnipeg Jewish community kicked off its annual Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) campaign a month earlier than usual with a standing-room-only rally for Israel.

"Our CJA mandate is to strengthen our Jewish community at home and abroad," Ted Lyons, president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, told more than 750 people Aug. 6 at the Rady Jewish Community Centre. "Israel is in crisis and needs our help now. That's why we decided to start our CJA campaign early. This way, we are not going to be calling on people twice within a short time for donations."

CJA campaign director Elaine Goldstine said the community's goal is to raise $1.5 million for Israel on top of this year's overall campaign goal of $5 million. She said community members contributed $142,000 to the Israel crisis fund immediately after the rally.

The event was notable for the increased security outside and at the entrance to the Asper Jewish Community Campus, which houses the Rady Centre. The road in front was blocked off to traffic, while Winnipeg police officers were in evidence and security guards manned the front door (as opposed to their usual position at a desk inside). However, there were no incidents.

Lyons began his remarks by introducing politicians, representatives of Jewish organizations and Christian religious leaders in attendance. He also read letters of support from a Pentecostal congregation in Red Lake, Ont., and from federal Justice Minister Vic Toews.

In his letter, Toews reiterated the Harper Government's strong support for Israel and expressed hope that the end of the conflict would result in a durable and lasting peace.

Lyons then presented a letter to Joy Smith, the Conservative MP for Winnipeg-St. Paul (encompassing the areas of West Kildonan and Garden City, which have substantial numbers of Jewish voters) to present to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. In the letter, community leaders expressed gratitude to Harper for his solid support of Israel during the conflict, as well as regret at the loss of civilian lives in both Israel and Lebanon and the hope for neighbourly relations between the two countries in the future.

Winnipegger Joy Smith spoke of her recent visit to Israel – she returned just before the conflict began – and how impressed she was with the country and its people.

"The extremists cannot be allowed to provoke a wider conflict," she said. "Our government stands for the principles of democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law. We also recognize Israel's right to defend itself."

Yossi Olmert

Smith also commented on the government's evacuation of more than 13,000 Lebanese Canadians from the war-torn region, noting that it has been the largest such operation in Canadian history. She also thanked Israel for "facilitating the safe passage of the evacuees."

Dave Chomiak, Manitoba's minister of science and technology, who also represents the Garden City area in north Winnipeg, spoke for the provincial government.

"You hear so much distortion and bias," said Chomiak, who has visited Israel twice as part of community-organized missions. "Seeing Israel first-hand gives you a different perspective."

He recalled visiting a trauma ward at a Jerusalem hospital where people of all faiths and backgrounds were treated. He also had an opportunity to visit Metulla in the north.

"Looking across the border into Lebanon, I noticed how few Lebanese flags I saw flying," he recalled. "Most of the flags that I saw were Hezbollah flags. For the past six years [since Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon], the world has waited for someone, anyone, to remove Hezbollah and its rockets from Israel's border. No one stepped forward to do it."

The guest speaker on the evening was Yossi Olmert, the brother of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert who is an academic, lecturer, journalist and a former political aide to Yitzhak Shamir when he was Israel's prime minister. In a speech punctuated by ovations, Olmert pointed out that terror attacks have killed about 1,300 Israelis over the past six years, and he praised the strong support that the United States, Canada, Germany and England have given Israel at this time.

He also vowed that Israel would emerge victorious from the present conflict. "We shall prevail," he said.


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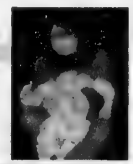

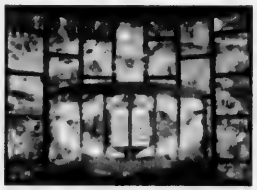

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# Betrayal of our values

When these words were written, the Israeli cabinet had voted to approve the ceasefire resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council. Fierce fighting however still raged between the Israel Defence Forces and Hezbollah – the westerly military vanguard of the Iranian regime. Israeli soldiers and civilians were still being killed, and various pundits and sundry other experts had launched into their respective assessments of the month-long war.

Though soon, one fears, a new firestorm of hate will be directed at the Jewish state, the dust of this war is settling.

Some of that dust has fallen in Canada and appears to have disoriented and clogged the moral compasses of a number of key public leaders. We are referring to the elected and other leading figures, such as Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, Parti Québécois leader Andre Boisclair and former federal cabinet minister Liberal MP Denis Coderre, who joined in the blatantly pro-Hezbollah parade in Montreal on Aug. 6.

To be sure, some of the participants attended the rally, as Marc Gold, the national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee suggested, out of "goodwill, for justice and peace." But once it became clear that the event was less about a genuine pursuit of peace and more about a further attack on the legitimacy of the State of Israel, the public leaders in whom we place our trust and of whom we expect – and need – thoughtful, moral example, should have departed the scene, which was festooned with Hezbollah flags and other unmistakably anti-Israel signs, markers, and declarations.

We make no claims or demands upon our leaders' private, personal, loyalties, although we would hope they all accepted the justice of Israel's cause. But we do make claim upon the framework of values that they publicly espouse. At a minimum, those values must be consistent with democracy, freedom and respect for human rights, which it must be pointed out, are the very values that Hezbollah detests and for which it deplores the West.

As former justice minister Irwin Cotler recently pointed out, Hezbollah's covenants, charters and declarations call for the destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews wherever they may be. The group shares Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's genocidal ideology of wanting to "wipe Israel off the map."

Hezbollah considers repugnant and, if given the opportunity, would zealously endeavour to stamp out the very hallmarks of Quebec's society that our leaders hold dear and every human rights code in Canada legislates as inviolable.

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and considered as such by Canada and other governments. That our public officials should march under Hezbollah's banner – symbolically, if not actually – demonstrates a profound failure of judgment and an alarmingly malfunctioning moral compass.

It is also an eye-opening and distressing betrayal of Canadian values.

# 25 years ago in *The CJN*

During a state visit to Washington, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat strongly reaffirmed his commitment to peace with Israel, insisting that there will be no backing away from the peace process once Israel withdraws from the Sinai peninsula. The pull-out was due to take place in April 1982.

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## Israel losing public relations battle

Israel is losing the public relations battle with Hezbollah, and losing it badly. Israel has an enviable track record at winning armed conflicts, while simultaneously holding an abysmal record at managing the images. Bluntly put: given a choice between a Lebanese and an Israeli corpse, guess which one hits tomorrow's front page?

There was even a recent ABC News report that juxtaposed the humanitarian work of Hezbollah in Lebanon, with reportage on bomb shelters with a beach-front waterpark set-up in Israel for displaced Israeli refugees.

None of this is surprising given that Israel faces an additional burden that few countries confront in similar public relations campaigns – anti-Semitism. Recently, sectarian violence between Iraqi Shiites and Sunnis left more than 70 people dead in one of the bloodiest days in Iraq. But the story was buried while most media continued to beat up Israel over its "disproportionate" use of force.

Israel is facing a two-front war: one on the battlefield and one in the world's newsrooms. And it's losing on the second front because it has failed to define its latest military mission in stark, couch potato terms. The latest Middle East conflict isn't about might. It's about security – and not just Israel's, but ours as well.

We're in this mess because the West prefers to turn a blind eye to threats, and when they become major crises, it steps back and lets countries such as Israel do its dirty work. It's time we did our own dirty work by preventing armed conflict and rogue groups such as Hezbollah from developing. The gamut at our disposal is endless, from sanctions – even when they hurt the West – to increased foreign aid, to, just maybe, United Nations resolutions that are worth more than the paper they're written on.

**Dermod Travis**
**Montreal**

* * *

## Pacifists are 'unquestioning'

In the letter "Grieved by violence in Middle East" (*CJN*, Aug. 10), the writers express what appears to be a sincere desire for an immediate ceasefire and "diplomatic solutions to the current crisis, and an end to the boycott of the Palestinian authority and the occupation of Palestine."

What if, as in the case at hand, Israel's detractors do not wish to similarly consider such "diplomatic solutions"? Should Israel continue to unilaterally withdraw from territories, as it has from Gaza and Lebanon, unconcerned for its security and oblivious to the existential threats that appear to have emanated from the very two territories from which it has withdrawn? Should Israelis engage in diplomatic discussions with and among themselves, given that there are currently no genuine negotiating partners willing to accept Israel's existence or interested in such discussions? By calling for an end to the "occupation of Palestine" (as if Palestine ever existed), do these writers include a demand for withdrawal from Tiberias, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and other Israeli cities, towns and settlements, as do Hezbollah and Hamas?

Finally, these writers claim that the supporters of the current Israeli position provide "unquestioning support for the Israeli government's" policies in Lebanon. Why is it that detractors of Israel or critics of the current military campaign invariably argue that our support is knee-jerk or "unquestioning"? Could we not have come to support Israel's position after a lengthy, reasoned and detailed analysis of the facts before us? Perhaps instead it is these pacifists who are "unquestioning" in their critique of Israeli policy?

**Joseph Adler**
**Toronto**

* * *

## Israelis fearful and worried

I planned a month-long vacation in Israel to rekindle my passion for the country, improve my Hebrew language skills and indulge in Israeli delicacies. Clearly, what was once a worry-free and relaxing vacation is now consumed with anxiety, fear and uncertainty.

As northern Israel finds itself being pounded by rockets, the citizens of this country are united in their fears, prayers and desire to find a permanent solution.

I am currently splitting my time between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In contrast to the devastation and desolation that is now northern Israel, here in central Israel, the streets are filled with people, the restaurants, shops and cafés are busy and the beaches are packed (as warplanes fly overhead). Life for 55 minutes of each hour is seemingly normal. But everything stops at the top of every hour when the masses gather in front of their TVs or those of restaurants to watch the latest news update. So yes, things appear normal, but if you really look at the faces of these Israeli citizens, you see the worry and the fear. This is, however, nothing new for Israel.

History proves that Israel is no stranger to adversity and threats to its very existence. These citizens know all too well that they have no choice but to attempt to continue living normal lives as their country is pounded by rockets.

**Ari Isenberg**
**Halifax**

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Perspectives

# And then they knocked at my door

By EITAN BARON

It's hard to find words to describe what I've been through since Wednesday, July 12.

That day, I returned to my trailer after finishing another college exam. I turned on the television and watched special broadcasts about the war in the north on every channel. "Two kidnapped" is what the reports said, accompanied with maps pointing out where the incident had occurred. Having served on the Lebanese border for quite a long time, especially in that sector, I recognized the location immediately.

My heart started beating fast when I recalled that my brother, Yaniv, was serving in a post close to there. I tried calling him a few times, but his cellphone was off – a pretty common occurrence, I must say. My mother called me, very stressed out, asking if she should call his company commander. I said no. A little while later, I read the running news text on TV stating that Hezbollah claimed to have destroyed a tank. In case I forgot to mention it, my brother is a tank driver.

A friend then called me and asked if everything was OK with my brother. A somewhat odd question. A minor interrogation then revealed that rumours about him were circulating in our town, Maccabim. By then, I was really stressed out.

I called my mother and told her that it might be a good idea to call the company commander. My mother was actually quite calm, and said she would call later. I then tried my luck with my father, thinking that maybe he would make the call, but he wasn't amenable, either.

Then TV news channels started receiving reports about the region where the tank had been hit. I was stunned. I knew it had to be my brother's tank. It was the only tank in the region. I called my father in a panic, and he answered in a choked voice that people from the town major's headquarters had come to his office and informed him that Yaniv's tank had been hit and, according to their information, the entire crew had been seriously wounded. He also said that in 10 minutes, an Israel Defence Forces crew would come to take me home.

When they arrived, they delivered more or less the following announcement: "At 12:15 p.m., an IDF tank was hit in south Lebanon. Your brother was in the tank. To the best of our knowledge, the whole crew was seriously wounded."

I immediately asked what hospital he was in. The answer was that the crew was still in the tank, and there was a battle being fought to try to get to them. The clock on my cellphone said 16:15 p.m. I looked the town major in the eye and said: "Are you telling me that my brother is seriously wounded and he's been in a tank for the last four hours! Based on what information are you telling me that he's seriously wounded? Do you even have any contact with the crew?" The officer said the update was correct up to the last five minutes.

The ride home with the officer was very long, as you can imagine. Despite the announcement they read to me, or maybe because of it, deep inside I knew it was over and that Yaniv was no longer among the living. When I got home, I saw a group of people standing outside the house. "That's the brother" and "here's Eitan" were the murmurs I heard. Inside the house, officers clustered around me, but I had to go to the bathroom. While I was in the bathroom, I heard my father say in English, "He doesn't yet know that Yaniv was killed." Yes, it was now official: I had become a bereaved brother.

Yaniv Baron

The officers surrounded me as soon as I left the bathroom and started reading the announcement to me. I asked them to stop. I said that I understood and I didn't want to hear it. I sat on the sofa and started crying, together with my sister, mother, father and grandmother. The aunts and uncles were on the way. The media were already lurking outside. To their disappointment, the family decided to stay in the house and not be interviewed.

The officers stayed until midnight and then told us that the extraction of the bodies would only take place in the morning. They were true to their word. In the morning, they told us that a body had been extracted in one piece. At my father's request, they brought us the newspaper. Yaniv's picture on the front page was enough to send us all into hysteria.

In the meantime, the mayor arrived at the house. After he heard that we wanted Yaniv to be buried in our town, he made a call to the Defence Ministry, requesting an as yet non-existent military plot. The construction equipment arrived at the cemetery at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning, and within two days a military plot was ready.

My grandparents from Canada (my mother is from Montreal), an uncle from New York and an uncle from Hong Kong sent word that they would come to the funeral that had been set for Sunday.

On Thursday afternoon, the town major informed us that the body they had retrieved had been identified as Yaniv's. It was not an easy moment: on the one hand, at least we had a body to bury; on the other, we had a body to bury. Putting up the obituaries was another breaking point for us.

On Sunday at around a quarter to five, two minibuses arrived to take the family to the cemetery. The whole concept of the funeral did not make sense – a grandfather should not bury a grandson, a father should not say Kaddish for his son, a brother and a sister should not have to bid their 19-year-old brother farewell forever. The drive was slow, the pain was at a peak. We didn't know what to expect – how many people be there, how the place would look, and, above all, how would we deal with the funeral?

If I thought the drive was hard, when we got to the cemetery, I was close to hysteria. The minibus parked in front of the command car containing the casket was draped in the Israeli flag. On the right, thousands of people stood in absolute silence on the hill where Yaniv was about to be buried. My sister didn't want to get out of the mini-bus. Understandable. Finally she was persuaded, and we were greeted by senior officers from the Armored Corps.

We went to the command car, I kissed the casket, and when we were done, soldiers came and lifted the casket onto their shoulders. We followed the casket to our seating area, in front of the hole that had been dug for the casket. The entire hill was covered with a green carpet (the kind used in minigolf) and above there was an enormous awning. After several prayers, the casket was lowered deep into the hole and sacks of sand were poured over it. My father delivered a eulogy that brought tears to everyone's eyes. The eulogies given by Yaniv's two best friends were also painful.

With a Boeing flying above, as if on cue, and a three-gun salute, the funeral ended.

The shivah brought out the best in everybody – friends, neighbours, the town. From morning till night, people never stopped coming in. People came to comfort and left comforted. A few women (or "the generals," as I dubbed them) took command of the house and saw to everything. The rest of the visitors did not come empty-handed – pastries, fruit, homemade cakes, drinks and big pots full of food.

The support was awe-inspiring. The soldiers from Yaniv's battalion could not make it, since the fighting continues to this moment, but Yaniv's former commanders and basic-training buddies came. The personal affairs and education NCOs, the company commander, the Armored Corps adjutant, the battalion commander, the Armored Corps chief casualties officer, the commander of the 7th Brigade, the Armored Corps chief officer, the division commander and Israel's president, Moshe Katsav), his wife and his military secretary all came.

While it's true that I would gladly have forgone all of these visits, it's comforting to know that everyone appreciates what my brother did. The battalion commander, who witnessed the event, told us that after the kidnapping of the soldiers Yair Goldwasser and Eldad Regev was announced, Yaniv's crew ran to their tank and climbed in, despite the fact that their post was under heavy shelling. They were familiar with the procedure and, without giving it a second thought, started off. As they entered Lebanese territory, they managed to hit a few Hezbollah positions. Contrary to what I first thought, the crew took a side trail, and not a main one, until they reached the bitter end.

I could write a whole book about this, but I think I'll stop here. I'll just say that there's a sort of emptiness inside me. The pain is indescribable and the longing is constant. Everything in life suddenly takes on a different proportion and nothing seems to matter. I know nothing will be the same again, and I don't have a clue how to go on from here.

I remember what a rotten brother I was when we were young, and even though I tried making amends in recent years, the guilt still lingers. I'm sure I'll write about Yaniv again. Right now I can't. The IDF representatives deserve a lot of praise. We mentioned this to every Armored Corps officer who came, and we also said so to the president. But with all their good will, my wish to each and every one of you is that those angels of death never knock at your door.

**This sad scene is of soldiers mourning their comrades, much like at the funeral of Yaniv Baron. As of Aug. 10, 122 Israelis had been killed since the conflict began with Hezbollah on July 12. [RNS/Reuters photo]**

Opinions

# Trickle-down hatred

Though there have been some notable exceptions, media coverage in general has tended, as usual, to cast Israel in a less-than-favourable light since the war with Hezbollah began on July 12.

*Lawrence Hart in Hamilton*

Doctored photographs, staged television footage, fictional eyewitness accounts, exaggerated casualty figures, and accusations of "disproportional responses," "massacres" and "war crimes" have been among the more common distortions and abominations that have embellished newspaper and television reports across the globe.

And inasmuch as it's relatively easy to tune out CNN International, or the BBC, or ignore print reporting by Reuters, it's more difficult to deal with the trickle-down falsehoods that have become the stuff of local newspaper columns and talk shows on regional television and radio stations across Canada – and that have provided focus and substance to groups and individuals who gleefully embrace their twisted messages to heap contempt not only on Israel itself, but also, at times, on those among us who passionately support that embattled state and what it stands for.

So, when the director of a centre for Islamic studies from north of Toronto goes on television in Burlington and demonizes Israel in the most menacing of tones, we need to take note. And when one of the founders of a "centre for peace studies" promotes a preposterous misinterpretation of current events when appearing in a televised debate in Hamilton, we should also be duly concerned.

But what's perhaps even more ominous than the persisting media assaults on Israel is the enduring impact that is possible if we see much more of the incitement that has characterized local "vigils" and so-called "peace rallies" by Arab groups in recent weeks.

At one such event on Aug. 4 – in the council chambers of Hamilton City Hall, no less – an audience of some 300 people were treated to a menu of the most egregious vilifications of Israel, courtesy of a hodgepodge of groups that included the Muslim Association of Hamilton, the Canadian Arab Federation, the Canadian Peace Alliance, the Hamilton District Labour Council and several others.

Those in attendance were told (via accompanying PowerPoint illustrations) that "the destruction of Lebanon was similar to the Nazi bombing of England in 1941," that "millions of [Israeli] landmines are killing Lebanese every day," that Israel's "checklist" highlights the "killing of children" and, as a separate item, "more children" and, eerily, that "the Hamilton Jewish Federation endorsed the killing [of Lebanese] at their rally [the previous week]." One diatribe followed another, with most expressing histrionic fervour and stunning acrimony.

And this was in a city, remember, where a much-touted dialogue between Jews, Arabs, and Muslims was supposed to be building bridges and promoting mutual respect and understanding among the participating communities.

# Miscellany from the war zone

**Life on a postage stamp:** When you live in a postage stamp-sized country like Israel, your sense of distance adjusts proportionally. A 50-minute drive from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, a short commute for an urban Canadian, acquires the dignity of a "trip." Some of my own neighbours, if you can believe it, have never made it "all the way south" to Eilat.

*Ross Culiner in Jerusalem*

Indeed, a delusionary inner geography is what makes life possible in this impossible country. We simply wouldn't be able to cope emotionally with a clear awareness that Iran, bent on annihilating us as soon as it gets the bomb, is in reality no further away than double the distance between Montreal and Toronto. And so we preserve our sanity by avoiding maps and shoving such direct and immediate threats well over our mental horizons.

The same rule applies internally. Which is how we in Jerusalem, as I write, are living more or less normally while rockets rain down on the north of the country. The epithet "north of the country" is our way of dealing with it. In fact the north is no more to the north than Peterborough is to the east of Toronto, or Ottawa is to the west of Montreal. It's on our doorstep, a smidgen short of two hours away. Imagine how Montrealers would function if Ottawa, just down the road, came under attack from extremists, firing from city limits, who were ideologically committed to destroying all of Canada.

And so, for now, cafes are hopping, shoppers are shopping, building sites are building, summer camps are rollicking and museums are exhibiting in the capital. The absurd disparities of our little land were driven home this morning as I watched an inspector tag an illegally parked vehicle outside my window while the distraught driver looked on in helpless dismay. At the very same moment, my TV was showing the eerie, desolate streets of Nahariyah, way up "in the north," where there were no cars, car owners or inspectors – the sirens were wailing and everybody, inspectors and drivers alike, were cowering deep underground in shelters, comforting one another and worrying about their very survival.

It may well be that the most democratic thing about Israel is that everybody gets a turn at having the chance to suffer an untimely death. It's a great societal leveller. Once, big, bad Jerusalem was full of suicide bombings and nobody dared come here. Remember? Then Sderot, Ashkelon and their surroundings found themselves under Qassam assault and nobody dares go there. Now, for the past few weeks, tranquil Galilee and Golan have also joined the list of forbidden zones. And if Mr. Nasrallah keeps his promise and launches long-range rockets, the last exempt piece of populated Israel, Tel Aviv and the centre, will lose its immunity.

In short, Jerusalem has again become the darling of Israel. Refugees from the "north" are migrating in and taking up lodgings. Just like the "good ol' days" of the first Gulf War. And for this we owe our heartfelt gratitude to the very large local Muslim population, and for their revering Jerusalem as the third-holiest city in the Islamic world. Nasrallah wouldn't be so stupid as to target Al-Quds, would he?

* * *

**So where can I go during school vacation?** "Sorry, Yoel," we tell our perplexed 16-year-old. "You're staying right here close to Mama and Papa. Maybe Tel Aviv for the day, but that's it! And keep your cellphone on if you go!"

"You see," we explain, "you can't go north because of rockets from Lebanon, and you can't go south because of rockets from Gaza, and you can't go west to Ashkelon beach because of rockets there, too, and not east to the Dead Sea, either, because it's a living hell there in summertime. Did we miss a direction, honey?"

Yoel shrugs his shoulders, shuffles into his room, goes online, and takes his summer vacation in that tranquil and boundless universe of virtual reality.

* * *

**Etcetera:** And wouldn't you know it: the hotels are suddenly like morgues again. At the height of tourist season, practically no English is to be heard in the streets.

It's déjà vu.

*Culiner@netvision.net.il*

# Human rights NGOs give Hezbollah a hand

Israel's war against the Iranian-supplied Hezbollah terror organization includes a political front that is as important and complex as the military front. In this political battlefield, journalists, diplomats (particularly UN officials) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a central role. False reports of Israeli "atrocities," reporters with anti-Israeli agendas, and doctored photos - as in the case of a Reuters picture that was altered by a freelance photographer to darken and expand the smoke billowing from the scene of an aerial bombardment, and of another to which the freelancer added two flares to the picture of an Israeli jet – have grossly distorted the reality of this war. If there is any sanity and morality left in the world, this over-the-top Israel-bashing will produce a backlash that will result in some very serious investigations.

*Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem*

Unfortunately, among the most ignominious demonizers, the officials of self-proclaimed human rights organizations are the most immune to requirements for accountability. Very powerful NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have issued some 25 condemnations of Israel between them, based primarily on biased misinterpretations of international law and unverifiable claims of Lebanese "eyewitnesses." But without the equivalent of independent mechanism for evaluation, such as public editors in the most influential newspapers or oversight groups in government, NGO officials can literally get away with being accomplices to murder – particularly of Israelis.

In this process, we can start with New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW), with its annual budget of more than $50 million (US). HRW has been publishing condemnations of Israel for many years, including during the height of the Palestinian terror campaign, and the pattern is being repeated in this war. Between July 13 and Aug 7, it published 19 statements on Lebanon and Israel, 16 of which were directed at Israel, often referring to alleged "war crimes." The others that focused primarily on Hezbollah (and one directed at Syria and Iran) were fig leafs that were not accompanied by press conferences or media appearances.

These reports systematically erased Syrian and Iranian involvement, including the weapons these governments have delivered to Hezbollah. In op-ed pieces and media interviews, Peter Bouckaert, HRW's "emergencies director," repeatedly relied on Lebanese eyewitnesses to charge Israel with deliberate attacks against civilians. He erased thousands of missiles and the well-entrenched Hezbollah operatives from the picture. Bouckaert's "witnesses" from Qana – a Shia stronghold – didn't tell him what so many other Lebanese have seen and described, as published in detailed reports based on many reliable sources. If there are no missiles, launchers and terrorists in the vicinity of the houses, schools, mosques and hospitals in this narrow strip of Lebanon, including Qana, then what are the sources of the attacks that are killing dozens of Israelis in cities and towns a few kilometres away?

HRW, while quick to condemn Israel for defending itself against terror, reacts angrily and often absurdly to analysis of its biases. In response to detailed criticism of an HRW report, executive director Kenneth Roth wrote that "Israel could have maintained the moral high ground if it had responded to Hezbollah rocket attacks by targeting only Hezbollah military forces." Roth, who has no knowledge of military issues, did not suggest that military forces might exist in the context of asymmetric terror warfare waged by Hezbollah, Hamas, and Al Qaeda. Furthermore, his acid comment that "An eye for an eye may have been the morality of some more primitive moment" suggests much deeper reasons for his animosity toward Israel.

HRW is far from the only NGO active in this political warfare, and others who have issued similar, if less frequent, statements include Amnesty International, Christian Aid-UK, Oxfam, and the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists. All, to varying degrees, are helping to promote the demonization of Israel using the rhetoric rather than the substance of human rights and international law.

Their "reports" and analyses are repeated, usually without question, in the media and by politicians around the world. The cumulative effect is to delegitimize Israeli self-defence. But slowly, just as the biased journalists who gave credence to false reports of Israeli "massacres" have been unmasked, and the phony photos exposed, prejudiced NGO officials responsible for abusing human rights are also being uncovered. The damage they have done will be hard to repair – but at least they can be stopped from doing more.

The Kirshner File

# U.S. backed Israel in war with Hezbollah

Whatever the outcome of the war in Lebanon, the United States proved yet again that it is Israel's best friend.

Until this week's United Nations ceasefire, the United States supported Israel's basic strategy and provided Israel with valued diplomatic cover as it waged an exceedingly difficult campaign to dislodge Hezbollah from southern Lebanon.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

From day one, the United States, Israel's chief ally, stood steadfastly with Israel – even as its Arab and European allies cried foul – and portrayed the war as part of a larger confrontation pitting the forces of freedom against the forces of terror and radical Islam in the Middle East.

During the first phase of the war, which was triggered by Hezbollah aggression, Israel bombed Beirut airport and imposed an air and sea blockade on Lebanon. Alarmed by Israel's fierce response, the European Union criticized Israel for using "disproportionate" force. George W. Bush, the U.S. president, could have rebuked Israel, but instead he declared, "Israel has a right to defend itself."

On this vital matter, Bush was absolutely consistent. Two years ago, he raised the point that Israel, like any other sovereign country, has a right to self-defence. As he put it, "The Israeli people have always had enemies at their borders and terrorists close at hand. Again and again, Israel has defended itself with skill and heroism."

As a result, Bush – one of the most pro-Israel of presidents – backed Israel politically and militarily, even as he and his secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, urged Israel to exercise restraint and consider a diplomatic solution to a thorny problem.

• John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador, vetoed a UN Security Council resolution accusing Israel of disproportionate force. The measure, introduced by Qatar, called on Israel to halt its operations, release Palestinian prisoners, replace power-plant equipment and restore fuel supplies.

• Bush replenished Israel's supply of laser-guided bombs, knowing full well that they would be deployed against Hezbollah, especially in southern Beirut, where Hezbollah has its headquarters. During the first weeks of the war, Israeli aircraft bombed the bunker where Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's general secretary, was supposedly in hiding.

• By a wide margin, the U.S. Congress expressed "strong support" for Israel and condemned Hezbollah.

• The United States supported Israel's rejection of a United Nations request for a 72-hour truce so that Lebanese civilians could be evacuated from the war zone and emergency supplies could be delivered. Israel's contention was that a humanitarian corridor had already been opened, and the United States concurred.

Israel and the United States, however, were not always been on the same page.

After 28 Lebanese civilians in Qana were killed in an Israeli air strike, Washington pressured Israel to observe a 48-hour bombing pause. Israel agreed in principle, but continued bombing Hezbollah positions anyway.

Israel and the United States were also at odds over the timing of a ceasefire. Concerned that the war could have unintended and catastrophic consequences, the Bush administration appears to have convinced Israel to delay a ground invasion of Lebanon so that diplomacy could gain some traction.

Despite these blips, Israel was pleased with U.S. policy and, in particular, with Bush's castigation of Hezbollah. In a blunt and unadorned observation, Bush accused Hezbollah – which targeted U.S. marines and diplomats in Lebanon in the early 1980s – of causing the war. As he commented on July 31, "The crisis began with Hezbollah's unprovoked attacks against Israel."

Much to Israel's further satisfaction, Bush said that the two implicit backers of the war, Iran and Syria, should be held accountable for having armed and encouraged Hezbollah.

In retrospect, the United States was far more supportive of Israel during this war than in the last one in Lebanon.

The Reagan administration tolerated Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, but as the war dragged on and more Lebanese civilians were killed, the United States grew impatient with Israel's tactics, postponed the delivery of F-15 jets to the Israeli air force and stumbled into a brief war of words with Israel.

Twenty-four years on, Washington displayed more understanding of Israel's war aims, compared to the hard line Bush took toward Israel when its dispute with the Palestinians suddenly escalated in the spring of 2001. After Palestinian Qassam rockets crashed into the town of Sderot, in the western Negev, Israel launched a series of pinprick incursions into the Gaza Strip. The United States vocally objected to these raids, and the then-Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, who now lies comatose after suffering a massive stroke last January, was not amused.

But since then, Israel's relationship with the United States has markedly improved. Indeed, Bush has gone out of his way to say that Israel's security is a major reason why he is trying to block Iran from acquiring a nuclear arsenal, and has promised to come to Israel's aid should it be attacked by Iran.

Best of all, Israel's overall strategic ties with the United States are strong. Last November, after patching up a dispute over Israeli arms sales to China, Washington ended a year-long freeze on Israeli participation in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) project. The JSF fighter jet is slated to replace some of the finest aircraft in the United States' arsenal, the F-15 and the F-16.

**U.S. President George W. Bush and Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at a recent meeting.**

In keeping with its general pro-Israel stance, the United States did not waver from its belief that a truce in Lebanon should be sustainable and permanent so that fighting does not resume in the future.

Washington insisted that a ceasefire should ensure that a muscular peacekeeping force is dispatched to augment the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) currently in place, that peacekeepers will be stationed along Lebanon's border with Syria (a conduit for Iranian short-range and long-range rockets flowing into Lebanon), and that Hezbollah will pull out of southern Lebanon.

Israel, whose military performance in this 34-day war was less than decisive, ultimately agreed that a truce was necessary. Amir Pertez, the Israeli defence minister, said that its relatively limited operations in Lebanon – which cost Israel the lives of 114 soldiers since July 12 – were intended to promote diplomacy.

He made this comment as the Israeli government, in a seemingly last minute decision, widenened the ground war in a bid to disable Hezbollah's military infrastructure up to the Litani River, and as the Lebanese government demanded an immediate end to the fighting and a prompt Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Lebanon, caught yet again in the crossfire between Israel and Hezbollah, demanded a truce so that the humanitarian crisis did not spin out of control completely. More than 1,000 Lebanese civilians were killed, hundreds of thousands weredisplaced, and property damage hit the $2 billion (US) mark.

Such was Lebanon's plight that its prime minister, Fouad Siniora, offered to send 15,000 Lebanese army troops to patrol the border after Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon.

Siniora's offer, nevertheless, was surprising, since he and his predecessors had refused to take responsibility for policing the border area and disarming Hezbollah under the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1559.

Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, described Lebanon's proposal as "interesting," but he was in no hurry to accept it, given the widespread perception that the Lebanese army is weak and barely capable of keeping Hezbollah – a potent force in Lebanon – sufficiently far away from the border. Olmert's bottom line was that Israel would not withdraw until Hezbollah was battered and bloodied, a robust international peacekeeping force was inserted in the area, Hezbollah was disarmed and Israel's two kidnapped soldiers – Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev – were released from captivity.

Israel had to settle for less when the ceasefire, drafted by the United States and France and ushered in by Resolution 1701, came into effect on Monday, Aug. 14.

The truce, accepted by all parties concerned, ended the war and allowed Israel to remain in southern Lebanon until 15,000 Lebanese troops and an equal number of international peacekeepers arrive to fill the vacuum. But Israel's two captives were not immediately returned, and Hezbollah remained armed to the teeth.

On the last two days of the war, when Israel pushed to the Litani River, the Israeli army and Hezbollah were locked in fierce fighting. During the battles, Israel lost 31 soldiers, including the son of novelist David Grossman, and a helicopter was downed by an anti-tank missile.

During the final 24 hours, Hezbollah managed to fire about 250 rockets into the Galilee, killing a civilian and proving that Israel's offensive had not impaired Hezbollah's ability to hurt Israel. Hezbollah remained standing, and this may haunt Israel in the years ahead.


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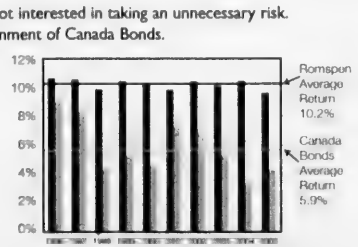


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# Eilat/Eilot welcomes northern neighbours into their homes

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Since the ongoing barrage of rocket attacks began falling on northern Israel, life has been at a standstill for more than one million Israeli residents, many of whom have been forced to spend far too much time in bomb shelters to escape the carnage.

To give these beleaguered families a temporary respite from the ongoing danger and stress, the southern region of Eilat/Eilot has opened its doors – and its hearts.

More than 50,000 people from the north have been staying in Eilat, UJA Federation's twinned community along with the surrounding Eilot area, since the beginning of the war, some at hotels at reduced rates or for free, some with Eilat families, and some at an absorption centre that was opened specially for guests from the north.

Meanwhile, the population of the Eilot region has jumped by 50% to 4,500 people currently playing host to some 1,500 residents from the north at homes, youth clubs, and several kibbutzim.

"Immediately upon the falling of the first rockets, Eilat mayor Meir Yitzhak Halevy established a headquarters to organize local host families who have welcomed with open arms these strangers into their homes," says Hagit Shilo, The Jewish Agency for Israel's (JAFI) regional manager. "The people here are thrilled to have the chance to help."

Many of the children temporarily living in the Eilat/Eilot region spend their mornings and early afternoons in special summer camps. Later in the day they participate in organized trips to various attractions, including Eilat's famous underwater observatory, beaches, theatres, and sporting activities.

Social workers and volunteers also work with the children from the north, helping them – often through art therapy – to deal with their fears. Eight teachers from UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education arrived in Eilat on August 10 to spend time with the kids and their families.

"We do worry about these people – especially the children – because eventually they're going to have to go home once this war stops," says Shilo. "We worry because for many of them expecting to return to their homes in the north, they may not have a home to return to. But, for now, you can see the relief on these kids' faces – they are smiling, having fun, and living as young kids should live."

*Volunteers enjoy arts and crafts with children from northern Israel who are currently being hosted in the southern region of Eilat/Eilot.*

## Emotional satellite feed from Israel overcame all hurdles

By TAALI LESTER TOLLMAN
UJA Federation

It was a crazy idea conceived of at an equally crazy time. Hook up a live satellite feed from the Israel-Lebanon border back to Toronto, so that community members could connect with soldiers at the front lines during the July 26 UJA Federation Stand with Israel Rally. In addition to time differences, a dangerous war zone and the need for IDF permission, the task was daunting, but if pulled off, would offer rally participants a unique and moving experience not to be forgotten.

Sharon Shwartzman, director of public relations at the UIA Federations Canada (UIAC) office in Israel, began the logistical nightmare of putting the live feed idea together by first contacting high ranking army officials who could assist with the request. With additional help from Yossi Tanuri, UIAC's director general, an artillery unit near Kiryat Shmona was found.

"This unit had been in a fierce battle only seven hours before our feed went live," Shwartzman said. "And yet, once we got there, they were so helpful in getting us set up, placing cameras, doing what they could, It was unbelievable. The soldiers were so overwhelmed when they saw the images of all the people assembled in Toronto. It was at that moment that they realized they weren't just protecting Israelis but that they were protecting Jews all over the world."

*Members of the IDF join in a live two-way satellite feed for participants at the July 26 Stand with Israel solidarity rally held at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.*

One of the most emotional moments of the satellite broadcast was when a commander named Guy Markizano spoke to his brother, Motti, who sat in the Toronto audience fighting back tears. The two brothers sent each other words of comfort and love. "Take care of yourself," Motti said in Hebrew, "I love you."

"The entire thing was just so surreal," said Mendy Maierovitz, who was in northern Israel for the broadcast on a UJA Federation solidarity mission. "We were in the middle of nowhere, at three o'clock in the morning, making pizza for the soldiers, with artillery going off every 30 seconds," he continued. "And Guy, just couldn't believe that he was actually going to see and speak to his brother. You could see the bond between those brothers when they did, and that bond can never be broken."

Perspective

## Former Torontonian waits with anguish while son-in-law fights in Lebanon

By PENNY MOR

*Penny Mor, born Penny Carr 56 years ago, was raised in Toronto's Bathurst Manor before moving to northern Israel 35 years ago. Her son-in-law, Shmulik, a reserve soldier with the IDF, was recently called into active duty in Lebanon. This is Penny's account of what life is like today on Kibbutz Sarid.*

It's been around a month now since all this madness began in my beautiful Israel. How it all started is already becoming hazy in my mind. I suppose I was naïve when the three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped. Many of us thought, okay, it's time that we finally show Hezbollah – once and for all – that they're not going to bully us any more.

This is not what it was supposed to be like here. When I fell in love with my husband Ariel and decided to make my future here, life was simple. You worked on the kibbutz and the rest was taken care of for you. Our kibbutz was a wonderful place for the children to grow up on, and a secure and wonderful life for its many members.

*Back Row (l-r) Hadas Mor, her boyfriend Dror, Shmulik Levy and Niv Mor. Front Row (l-r) Noa Levy, Ariel Mor, Yonat Levy and Penny Mor.*

My 31-year-old son-in-law, Shmulik, who is married to my wonderful daughter Yonat, was recently called up to serve in Lebanon. Despite the 'in-law', Shmulik is very much my son. I have friends here who have seen their children or husbands called up to serve, and some of them have lost complete control of their emotions, living in fear - day after day - that they will hear the news we all dread. I empathized with them as much as possible, but not until Shmulik was called up, did I really understand that sense of constant panic; the constant ache that tears at my heart and my soul.

Now, whenever I hear about one of our soldiers being killed or seriously wounded, I feel ill; I become practically paralyzed each time.

It's ironic that I got the news of Shmulik's call-up at a time of near tragedy, a time when you say to yourself, "it just can't get any worse than this!"

Yonat, me and Noa, her three-year-old daughter, were in a car accident. Fortunately, only the car was injured. When Shmulik, who was at the Lebanese-Israeli border, heard about the accident, he drove three hours to make sure that we were really okay. That's also when he told me the news that his unit was entering Lebanon at 4:00 p.m. that afternoon. I felt that although we had just survived a car crash, G-d was still punishing us. Yonat – who is always quite calm and level-headed – became understandably upset and emotional. Eventually she began to settle down and realized that there was nothing any of us could do; Shmulik was an Israeli who was ready and willing to fight for his country.

For weeks now, I've gone to bed with the news and wake up with the news again. I see pictures of mothers crying and screaming as the carnage continues. I see pictures daily of soldiers – some as young as 18 – dying for their country. I think about their parents and families as they mourn the loss of their beloved children thrust into role of protector. I think about the injured – both physically and emotionally – whose lives are changed forever. But mostly, I think of Shmulik and pray that one day soon he returns to the loving embrace of my daughter and granddaughter. I pray for the days that once were here on our kibbutz. I pray for my home, Israel.

*(Penny Mor is the aunt of Elana Carr Horowitz, assistant campaign director, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.)*

**Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org**

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# Israel Emergency Campaign reaches $10 million mark

## *IEC officially launched last week*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

After just two weeks, UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007 (IEC) is closing in on $10 million on top of $18 million for the annual campaign.

The goal of the campaign is 20 million additional dollars for Israel's immediate and long-term humanitarian needs, over and above the regular campaign total.

Chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks, the campaign, which was officially launched last week in front of more than 2,500 supporters at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel, featured Pulitzer-Prize winning author and political commentator Charles Krauthammer.

The campaign launch was chaired by Harley Mintz and Bonnie Bloomberg.

"We are launching this campaign with a promise to Israel that has never been broken," said Rohringer. "Our community has always been with you. We are with you today. We will never leave you. You can count on us."

"Glued to the news, we see the images, the missiles, the fires, the destruction and the death," said Waks. "We also see media distortions which equate Israel and Hezbollah and ignore the torment suffered by every Israeli. We know that Israel has few friends in the world, but we also know, as evidenced by tonight's turnout, that we have the power and passion to take action; to help redress the suffering and the anguish, to make a difference for the people of Israel."

*The Chairs of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks.*

*Chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy, Judith Finer Freedman.*

*Harley Mintz and Bonnie Bloomberg, community Launch chairs.*

### Israel's emergency needs

Funds raised through the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign will be designated for Israel's immediate and long-term emergency needs including:

- Moving children in danger to safer areas of the country
- Medical and psychological support for new immigrants, the elderly, and those with special needs
- Essential supplies for Israel's isolated and elderly residents
- Temporary housing for the uprooted
- Finding new jobs for the newly unemployed
- Rebuilding towns and cities ravaged by terrorist attacks

### There for Israel

For Toronto's Jonathan Rotchitin, 14 and his brother Steven, 17 – the plight facing Israel today was the only motivation required for the boys to attend their first UJA Federation Campaign Launch.

"We're here to support Israel, and coming out to an event like this, which people in Israel will know about, is very important," said Jonathan. "No matter what Israel has to face, they're always strong and ready to protect all of us; the least we can do is help them when they're going through a bad time."

*Yair Goldwasser, brother of kidnapped IDF soldier Ehud, addresses the crowd at the launch.*

*Gil Blutrich, Chair, The Israeli Forum*

"Raising money is very important, but for my brother and me, coming to this campaign launch and other pro-Israel community events, is a way that we – as young people – can show our love and gratitude for Israel," added Steven.

Jay Wolkin, 23 and Vivian Masters 22, called Israel home from January to July last year. Now, showing their support is more important than ever before.

"Whatever happens in – or to – Israel happens to all of us as Jews no matter where you're from," said Masters, who was born in England. "Being here tonight to support this Israel Emergency Campaign and to hear from the brother of the kidnapped soldier is such an important way to connect with Israel."

"Believe me, when you spend six or seven months living in Israel, making friends with Israelis, becoming part of the culture, you see what they must live with day in and day out," said Wolkin. "The more you're there, the more you realize why it's absolutely essential that we show them our unwavering support. That's why we're here tonight."

### Time to stop the threat

"We have to stop once and for all, the threat from Lebanon and Hezbollah," said David Meranda, a veteran of many UJA Federation campaign launches. "This is not just Israel's problem;,it's not just our problem as Jews, it's a problem for all who value freedom and democracy. I was in Israel in July when the soldiers were kidnapped and the mood there on the street is 'enough is enough.' We must do whatever we can to help Israel and to expose the lies which are constantly being spread."

### Israeli Canadians mobilize

Among thousands who are providing passionate support for Israel are Israeli Canadians living in Toronto. They're working with a new organization – The Israeli Forum – which is partnered with UJA Federation. So far, Forum members have raised $160,000 for the Israel Emergency Campaign.

"This is the first ever collective gift given by the Israeli community in Canada through UJA Federation," says Galya Sarner, who heads up UJA Federation's Israel Community Project, an initiative which fosters bonds between Israelis and other Jewish communities.

"With Israel going through this crisis, we are in a critical time and we must step up to the plate at once," says Israeli Forum Chair Gil Blutrich. "Our goal is to show that Toronto's Israeli community is strong, vibrant, and stands as one with the Jewish community, and is ready to do whatever is necessary whenever our Israel needs us."

To contribute to the UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, please call the Hotline at 416.631.5705 or visit www.ujadonations.com.

*(l-r) Steven and Jonathan Rotchitin*

*Jay Wolkin and Vivian Masters*

*David Meranda*

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A2

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**The Israel Family**

A3

**Ben & Hannah Israel**
5730 Leger Avenue
*Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year*

B1

**Mr. & Mrs. Ben Israel**
**Carol, Judith and Nachum**
*Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year*

B2

*Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year*
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**Some of the new MADA ambulances being unloaded from a special flight from Canada. The units were immediately sent to MADA stations in the north of Israel.**
**[Isranet photo]**

# Canadian Jews send eight ambulances to Israel

**By SHERI SHEFA**
*Staff Reporter*

Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel sent eight ambulances to Israel by El Al cargo planes after learning that a Magen David Adom ambulance station in northern Israel was hit by a rocket as a result of the current war with Hezbollah.

Iris Ehrent, administrative director of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA), said that when she received word that many of their supplies had to be replaced, "we had to pull together all our resources and send whatever it was we had on hand."

For security reasons, Ehrent said she could not specify the extent of the damage.

Along with medical supplies, CMDA sent eight fully equipped MDA ambulances to Ben-Gurion Airport, which were immediately put into service and sent to MDA stations in northern Israel.

Ehrent explained that four of the ambulances were purchased by Canadian donors prior to the conflict, but after receiving the MDA report about one of their stations being hit, CMDA raised the funds required to buy four more in one week.

The four additional ambulances came from Edmonton, Montreal and Toronto.

"All of this was done in one week – that's how fast the community has responded," Ehrent said, adding that she is appreciative of the private donors and organizations that helped raise funds.

"But," she said, "it is very important to stress to the community that the only organization in Canada authorized by the government of Israel to raise funds for Magen David Adom is the Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel.

"We do not send funds to Israel. We purchase the supplies for them and send the supplies. We have strict instructions about what the funds can be collected for, and it is strictly for medical supplies and equipment," Ehrent said.

The ambulances, which cost between $85,000 and $105,000 each, come fully equipped, and they are shipped ready to use as soon as they land in Israel, she said.

Although Ehrent is grateful for the generosity of the Canadian community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, she explained how important it is for her organization to continue to supply MDA, Israel's national medical, emergency and blood bank service, with supplies and equipment during the war.

"Under normal circumstances, equipment that these ambulances are furnished with could last six to nine months. Right now, in view of this current situation, it lasts up to about three days. It's very evident that the urgent need to replenish these quickly dwindling supplies is overwhelming," Ehrent said.

According to the MDA daily report dated Aug. 10, MDA personnel treated 2,225 casualties, and there have been 110 Israeli fatalities.

"It is their lifeline. Magen David Adom in Israel is the second line of defence," she said.

Manny Tessler, who has been involved with CMDA for 10 years and has purchased three ambulances for MDA over the past three years, hopes that the efforts of this organization will lead the Jewish community by example.

"Israel is bleeding, and anything we can do for Israel is greatly appreciated," Tessler said. "[The ambulances] will help a lot of people."

For more information, visit www.cmdai.org.

# Israeli singer Liel performs at UJA campaign

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

Liel Kolet, a 17-year-old Israeli singer who is on her way to stardom, cancelled performances in Europe and Mexico after the Israeli/Hezbollah war flared up in order to be with her family.

But nothing could stop her from performing at the UJA Emergency Campaign Launch in Toronto, Aug. 8.

Liel, who's known by her first name, was to originally perform on Sept 6, for the campaign, which was moved forward because of Israel's urgent need for support.

Liel, who has been compared to Ofra Haza, sang five songs at the event, including *Send Me an Angel*, which will soon be released as a single in Europe.

"It's very important to me [to support this event] also because I live in Israel," said Liel, who lives in the north of Israel on Kibbutz Kinneret. "It's a war and everything all around is bad – the bombs, the shelters, so it's very close to my heart."

For the past two weeks, Liel has been spending much of her time in a bomb shelter, as Hezbollah rockets continue to shell the northern part of Israel, 15 minutes from where she lives.

Liel Kolet
[Nestor Ponce photo]

"The north of Israel is really terrible. Many cities are ruined from bombs, and all the time people have to be in shelters and they can't go out. Many people are also moving to Tel Aviv or cities far away from all of it. It's very difficult," she said to *The CJN*.

"I came here [Toronto] not only to perform but to say that the money that they are raising is very important. The situations in the shelters are very, very bad. In Israel, the heat is terrible, especially in the summer, and the people there don't have air-conditioning or fresh air. Sometimes they don't have beds to sleep on, and that's why it's important to raise money – to improve the shelters."

Liel has spent much of her time singing and playing guitar for the children in the bomb shelter, "trying to help them cope," she said. "Music always warms your heart."

More than 2,500 people attended the UJA Emergency Campaign Launch.

Two days following the event, Liel was back in Israel, performing at the Send Me An Angel fundraising event in Tel Aviv. The event raised money for essential supplies for people living in bomb shelters in the north of Israel.

Liel will return to Toronto on Nov. 11, when she will perform a concert for the Save A Child's Heart organization.

# Journalist slams Oslo peace process as a 'lie and a deception'

**Continued from page 3**

Historically, Krauthammer said, Israel has never had designs on enemy territory. It has accepted every resolution and has acted only to secure a peaceful frontier, he added.

The world did not understand that Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon was "a defensive occupation" resulting from cross-border attacks, he said. All Israel seeks is peace, he added.

Krauthammer slammed the Oslo peace process as a "lie and a deception" that had nothing to do with land occupation or settlements. Not only did the Palestinians not accept Israel's "astonishingly generous" offer at Camp David in 2000, but they never made a counter-offer, he said.

Yair Goldwasser
[Nestor Ponce photo]

"The issue today, as always, is Israel's existence," he added.

After Israel left Gaza last year, the Gazans built rockets instead of roads and courthouses, Krauthammer said. Israel left Lebanon in 2000, he noted.

Hezbollah is "the proxy of the Iranian revolution, [whose goal] is to defeat the West, to restore the ancient glories of Islam and to subjugate those who will not accept Islam voluntarily," he said. "They call America the great Satan and they believe that is not hyperbole… The threat is global."

The Arab-Israeli conflict has evolved from a nationalist conflict to a religious one, Krauthammer said. Religious wars are far more deeply rooted and dangerous, he added.

"This is indeed a very brutal war," the Israeli prime minister said in his video address. "We are going to win this war. It's not going to be easy, but we'd rather pay this price now than wait and face more devastating and destructive wars."

Olmert told the audience that Israel relies on them "to share some of the burdens." After the war, he said, thousands of properties will have to be rebuilt and people who have been relocated from northern cities such as Haifa, Afula and Akko will have to be brought back.

Goldwasser said his hometown of Nahariya has suffered more than 500 Katyusha attacks and has gone from a "lovely little fisherman's town" to a ghost town.

More than one million people have left their homes in the north, especially those who wanted to protect their children, he said. Goldwasser said it's "an honourable reason" to leave.

He said he was speechless over the strength and support he felt from the Toronto Jewish community, and that he would relay that support back to Israel. His 31-year-old brother, who has been studying for a second degree at the Technion Institute in Haifa, is an "amazing person," he said.

Brosh said Israel never wanted the current war, but saw no other choice. "If we take into consideration the provocation [by] Hezbollah over the last six years, including kidnapping of Israeli soldiers, the infrastructure they built in… south Lebanon, including dozens of kilometres of underground bunkers… weapons they've accumulated, and if we take seriously their declaration to destroy Israel to ashes, then we have no choice but to defend ourselves. We would like to reach a ceasefire, but a real ceasefire… and bring back home, safe and healthy, the kidnapped soldiers."

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**Sydney Loftus** ז"ל

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We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his beloved family.

Jewish Life

Guest Voice

# Israel: it's ours

By RABBI HOWARD MORRISON

Ten people, a small but hardy group, represented our synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, for 12 days in Israel last month. In Jewish tradition, the number 10 represents a quorum, a symbolic paradigm of an entire community, and while a traditional minyan comprises 10 adults, the "Beth Emeth 10" was a multi-generational congregation, with an eight-year-old, an 11-year-old, an 18-year-old, a 27-year-old, a couple in their 40s, a couple in their 50s, a single man in his 50s, and a senior citizen.

Our tour of Israel began July 5 in Tel Aviv. On July 7, we travelled north through Caesarea to spend Shabbat at Kibbutz Lavi just outside of Tiberias. We spent most of Sunday in the north, stopping in Safed, the Golan Heights, and the Canada Centre near the Lebanese border. We then spent most of July 10 and 11 in and around Haifa. We spent the rest of our tour, which ended July 17, in and around Jerusalem.

Our "northern exposure" was filled with peace, warmth and joy. Our guide at the Canada Centre, a woman who lived as close as one could to the Lebanese border, told us how privileged she felt to live in Israel. Any measure of sacrifice was well worth the gift of living in our homeland, she said. Little did I know when she said these heartfelt words to us on July 9 that she would probably be among those sleeping in bomb shelters a few nights later as missiles from inside Lebanon landed in areas that we had just visited.

For our seven first-timers in Israel, every experience was filled with awe and excitement. For the three of us who had been to Israel many times before, many unplanned reunions took place on the streets of Jerusalem and elsewhere with longtime friends who just happened to be there at the same time.

While our trip went exactly as planned, the last five days differed from the week that preceded them. Traditionally, the Fast of the 17th of Tammuz, which fell on July 13, marks the beginning of the three weeks of sadness, which recall the events leading up to and including the destruction of the First and Second temples in Jerusalem. This year, however, a new sadness began to emerge on the 17th of Tammuz. On the previous day, Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and murdered eight others along the Lebanese border.

We marvelled at the calm of Israelis. In Jerusalem, people continued to mob cafes and shops along Ben Yehuda and Emek Refaim streets. On July 14, Machane Yehuda was packed with people buying breads, cakes, fruits and vegetables for Shabbat.

Back on July 5, we were part of one of Israel's best summers for tourism in many years. But by July 17, we feared that this might become one of Israel's worst summers for tourism. A number of teen tour groups that we had met cut their trips short and quickly arranged for flights back to North America. One particular group had arrived in our hotel in Jerusalem just hours before Shabbat. The teens weren't allowed to leave the hotel until they departed for their flight soon after Shabbat ended. For these young people, their whole experience of Jerusalem consisted of less than 48 hours in a hotel.

Our "Beth Emeth 10" thought we might be one of Israel's last synagogue-based tour groups this summer. On July 16, the last full day of our tour, our guide told us that the group he was going to begin leading on the following day had cancelled its trip to Israel.

My family and I stayed for an additional week in Jerusalem, through July 23. During that time, I was comforted to encounter teen tour groups from the National Federation of Temple Youth, Ramah Seminar and Young Judea that were staying for the complete duration of their planned trips to Israel by changing their itineraries so that they stayed in safe regions of the country. I was proud to meet a number of teens from Ontario who were part of these groups.

The Beth Emeth group felt ambivalent about leaving Israel on July 17. But our pre-arranged tour was complete, and it was time for most of the group to return to daily life in the Diaspora. Yet everyone felt awkward about leaving Israel at a time when their physical presence gave a spiritual boost to Israelis who have grown accustomed to living amid horror and uncertainty.

Last spring, I thought of canceling this summer's Beth Emeth trip to Israel. Our group was small, but given the sad and tragic developments that took place during our stay in Israel, we felt privileged to have been in Israel, on our land, with our people, identifying with shared challenges, hopes and dreams.

*Rabbi Morrison is spiritual leader of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.*

# The wrong kind of education

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

The late Abdul Rantisi, the former head of – now what are they exactly? Oh yes, they're the organization that distributes hot lunches and medical care, also known as – Hamas, was a physician specializing in pediatrics. Khaleed Meshal, who now heads that same social service agency, holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Kuwait and taught physics for several years in that same country. Meshal is celebrating his silver wedding anniversary this year and is the proud father of four boys and three girls. Hassan Nasrallah, he of the Gandhi-like movement in Lebanon that's launching rockets into northern Israel, began teaching Islamic history and mores to large groups of followers in Lebanon at the tender age of 19.

And, of course, that ultimate man of faith, Osama bin Laden, received a degree in management and economics at King Abdul Aziz University in Jedda, Saudi Arabia. Bin Laden, currently living in a cave as a lifestyle choice, has idealistically chosen to forego working for his family's $5.5-billion-a-year global corporation and has consecrated himself to the virtues of family life by having an estimated 15 children by three or four wives.

So, as is evidenced by the above, one can have all of the facts and still know nothing. Many of the leading terrorists in the world today are educated family men, some of them with impressive means. There is no necessary correlation – none – between wealth and morality, education and morality, family status and morality, lineage and morality, popularity and morality, charisma and morality, and even professions of religious faith and morality. Indeed, it's the last one that may be the most dangerous seducer of morality.

When I hear people talk about terrorists as if they grew up in a trailer park with a seventh grade education, I shake my head and wonder whether we really understand just how co-opted the western world has become by Islamist hypocrisy. It's precisely through the use and exploitation of fundamental western values of higher education, technology, media and democratic speech that Nasrallah and the gang are able to spread their vision of love and global harmony.

All education, as Allan Bloom once taught, is a reflection of the values that a society wishes to imbue in its citizens. In democracies, we teach tolerance for a multitude of values. If you grew up in ancient Sparta, you were taught the code of military sacrifice. In tyrannies such as North Korea, the multicultural mosaic is hardly the order of business. Allegiance to the leader is the primary pedagogic principle. Many of us equate education with refinement, with sophistication, rational decision-making and ethical instincts, but our current struggles with evil forces throughout the world show otherwise.

Education is not a neutral activity. Authorities can educate according to whatever agenda they desire. In the current Arab world, with precious few exceptions and with the assistance of the BBC and the United Nations, hatred of Israel – blind, seething, immoral, irrational hatred – is the educational order of the day. No cease-fires, road maps or peace plans can undo educational poison. The only antidote is re-education, an infinitely slow and painful path, but one that must begin in the Muslim world immediately.

Jewish Life

*Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky, Random House.

# *Suite Française* is a masterpiece

**Books**
*Bernard Baskin*

This remarkable novel bears a surprising history. In 1942, the author, widely admired in France for her nine novels, was arrested as a Jew and deported to Auschwitz, where she quickly succumbed to typhus.

For some months she had worked feverishly on *Suite Française*, a book that was to encompass five segments and run to about 1,000 pages. She managed to complete only two sections before her arrest. Her two daughters, aged 5 and 13, went into hiding, carrying with them a small suitcase with the uncompleted manuscript.

For 64 years it remained unread, regarded as a personal memoir of limited interest. When it was finally published, it was acclaimed a literary masterpiece – rich in narrative, often stunningly beautiful in invoking subtle emotions and a frank, often brutal, depiction of a variety of Parisian individuals and families as they fled, panic-stricken, from the advancing German army.

In the novel's first segment, *A Storm in June*, Nemirovsky is unsparing in her excoriation of the cruelty, stupidity, prejudices and hypocrisy of most of the refugees as they ruthlessly manoeuvre to save their own skins. Her cross-section of types concentrates on three families but also includes aristocrats, clerks, merchants, artists and soldiers.

There is both satire and bleak humour in her limning of one-time respected and privileged members of society, reduced to clinging to useless material possessions and desperately attempting to maintain absurd middle-class values in a vortex of tumult and chaos.

Only one couple, the unassuming, middle-aged Michauds, act with a measure of kindness and dignity.

The book's second portion, *Dolce*, is set in a small village in the French countryside almost a year later, after the armistice. Here the tone is more muted and even tranquil. Billeted in the home of a sensitive French woman is a cultured and handsome German officer. Their secret love affair adumbrates the complex relationship between villagers and occupiers and the theme of collaboration.

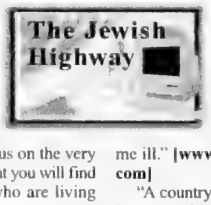
The author is eloquent in describing the beauty of the countryside in its different seasons and moods. "The breath of wind that moved [the cherry trees] was still chilly on this day in May; the flowers gently resisted, curling up with a kind of trembling grace and turning their pale stamens towards the ground. The sun shone through them, revealing a pattern of interlacing delicate blue veins, visible through the opaque petals; this added something alive to the flower's fragility, to its ethereal quality, something almost human, in a way that human can mean fragility and endurance both at the same time."

The German regiment arranges a party for the villagers and themselves and the author describes the scene this way: "Little by little, darkness spread across the lawns; they could still make out the gold decorations on the uniforms, the Germans' blond hair, the musicians' brass instruments on the terrace, but they had lost their glow. All the light of the day, fleeing the earth, seemed for one brief moment to take refuge in the sky; pink clouds spiralled round the full moon that was as green as pistachio sorbet and as clear as glass; it was reflected in the lake. Exquisite perfumes filled the air: grass, fresh hay, wild strawberries. The music kept playing."

How rare to find a book that is both emotionally fulfilling and a piercingly true evocation of historical events.

# Blogging during the bombing

**By MARK MIETKIEWICZ**




By now, most people are familiar with major Israeli media providing wall-to-wall coverage of the bombing of northern Israel and fighting in Lebanon. The major players include the *Jerusalem Post*, *Ha'aretz*, *Kol Israel* and others in both Hebrew and English. You can find excellent lists at Mondo Times **[http://tinyurl.com/mqhfd]**, Golsrael **[www.goisrael.co.il/]** and Abyz NewsLinks **[www.abyznewslinks.com/israel.htm]**.

But today I want to focus on the very personal and raw writing that you will find on the blogs of Israelis who are living through the bombing.

No report on blogging can be comprehensive. Since I first wrote about Israeli bloggers three years ago, their numbers have mushroomed – as has blogging in general. A recent report by the blogging search site, Technorati **[www.technorati.com]**, said there are about 1.6 million posts per day, or 18.6 posts per second. And since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, average activity has jumped to 2.5 million posts per day. **[http://tinyurl.com/oqkwn]**

Here's a sampling of some of the blogs you will probably agree with some, others will get you angry – but hopefully all of them give insight to the lives of ordinary Israelis.

"When I told all my friends back in the States that I was moving to Israel, they looked at me like I was crazy. Now I get e-mails asking me when am I going to come home. I am home." **[http://sabraheart.blogspot.com]**

"This war is making me ill. The Lebanese civilians dying makes me ill. The rockets on Israeli schools, hospitals and apartment buildings make me ill… The fact that it is Israeli weapons that have killed so many innocent people – even though we have no choice – makes me ill.

The fact that there are some Israelis – including, apparently, some army spokespeople – who don't understand that just because you warn people to leave an area, doesn't mean they all can, makes me ill." **[www.chayyeisarah.blogspot.com]**

"A country should not risk the lives of its own soldiers in order to protect the enemy's civilians. Unfortunately, Israel has often endangered its own soldiers in war for the fear that using superior firepower may cause civilian deaths among those who indiscriminately kill our civilians without batting an eyelid." **[http://cosmicx.blogspot.com]**

Joke. "Two men are sitting in a barber shop in Nazareth. One asks the other, 'Hey, what's the forecast for today?'

"'I heard 26 in Carmiel, 30 in Haifa, 29 in Tiberias and 23 in Safed.'

"'So I guess I don't need to bring a jacket to work today, huh?'

"'Who's talking about the weather?'

"Not amused? Tell me about it." **[http://3asl.blogspot.com/]**

"My wife ran into a bunch of people today from our village. One lady said she had put the kids outside in a little swimming pool when she heard a missile incoming. She grabbed the kids and ran inside and the boom was so loud she was sure it had hit the house. It had actually hit the neighbour's house." **[http://rockofgalilee.blogspot.com/]**

I came across that last blog in a very good listing of Israeli and Lebanese blogs at CBC.ca. **[http://tinyurl.com/pwtof]** On a related note, Sarah Ellison points out in the *Wall Street Journal* that bloggers from Lebanon and Israel are not only voicing their opinions but engaging with bloggers on the other side of the border. **[http://tinyurl.com/mooup]**

Some of the other blogs I find myself returning to include Israelity **[www.israelity.com]**, Israellycool **[www.israellycool.com/blog]** and Yaakov Kirschen's Dry Bones Blog. Perhaps most amusing – and depressing – are reprints of some of Kirschen's vintage cartoons. **[http://drybonesblog.blogspot.com]**

Although many residents of the north have decided to seek refuge further south, others haven't budged. Carmia, a contributor to the Kishkushim blog, lives in Haifa and wasn't going to let the situation stop her from hunting for a new apartment. "My boyfriend and I decided to look for apartments anyway, even though there had been a few sirens earlier in the day. Around 7 p.m., after we had just arrived at the first apartment in Stella Maris (the same street where Haifa's first-ever Katyusha had landed), the sirens sounded again. The woman whose apartment we were looking at didn't have a 'mamad' (a 'safe room') so she told us, 'Get into the shower – and take a look at the bathroom while you're there.'" **[http://kishkushim.blogspot.com/]** No word yet on whether they rented the apartment.

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*

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# Israel hasn't used 'disproportionate' force, Brosh says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

**Israel's Consul General Ya'acov Brosh, left, and federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty at the launch of the Israel Emergency Campaign in Toronto last week.**

Israel has neither used disproportionate force nor ignored the suffering of Lebanese civilians in its armed current conflict with Hezbollah, Israel's consul general in Toronto said last week.

At a press conference designed to highlight Israel's side of the story, Ya'acov Brosh dismissed claims that Israel has reacted too harshly and made no genuine efforts to minimize civilian casualties in Lebanon.

Reacting to allegations that Israel has used disproportionate means to combat Hezbollah, he posed several pointed questions.

"Is it proportionate that hundreds of thousands of Israelis are displaced in their own country?" he asked.

"Is the desire of terror organizations and the countries who back them to destroy Israel proportionate?

"Is it proportionate that Israelis are being kidnapped from their own country?

"Is it proportionate that airfields, ports and highways of Beirut and Lebanon are used to amass missiles and weaponry against Israel?"

Israel did not seek out this war, Brosh said, but the Israeli government has an obligation to protect its citizens and ensure their safety.

"This war is not about territory, but about a state, a democracy, that wants to survive," he said.

In a reference to Israel's military confrontations with Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Brosh said, "Israel is once again, after 58 years of existence, attacked on two fronts. The enemy this time is different in character from previous ones, declaring clearly that its utmost objective is to totally obliterate the State of Israel and not accept Israel's existence in any part of the Middle East. Any negotiation with Israel is not an option for them."

Accusing Hezbollah and Hamas of deliberately operating from civilian areas, Brosh particularly singled out Hezbollah, saying it "fights behind the skirts of women and the diapers of babies."

Nonetheless, he acknowledged that Hezbollah has exhibited well-honed military skills.

Brosh strongly criticized Syria and Iran for extending assistance to Hezbollah, which, he said, has purposely targeted Israeli civilians in a multitude of rocket barrages. As he put it, "Hezbollah is doing its utmost to kill civilians."

On the day he spoke, Hezbollah fired 165 Katyusha rockets into Israel, killing an Israeli Arab woman and her five-year-old son in the Galilee village of Dir el-Assad.

Brosh said Israel has done all it can to avoid hitting innocent civilians in Lebanon. Israel has warned them to leave places scheduled to be bombed and has only targeted sites with suspected rocket launchers, he added.

In a scathing critique of the Lebanese government, Brosh said that since Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon in May 2000, "Lebanon has refused to adhere to international demands and the demands of the United Nations Security Council to deploy its own army along the international border with Israel.

"Instead, Lebanon has enabled Hezbollah to build bunkers, tunnels and underground cities reaching depths of 100 to 150 feet to amass an enormous cache of sophisticated weaponry for the purpose of attacking Israel."

Israel's two major objectives in the war are the release of its two abducted soldiers and the removal of Hezbollah's missile threat, he said.

But quoting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Brosh said the war will neither be "easy" nor "short."

Referring to the possibility that a truce may soon halt hostilities, he added, "We hope that a ceasefire will be achieved, but it has to be a real ceasefire, with an effective international force on the border."

Brosh presided over a sometimes graphic slide show that underlined three salient points: Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon was certified by the United Nations; Hezbollah touched off the current fighting by crossing into Israel and kidnapping and killing Israeli soldiers; and the Israeli homefront has taken a big hit during the conflict.

Thanking the Canadian government for its "steadfast support," Brosh said that Canada and Israel share common values and are both committed to combatting terrorism.

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# שיאר נינו

## גידי קורן וחברים

**מלחמת הפקפקה**

אוקיאנוס של מילים יצרה המלחמה הזאת. כל יום עשרים אי מילים. מישראלים שלא ראיתי כבר עשרים שנה, וכולם בסוף, אחרי מאמר מתלהם, מצויים עלי לשלוח את הבשורה לשישים חברים נוספים, וכך כחמש מאות איש שולחים מעגלים מעגלים של אותו מייל אחד לשני.

יש כמובן משאל דעת קהל יומי, ואז מצווה עלי המייל להיכנס לאתר של קְטָע נייע או של פְּלִי בּוּי ולהצביע, ולהגיד לכוווולם להצביע, שמא נפסיד בבעיטות אחת עשרה.

ואם מתחשק לך לראות את ארץ ישראל של קיץ 2006- פתח את סיאנאן. תתראה כל רמזור במטולה, כל זוג אופנים בנהריה, כל חתול חיפאי, ומילים מילים מילים. וכמובן עשרים וארבע שעות רשת ביתי- כולם מראיינים את כולם, כולם יודעים, כולם חכמים, כולם היו בצבא. ואת מה שאתה לומד מהפְּקָפְּקָה הזאת אפשר לסכם בשלוש שורות שמופיעות בגידסת האינטרנט של העיתונים הישראלים.

ישראל עושה את מה שהיא צריכה לעשות, ואפילו שונאי ישראל מובהקים חייבים להודות שגם הם היו עושים את אותו דבר לו היו טרוריסטים מפגיזים את שטחם ואת עריהם.

אבל הרעלת המילים הזאת אינה טובה, כי מילים מתלהמות-סופן שהן מאבדות את ערכן ומפסיקים להאמין להן. אבל שישאר ביניינו.

**עצות ירושלמיות לתל אביב**

איך אפשר שלא---כל מצב מלחמה יוצר את הבדיחות שלו. אז הינה שלח לי חבר תל אביבי רשימת עצות ששלחו ירושלמים לתושבי תל אביב שמפחדים מהטילים. כמה מהן קיצוניות למדי ואינן מתאימות לְהומור של מי שנמצא מחוץ לישראל, על כן צונזרו.

"כשמגייסים אותך למילואים -לא מדברים על הסדרה החדשה של האחים ברבש.

אם אתם שומעים צליל מעצבן, עולה יורד-זו לא אזעקה, זה השיר החדש של ניט...

כשנופל טיל על אוטו של השכן שלך, רוץ מהר ואולי תספיק לתפוס את החנייה שלו....

כשמדברים בתקשורת על מבצע מתגלגל, לא מתכוונים לְקַיֵּיל במשביר.

כשאומרים לך לרדת למקלט, זה אומר מיד, לא אספרסו קצר, לא קרואסון שקדים. מיד."

**מוֹנָחִי**

תברי שמחה שלח לי את הקטעים המלבבים הבאים:

המורה אמרה שמבחינה מעשית לוויתן לא יכול לבלוע אדם, כיוון שלמרות גודלו העצום, הגרון שלו קטן. התלמידה הזכירה לה שלוויתן בלע את יונה הנביא. המורה חזרה והסבירה. התעצבנה הילדה: "כשאגיע לגן עדן, אשאל את יונה הנביא אם זה נכון". "ומה יהיה אם תגלי שיונה הגיע לגיהינום" התעניינה המורה. "אז את תשאלי אותו" ענתה הילדה.

כל הילדים הצטלמו לתמונת כיתה, והמורה ניסתה לשכנע אותם לרכוש תמונה.

"תחשבו כמה יהיה נחמד להביט בתמונה כשתגדלו ולהגיד: הינה יפעת, עכשיו היא עורכת דין, הינה מיכאל, עכשיו הוא רופא..."

ואז קול קטן ומשוך מאחור: "והינה המורה, עכשיו היא מתה"...

# Camp raises funds to bring Israeli kids to Canada

## *Special ceremony held upon arrival*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Camp Torolago and One Family Fund have teamed up to bring 25 Israeli kids out of the war-torn country and give them a memorable summer.

When the Hezbollah-Israel war began last month, Jack Benaim, the owner of Camp Torolago, a Jewish overnight camp, decided he needed to do something for the Israeli victims.

"When the war broke out, it was at the height of busy season for camps and I was sitting, watching the news and thinking, what can I do to make an effect?" Benaim said.

He decided to call on the community to help raise enough money to fly as many Israeli children from northern Israel as he could to his camp near Belleville in eastern Ontario.

"I started hitting the phones and raising money to get the flights in," he said, adding that he called Chantal Belzberg, who along with her husband, Marc, is the founder of One Family Fund in Israel, a non-profit organization that assists Israeli terror victims.

"I asked her for a sample of children... who have already had their families torn apart by Palestinian terror, and are now having Katyusha rockets rained down on their homes," Benaim said.

While not all of the 25 campers, age 12 to 17, are victims of Palestinian terror, all of them do live in northern Israeli towns that have been under attack since July 12.

"There are some kids who came directly from their bomb shelters in Kiryat Shmona to the camp."

He said that in four days, from July 24 to 28, he, with the help of One Family Fund, managed to raise $55,000 through the Estrella Benaim Camping Assistance Program, which Benaim had founded to raise money for families who need financial assistance to send their kids to camp.

"Last year, we brought six Israeli kids who were directly affected by terrorist attacks, and [earlier this year] we tried to raise money but couldn't do it. But when the war started... people started opening up their pockets," Benaim said.

And for this, campers Haim Katav, 17, from Haifa, and Tanir Ezra, 15, from Kiryat Bialik, a Haifa suburb, are thankful.

"In Israel the situation is bad. There are a lot of alarms, but people get used to that," Katav said.

"I stayed in Haifa for two weeks. The first week of the war, I was in Kfar Saba. For the other two weeks, I was in Haifa and I kept hearing alarms," he added.

"Before the war started, I was in the rocket zone," Ezra said. "Every half-hour, there was a siren and we had to run to the shelters. So I stayed there for a week, and then I went to Tel Aviv where my grandmother lives and I stayed there until I came to Canada."

Both said they are worried about their families who are still in northern Israel, but they have faith that everything is going to be all right.

In the meantime, Katav and Ezra are enjoying their three-week Canadian vacation that began on Aug. 7 and ends on Aug 27.

Benaim said his staff and campers were so determined to make the Israelis feel welcome upon their arrival, they planned a special ceremony.

"When the bus came, all the kids rushed to the main field. They were singing *Am Yisrael Chai* and *Od Yavoh Shalom Aleinu*. All the kids lined up along the doorway with their hands up, pretty much making a tunnel, and they all came under while we were all yelling and screaming. We had the Israeli flag flying and we all sang *Hatikva* together," Benaim said.

"The camp is like a big family. Everyone gets to do the things they want to do, everyone is having fun and there are no sad faces," said Katav, who acts as one of the translators for some of the other 25 Israeli kids who don't speak English as well as he does.

"It's fun," Ezra added. "There are a lot of funny people. They're nice. They treat us like family."

As though an escape from the barrage of rockets being rained down on their towns isn't enough of a reason to reach out to these kids, both Katav and Ezra, as well as many other campers, are also victims of Palestinian terror.

Three years ago, Katav's sister, who was 20 at the time, was killed by a suicide bomber in Haifa. And Ezra's father was murdered by a sniper, at the barrier in Ofra, an Israeli settlement in eastern Israel.

"All of these kids had been victims of terror prior to coming to Canada, and that's why they were chosen. They have had really unfortunate circumstances that have thrown them together," said Colin Lewis, president of One Family Fund Canada, the organization that handled the logistics involved in bringing the Israelis to Camp Torolago.

"I personally visited the camp last year, and I was so moved by the experience the [Israelis] were having and the impact they were having on the Canadian kids as well. I visited Israel and I saw several Israeli kids months after they had been to Canada and they were so high on the experience and so appreciative of what we had done for them."

Now that Camp Torolago has helped bring Israeli kids to his camp for the past two summers, Benaim hopes to make this an annual endeavour.

"We feel it is a wonderful opportunity to take the kids away from the trauma they are exposed to in Israel and bring them to a totally different experience where they can go canoeing and water-skiing – things our kids take for granted every summer," Lewis said.

"Unfortunately, there is far more need than the supply. Whatever money we raise here and whatever numbers of kids we can help, it's never enough."

For more information, visit www.onefamilyfund.org.


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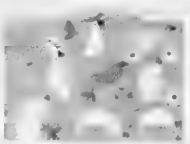
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# *University guide aims to give students a head start*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Adam Paulin and business partner Alex Kagan, both recent university graduates, are determined to help high school students make a smoother transition to higher education than they did.

With their 40-page, self-published guide, called *Fresh Perspectives: A University Survival Guide*, Paulin said their goal is to help first-year students negotiate the many differences between high school and university.

Paulin, a 22-year-old graduate of the University of Western Ontario's business program, said a post-secondary education can affect students in many different ways.

For instance, Kagan, also a UWO business grad, had a difficult time adjusting to the university social scene, while Paulin was unprepared when it came to mid-term exams.

Adam Paulin

He said he had very little experience with multiple choice tests, and he wasn't able to fully adjust until he was well into his second semester.

Paulin added that if he could offer his advice to first-year students, based on his experience, he would warn them about mid-terms.

"I would say, start preparing because you don't realize – it comes so fast. That was my problem. Other people experienced social issues, or living with a roommate, but for me, it was the shocker of these huge 500-person exams, and not knowing how to do multiple choice," Paulin recalled.

"I spent the whole second semester learning how to do that. I was fortunate to be able to pull everything together, but it was just dreadful."

Paulin said the guide tells high school graduates everything they should expect as post-secondary students.

"[The guide] has so much value because it'll tell people, you're going to be living with a roommate – be prepared, or you're going to be eating cafeteria food for a year – be prepared," he said, adding that his favourite section of the guide is "Lunch Ladies Aren't Nutritionists."

And the best way to get prepared, Paulin said, is to arm yourself with information that can be found in the guide.

He said that although the high school curriculum concentrates on preparing students for university-level work, many students enter post-secondary institutions without adequate knowledge about time management, lecture comprehension, and, more importantly, what to expect in terms of living conditions, diet, social scenes involving drugs and alcohol, and dealing with the pressures and dangers of becoming sexually active.

Paulin said that while there are similar guides in the United States, he is unaware of anything that compares to his product in Canada. He added that what separates his guidebook from others on the market is that the guide is written for students, by students.

He said that he and Kagan travelled to schools across the country to speak to students about the problems they faced and the ways they dealt with them.

"[The guide] is not preaching to them, saying this is what you have to do and this is how you have to do it, but it tells them that these are the best techniques. These are the facts."

Although many students were hired as writers to work with senior editor Annie Roper on the project, doctors and professors also contributed information about the realities of binge drinking, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, as well as tips on how to stay organized, take good notes and prepare for exams.

"There is a lot more fact than just opinion in the book. We found people who were willing to tell their stories, but also combined it with the facts," Paulin said.

He said that last year, he and Kagan sold the guide to two private high schools in Toronto, Upper Canada College and Bishop Strachan School, to distribute to their graduating students, and to date, they have sold about 1,500 copies.

Paulin added that the schools' administration saw value in the guide, because it might help their students who enter college and university make it to graduation.

"When you look at [the fact that] 15 to 20 per cent of kids aren't graduating… high schools want to maintain a good record," he said.

While their efforts are focused on distributing the guide to high schools, Paulin said he hopes *Fresh Perspectives* will eventually offer an annual edition and become a Canada-wide success. He also hopes to establish an online help desk.

"We're the starting point. We want students to realize that there are situations and important issues and that if certain situations arise they'll have more information to help them," he said, adding that the book has been endorsed by the Kids Help Phone, Parent Action on Drugs and the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Infoline.

*Fresh Perspectives: A University Survival Guide* costs $9.99 and can be ordered at www.freshperspectives.ca.

# Sabra Montrealer enlists in IDF

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — This coming year might have been a typical one for Noam Mendelson.

The 18-year-old Montrealer could have been hanging out with friends, continuing his studies or just doing the stuff young people his age like to do.

Instead, for the next six to nine months, Mendelson will be training for the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and considering the real possibility that he could be assigned to a combat unit if the war against Hezbollah rages on.

"For now, I'm staying calm," laughed Mendelson during a telephone interview from Israel. "But I'm sure I'll feel differently if it's still going on [when training is over]."

Mendelson said he has had absolutely no second thoughts about serving in the Israeli army, despite the fact that he volunteered long before the latest conflagration began.

Born in Israel, Mendelson has dual citizenship and was part of group of 30 Canadians from eastern Canada and the United States who left Aug. 9 for Israel as immigrant participants in the Friends of Israeli Scouts (Tzofim).

The group was part of the Garin Tzabar program, which allows Israeli-born young people, the children of Israelis, and army-aged olim living abroad to move to Israel and prepare for the army together on a kibbutz, and to polish their Hebrew at an ulpan before being individually assigned to their duties.

Mendelson said three other members of his group were also born in Israel, but he is the only Montrealer.

Because he's a sabra, Mendelson is obliged to stay in the army for an entire three-year stint. Olim who are not Israeli-born have the choice of serving for less time and are not assigned to intelligence units, Mendelson said.

Not surprisingly, his decision to join the IDF at this time has made Mendelson's family and friends worried about his safety.

His father, Mark –who is executive director of the Jewish National Fund in Montreal and an IDF veteran himself – as well as his mother Edna, director of the Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, and sister his Omer have all voiced concerns, but they're letting him follow his heart, he said.

Ironically, Mendelson said he came to Canada from Israel as a baby partly because his family wanted to avoid the possibility of him being drafted into the IDF when he came of age.

Surprisingly, though, he didn't go back until the 2005 March of the Living trip that marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. That trip had a "huge impact" on Mendelson, a graduate of Jewish People's Schools and Peretz Schools, and Bialik High School. A second trip, with birthright israel this past January, "just confirmed that I really wanted to go," Mendelson said. He then joined the Friends of Israel Scouts program to be part of a group going together and to facilitate his transition into the IDF. Despite his desire to serve in the Israeli army, Mendelson is not immune to the anxiety that comes with knowing that he might be less than a year away from being in a combat unit, although he could be assigned elsewhere.

"Hopefully, there will be a resolution [to the conflict] by then," he said. On the other hand, he sees himself as an Israeli with a duty to perform. After his stint is finished, he hopes to return to Canada and pursue business studies at university as a mature student. But right now, he said, "this is the time Israel needs me."


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Food, Scrumptious Food

# Olive oil must be prepared carefully

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Ask Tovah Grafstein what she knows about olive oil and you'll likely learn something new.

First, the 18-year-old daughter of Neil and Rachel Grafstein of Grafstein Wines who was recently home for a break from her year-long studies in Israel, will tell you her favourite salad dressing recipe.

"Depending on your taste, take a mixture of balsamic vinegar and olive oil, and add oregano, pepper and Italian seasoning. That's it."

Extra-virgin olive oil (EVOO) is completely pure, she says, and in production, it is never heated over 27 degrees C. "Just like wine, the temperature is monitored throughout the process. If it is heated above that temperature or made with two different types of olives, it cannot be called extra-virgin.

"Also, EVOO has an oleic acid count of no higher than 0.8 per cent."

Next, she'll tell you that because of the similarities in growing conditions, olives and wine grapes are closely related. "The difference, though, is that mostly, wine grapes aren't eaten."

Grafstein, who along with her father, recently took an olive oil workshop run by the Italian Trade Commission, says there are three locations in Israel where both wine grapes and olives are grown.

"Mount Tabor in the lower Galilee; Kibbutz Tzora, about half an hour outside of Jerusalem; and the Shilo settlement in [the West Bank] all grow [both crops] next to each other.

"The utmost care is taken in producing both grapes and wine, and to ensure a high turnover, they're produced every two years," Grafstein says.

As an importer of pure Israeli olive oil to Canada, Grafstein says the key factors in producing both wine and grapes are the climate – the Mediterranean climate is perfect – the temperature during production and the handling of produce until the final product is ready.

"When you use the choicest grapes and choicest olives, you get a product that is pure, clean and smooth."

At the workshop, which was led by olive oil expert Fabrizio Vignolini, they enjoyed a tasting similar to a wine tasting, she says.

"We swirled it around in our mouths, we sniffed it and we took notice of the colour, aroma and after-taste.

"[Olives can be] sweet, herbal, fruity, peppery, or taste like almonds or apples, but it's always a good thing for one to be a little bitter. That's the sign of a well-grown olive."

The versatility of olive oil is amazing, she says. "Use a minimal amount when cooking, and add a little more when the food is done. Keeping the oil uncooked preserves its natural state, chemical balance and robust flavour."

Grafstein says she grills a red pepper by cutting it in quarters, placing it skin side down and drizzling it with balsamic vinegar and olive oil.

For more information call Grafstein Wines at 416-256-0440.

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# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Happy 80th birthday Jack Grunbaum. We love you. You're the best! Love, your wife Helen, your children and grandchildren.**

**Mazel tov Ben & Helen Klaiman on their 60th wedding anniversary. With love from Bev, David, Sarah and Lana and all your family and friends.**

**Mazel Tov to Grandma Mollie Lewis who celebrates her 100th Birthday on August 19th. Lots of love from all of your family and friends.**

**Mazel tov to Casey Savlov & Deena Egier who were married on May 28 at Beth Tzedec Congregation.**

**Dana & Gerry Weintraub were married May 28 at Agudath Israel, Ottawa. Proud parents Ed & Betty Rose, Ottawa, and Ernie & Bunnie Weintraub, Toronto.**

**To Fern & Herbert Wisebrod celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Mazel tov and best wishes for health and happiness. From your loving children and granchildren.**

***SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!***

**Label the back of all photos and keep wording to 25 words or less. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 305, North York, ON. M3B 3K4**

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# What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Monday, Aug. 28, is the deadline for the Sept. 7 issue and Thursday, Aug. 31, is the deadline for the Sept. 14 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Friday, Aug. 18

**MEET NEW RABBI**

During the month of August, Temple Har Zion welcomes the community to meet its new rabbi, **Cory Weiss**, at Shabbat services. Refreshments and socializing 6 p.m. Services 6:30-7:15 p.m. Shabbat morning services are at 10:30 a.m. 905-889-2252

## Sunday, Aug. 20

**WINGATE MEETING**

The Wingate Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has an all- members breakfast meeting at 9:15 a.m. 788 Marlee Ave.

## Monday, Aug. 21

**SUMMER ULPAN**

Canadian Zionist Federation offers an opportunity for intensive, interactive daily Hebrew study at an all-level conversational Hebrew summer ulpan beginning today and running through Aug. 24 and Aug. 28-31. For information and registration, call 416-633-3988 or e-mail czf@jazo.org.il.

## Tuesday, Aug. 22

**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation presents "Family Fun Summer Festival," with activities 5:30-7 p.m. Includes a jumping castle, games, parachutes, hockey activities and crafts followed by a performance by the Russian Folk Theatre at the Zukerman Theatre. Earl Bales Park. Free. 416-395-7873

## Wednesday, Aug. 23

**JOKERS & HUMOUR GROUP**

Jewish Jokers, Humour and Trivia Group meets tonight for fun and refreshments at 7 p.m. at the community centre at 140 Antibes. For information, contact **Irv Helpert**, 416-661-2541.

## Other News

**BOOMERS' EXPERIENCE**

"Get Back: The Boomer Experience, Growing Up Jewish in the 1950s, '60s and '70s," an exhibit of nostalgic memorabilia and artwork that evokes memories for boomers, is at the Baycrest Heritage Museum, 3560 Bathurst St. until Friday, Aug. 18. Free admission. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2802.

**EMUNAH BAZAAR**

Haifa chapter of Emunah Women holds a bazaar at Baycrest Centre Thursday, Aug. 24, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds will support children in need in Israel.

**INTRO TO JUDAISM**

Temple Israel of London is offering an "Introduction to Judaism Class" with **Rabbi Joel Wittstein**. An organizational meeting for the course takes place on Monday, Aug. 28. This class is for anyone in the Jewish and non-Jewish community. RSVP by Aug. 21 to 519-858-4400.

**STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Mekorot Institute of Torah Studies for Women** offers study opportunity for women of all ages and backgrounds. Day and evening text-based classes include Bible, Jewish philosophy, prayer, Talmud and more. Sources provided in English and Hebrew. Courses offered in 3, 4- and 6-week and year-long sessions in locations across the GTA beginning in September. Visit www.mekorot.ca or call 416-877-2050.

**KADIMA OPEN HOUSE**

Kadima Centre, the social-recreational program for developmentally handicapped adults, meets at Beth Emeth Synagogue on Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m., and on Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Kadima hosts an open house, dance and registration on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. To volunteer for Kadima or for information about its programs, call **Suzanne Agasee**, 416-635-6800.

**Continued on page 23**

LIFESTYLE
Retirement Communities

Marketing/Sales Director for Senior's Retirement Living

Forest Hill Place, a luxury Retirement Residence, requires a full-time Marketing Director to co-ordinate rental of retirement suites. We are looking for an energetic team player with previous consumer sales experience, who is keenly interested and has experience working with seniors and their families. Extensive knowledge of the local Jewish community and connections to appropriate referral sources is a must. Responsibilities will include leasing of suites, assistance with development of effective marketing plans, and event planning. The position requires some flexibility as there will be weekend and evening hours. Computer proficiency and a valid driver's license are required. Please submit responses by September 8th to the attention of:

**Pam Starr, *Regional Marketing Director,***
**pamstarr@cplodges.com**

**Forest Hill Place,**
**645 Castlefield Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5N 3A5**
by email or hand deliver.

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4588 Bathurst Street, North York

Advance Ticket Purchase by Thursday, September 7:
$18 general admission / $36 Gold reserved-seating*
At the door: $25 General Admission **

* Gold reserved-section is in the front-centre orchestra section of the theatre.
** At the door tickets may be purchased at 7 pm on September 10. First come, first served. These tickets will not be available if the event is sold out prior to September 10.

aish25
For tickets call 905.764.1818 or visit aishtoronto.com

What's New

**Continued from page 22**

**PAGES OF TESTIMONY**

The Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto is assisting Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as it assembles the Pages of Testimony, a collection of the names and biographical details of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. So far, three million have been collected. If your loved one's name does not appear on the website, www.yadvashem.org, JIS can help add him or her to the site. Call 416-635-5600.

**BOOK AND FILM CLUB**

Beth Tzedec Library offers its Contemporary Jewish Book and Film Club Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 26, **Ruby Newman** will review *Intuition* by **Allegra Goodman**; Oct. 30, **Cathy Tile** on *History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss**; Dec. 4, **Cynthia Good** on *The Magician's Assistant* by **Ann Patchett**; March 19, **Harriet Morris** on *Suite Française* by **Irene Nemirovsky**; April 30, **Philip Marchand** on *Everyman* by **Philip Roth**; and on May 7, **Heather Kassel** reviews *The Syrian Bride* after a screening of the film. $55 in advance for the full series of 6 lectures, $14 per session at the door. Dessert will be served. For information and registration, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25, or e-mail library@beth-tzedec.org.

**FALL LECTURE SERIES**

Temple Emanu-El offers its fall general-interest lecture series on Mondays 2-4 p.m. Nov. 6, "Great Palace-Museums" with **Dr. Catherine Danter**; Nov. 13, "Health Care in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities" with **Dr. Michael Guerriere**; Nov. 20, "From Page to Stage" with **Linda Hutcheon**; Nov. 27, "The Folk Singers" with **Mike Daley**. Series $30. For registration and information, call 416-449-3880.

**NEW TO TORONTO?**

If you are new to the GTA or know someone who is, make the move a little easier. Shalom Toronto welcomes new residents to our Jewish community with a warm greeting and a gift basket. Call 416-635-5600 or e-mail jinfo@ujafed.org.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext.28.

Family To Family Project is looking for Canadian families who are interested in hosting new immigrant families as they begin their new lives in Canada.

## FOR SENIORS

**Chai Shalom** presents a multicultural concert with violinist **Michael Ziskind**, Monday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Reserve by Aug. 24. Members $6, non-members $8. Yearly membership $15. On Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. Call 416-633-3838 for tickets.

**Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Casino Niagara, Tuesday, Aug. 29; Casino Rama, Thursday, Sept. 14; mah-jong, Mondays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Hebrew conversation, Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon; bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Sunday dances begin on Sept. 3; Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre Trip, Oct. 26. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Blood Pressure Awareness Presentation, Thursday, Aug. 17, 1 p.m. Free.

*The Sound of Music*, at the Capitol Theater, Port Hope. Thursday, Aug. 24. Bus leaves at 10 a.m. Members $50, non-members $60.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. All welcome. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

Join the Bernard Betel Centre for High Holy Day services with cantor **Ron Graner**, tickets $75/$85, add $15 for reserved seating.

Home Respite Care, a program to provide relief for a caregiver. For information, call **Sharon** at ext. 118.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Aug. 25, 1-3 p.m. in the Volunteer Lounge. Call **Melissa**, ext. 2297.

The Visionaires: Low Vision Group meets the third Thursday of each month. Next meeting Aug.17, 3:15-4:15 p.m., in the common room.

Lunch and Learn with **Jacqueline Wallace**, a holistic practitioner, Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 11:30 a.m. $5 includes dairy lunch. Call ext. 2267 to reserve.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Fray," an exhibit at the Koffler Gallery through Oct.13. Artists explore the implications of memory embodied in the design, materials and processes associated with textile traditions.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts is offering Printmaking with Vicki Cowan, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 1-4 p.m. and Life Drawing with Brian Smith, Aug. 28-Sept.1, 1-4 p.m.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Inquire about "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail" courses. Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

Limited spaces available for Sept. 2006 morning Tic Tac Two Program, junior kindergarten, full-day day care for toddlers and senior kindergarten. For more information, call ext. 248 or e-mail krubin@bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music Rock Band, Broadway All-stars Vocal, Boogie Babies & Jammin' Tots with Deborah, Opera Is Cool for Kidz with Judy, brass ensembles, cello ensembles, band. For information, call ext. 228.

Arts Limited Theatre Group shows for the entire season are on sale now. Call ext. 235.

Tickets on sale now for the 55-plus annual variety show.

Mah-jong, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Starts Sept. 13.

Bridge, Tuesdays, beginner, 12:30-2:30 p.m., and intermediate, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Starts Sept.12.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24 and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Summer adult pick-up floor-ball hockey, Monday evenings, July through September, 8-10 p.m. in the MNjcc gym. Contact **Anissa MacKinlay**, ext. 507, for details.

Bunch Rocks' family rock concert, Sunday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Al Green Theatre. Bunch Rocks is a family music series for parents and kids featuring indie rock bands. Tickets, $10, are available at the MNjcc front desk or at www.bunchfamily.ca.

*Max Maven: Thinking in Person*, Aug. 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. in the Al Green Theatre.

Hebrew Marathon for those who don't know their aleph from their bet, or once knew and have forgotten. This two-day marathon will teach you basic reading skills and help you practise reading Hebrew prayers. Sundays, Sept. 10 and 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Members $110 plus GST, non-members $140 plus GST. Call ext. 0 for information and registration.

**Correction:** The photo caption in the Aug. 3 issue of What's New was incorrect. The picture was from a Haifa Foundation and Israel Bonds event, in which Haifa Foundation's chair Toby Feldberg received the 2006 Golda Meir Leadership Award. Proceeds went to the new pediatric surgery department at the Bnai Zion Medical Center in Haifa.

**SHE'ARIM DAY SCHOOL TEA:** **Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, a day school for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, recently held its annual tea at the home of Esty and Joseph Edell. From left are Fern Orzech, tea co-ordinator, and Esty Edell.**

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18*

# OBITUARIES
## and Related Notices

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Berman, Pearl | July 28, 2006 | |
| Seder Szabolcsi, Ilonka | July 29, 2006 | |
| Elek, Elizabeth | July 31, 2006 | |
| Shneer, Faye | July 31, 2006 | 265 Maxwell St. |
| Markin, Jean | Aug 3, 2006 | 9 Stonedene Blvd |
| Edwards, Henry | Aug 4, 2006 | Private |
| Weinstock, Fanny | Aug 4, 2006 | 21 Danby Ave. |
| Hurowitz, Betty | Aug 4, 2006 | 3560 Bathurst St. |
| Maurer, Anne | Aug 4, 2006 | 8 Covington Rd. |
| Kapner, Klara | Aug 4, 2006 | 5 Fisherville Rd. |
| Milner, Jakov | Aug 4, 2006 | 4300 Bathurst St. |
| Lightstone, Arthur | Aug 4, 2006 | 26 Rosseau Rd |
| Dougherty, Helen | Aug 5, 2006 | 9800 Yonge St. |
| Kaszas, Borbala | Aug 6, 2006 | Private |
| Mauer, Lionel Conrad | Aug 6, 2006 | 525 Lawrence Ave W |
| Fiedler, Berta | Aug 6, 2006 | 429 Walmer Rd. |

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Toby Ironstone | Jul 29/06 | 140 Darlington Private |
| Albert "Tubby" Cole | Jul 29/06 | 147 Elder St |
| Ana Kirilovsky | Jul 29/06 | 4 Forest Laneway |
| Bernard Young | Aug 2/06 | 349 St. Clair Ave W |
| Jacques Ganon | Aug 2/06 | 6 Lakeview Ave |
| Lila Gutterman | Aug 2/06 | 110 Promenade Circle |
| Edith Lederman | Aug 3/06 | 2045 Lakeshore Bl W. |
| Evelyn Rabinovitch | Aug 4/06 | 10 Senlac Road |
| Ann Rotish | Aug 3/06 | 1955 Steeles Ave E |
| Aharon Barzilay | Aug 4/06 | 129 Banbury Rd |

HEDREW DASIC BURIAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Irving Ler | Jul 27/06 | 250 Frederick St |
| Harold Korenblum | Aug 2/06 | 31 Fraserwood Ave |

**Schwartz, Harry** ז"ל

*(formerly of Montreal)*

Passed away on July 16, 2006 at the age of 92 after a long life well lived. He is lovingly remembered by his devoted and caring wife Isabel *(nee Hershcovich)* of 64 years. Cherished father of *Marsha and Sheldon Berger, Mindy & Chaim Klein, Michael & Linda Schwartz* and loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is deeply missed by his adored family for his love and devotion to them.

**SYDNEY LOFTUS** ז"ל

It is with tremendous sorrow that we mourn the loss of our long time friend and business partner, Syd Loftus. His integrity, passion, vision and sense of humour will be greatly missed.

Our sincerest condolences go to the entire Loftus family.

*With heartfelt sadness, Wilfred & Joyce Posluns and Family*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**SADIE DIAMENT-COLLIS** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, Aug. 27th, 10:00 a.m.**

**Beth Tzedec Memorial Park**

*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**DAVID GREEN** ז"ל

will take place

**Sunday, Aug. 20th, 10:30 a.m.**

**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**

Beth Sholom New Section

*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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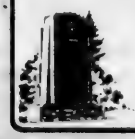

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# *Lebanon reportage distorts big picture*

Canadian media coverage of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict remains substantially divided in perspective between sensational daily news items and editorials and commentary that focus on the deeper story. While the reportage largely depicts the war as a humanitarian disaster that's been inflicted on the people of Lebanon by Israel, analyses mostly support Israel's military struggle against the heavily armed terrorist group Hezbollah, which is backed and directed by Iran and Syria, bent on causing the maximum amount of civilian casualties, and dedicated to the destruction of Israel.

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

This is not simply a matter of competing narratives, but rather a function of the reporting process. In Lebanon, the media must cover the conflict under the watchful eye of Hezbollah "minders" who are experts in stage-managing events to highlight the pain of civilians at the hands of the Israel Defence Forces. There have also, for instance, been recently documented cases in which information has been deliberately manipulated, including one involving a Reuters freelancer who doctored photos in order to depict more damage to Lebanon and its civilians than actually occurred.

Not that Lebanese civilians aren't suffering, or that the media have completely ignored Hezbollah's unceasing rocket barrage on Israel's northern cities and towns. However, all too often, the media focus on isolated scenes of devastation in Lebanon, leaving the false impression that the country has been left in ruins. Typically, the camera will zoom in on one destroyed neighbourhood of Beirut (used by Hezbollah), but fail to pan back to reveal that most of the city has been left untouched.

In addition, many reporters frequently take the more sensational statements made by Hezbollah and other Lebanese officials at face value. For example, on Aug. 7, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora claimed that Israel had carried out "a deliberate massacre" of more than 40 Lebanese civilians in the village of Hula. He later admitted that, in fact, only one civilian had been killed, yet several media outlets continued to carry Siniora's original allegation even after he corrected himself.

In "How Israel fights" (*National Post*, Aug. 8) Jonathan Kay writes: "By this point in the war, some readers will have heard enough about media bias. Still, I can't help but marvel at the other-worldly impression people are getting. The Israeli Air Force has flown 9,000 sorties during this war. The handful of tragic instances in which Israel has mistakenly attacked civilian targets are treated as war crimes. Meanwhile, Hezbollah has launched more than 2,000 missiles at Israel, every one of them deliberately targeting Israeli civilians... But the only time this is reported is when the rockets actually hit someone – in which case the fact is cited not as an indictment of Hezbollah's barbarism, but as testament to its strength and the purported futility of Israel's strategy."

Kay describes incidents in which Israeli special forces have put themselves at risk by attacking Hezbollah targets at close quarters, rather than bombing an entire building, in order to avoid killing civilians. Yet the emotionally laden images of human suffering send the opposite message: Israel is overreacting to Hezbollah's relatively "minor" infraction of violating Israeli territory, then kidnapping and killing Israeli soldiers.

At the same time, the deeper story is being explored in the editorial pages of almost all Canadian newspapers, and in some television and radio interviews. For example, the Aug. 7 *Globe and Mail* editorial, "Two crucial questions on Israel vs. its enemies," asks key rhetorical questions: "If Israel stopped attacking Hezbollah, would Hezbollah stop attack-

Continued on page 27

# War postpones launch of $100M Jewish education fund

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

A $100-million endowment initiative for Jewish education that was supposed to be launched by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in the coming months has taken a back seat to the federation's Israel Emergency Campaign.

But even when the campaign becomes a reality, parents won't see a break on day school tuition, which averages more than $11,000 this year. That's because interest from the endowment fund will be used to fund all aspects of Jewish education, and in any event would not be enough to make much of a dent in fees, said Seymour Epstein, director of the federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE).

Epstein told *The CJN* that a campaign to create the endowment fund is currently in the planning stages and will be launched sometime in late 2006 or early 2007. He said it had to be postponed to make way for the Israel Emergency Campaign, which began Aug. 8 and aims to help Israel's northern residents.

"Clearly, energy these days is being put into our emergency campaign because of the war in Israel," Epstein said. "At this point, [the Jewish education campaign] is all tentative."

Epstein gave few details about the proposed endowment, but he said donated funds "will be used for anything that's legitimately connected to Jewish education." That is, the money will not necessarily go to any one area or aspect of Jewish education.

"'Jewish education' means everything – the works," he said. "It means adult education, professional development, teacher training, informal education – the entire gamut."

Epstein said that where the money ends up will depend on the wishes of donors. "Each donor has a different area of concern," he said. "The donor who endows designates his or her area of concern. We can advise and suggest [where we think the money should go].

"In the end, the funds will be for all the different kinds of needs that Jewish education presents."

One such need that hits home for many parents is reducing the ever-rising cost of tuition fees at BJE schools. Tuition fees for grades 1 through 8 at Toronto's major Jewish day schools have increased by 4 to 8 per cent over last year, while Canada's inflation rate stands at 2.5 per cent. The average cost of tuition stands at more than $11,000 for the coming school year [see article below].

Across-the-board tuition reductions, however, are unlikely, Epstein said.

"Even if the entire $100 million went to an endowment fund just for the subsidy of tuition – which is only one aspect of the problem of Jewish education – it wouldn't reduce it that much," he said.

He noted that "$100 million produces $5 million a year in interest in a foundation. Five million dollars across the board would not reduce the $120 million [paid in] tuition [by parents in BJE schools]," he said.

Besides, reducing tuition is not what the endowment is for, Epstein said.

"It's for the general needs of Jewish education, part of which are tuition reductions. Jewish education has an entire world of needs."

Epstein pointed out that federation provides subsidies to families in need, not tuition reductions across the board.

"We do other kinds of funding, like project funding for informal education and supplementary education," he said.

He said that endowment campaigns to lower fees for all students only work in smaller communities "where there are [only] 1,000 students in day schools. We have 11,000 students."

He noted that it would require $22 million in interest per year to reduce tuition by $2,000 for those 11,000 students.

Speaking about federation's $7.8-million subsidy program for day school tuition, Epstein noted that it "is our largest budget piece" and that the program "is unparalleled in the Jewish world."

He admitted, though, that the program isn't enough for parents struggling to send their children to day school. "Does it reduce the tuition enough? No, it's never enough. There's always a need for more. But it does provide serious help for poor families," he said.

Epstein said federation has been providing more than $7 million for subsidies for many years.

"There are hundreds of millions of dollars that this community has given in the past 10 years just for day school subsidies. It's the highest priority of domestic fundraising," he said.

Aaron Blumenfeld, a former co-president of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS), which lobbies for government funding of Jewish day schools, said a community endowment fund is welcome. "Any money that's raised for Jewish education is a good thing. I just hope that adequate thought is given to [fact that] tuition is high and it's becoming unaffordable for many parents."

Ira Walfish, another former OAJDS co-president, said, "The focus should be [on] reduction of tuition, period," adding that the BJE should work with schools to find creative methods to do that, because it's the only way to attract middle and lower income families – particularly non-Orthodox ones – who aren't sending their kids to Jewish day schools and are too embarrassed to ask for a subsidy.

"The heart of the problem is that three-quarters of Jewish kids are not in the [day school] system... What is wrong with this picture: [there's] $100 million coming into the system without more kids coming into the system?"

# Fees rise 4 to 8 per cent at largest day schools

As kids head back to school, the parents of children in Jewish day schools are facing percentage increases in tuition fees that are greater than Canada's annual rate of inflation.

Tuition fees for grades 1 through 8 at the seven largest Jewish day schools in Toronto have risen between four and eight per cent this year. The annualized rate of inflation in June, the latest number available from the Bank of Canada, was 2.5 per cent.

Associated Hebrew Day Schools saw a five per cent rise in tuition for grades 1 through 6, from $9,800 last year to $10,250 this year. For grades 7 and 8, the increase was seven per cent, from $9,800 to $10,450.

Preschool at Associated cost $4,600 for half-day enrollment last year, while this year it's up by five per cent to $4,825. Full-day preschool tuition is also up by 5 per cent, from $9,200 to $9,650.

At Bialik Hebrew Day School, last year's tuition was $10,600, including a $1,000 building fee. This year, tuition rose to $11,000 including a $1,025 building fee, an increase of four per cent.

Grades 1 through 8 at Eitz Chaim Day School went from last year's cost of $9,900 to $10,400, an increase of five per cent.

Leo Baeck Day School's fees are $9,900 this year, eight per cent higher than last year's cost of $9,200.

For grades 1 through 3 at Netivot HaTorah Day School, fees climbed from $9,700 in 2005-06 to $10,480 for 2006-07, some eight per cent. Grades 4 through 8 also saw an eight per cent tuition fee increase for the upcoming school year, from $9,900 last year to $10,690 now.

At the Toronto Heschel School, senior kindergarten through Grade 3 will cost $13,000, four per cent more than the $12,500 it cost last year. Grades 4 and 5 will cost $13,200 in 2006-07, up four per cent from $12,700 in 2005-06, while fees for grades 6 through 8 at Heschel also grew by four per cent this year, to $13,500 from $13,000.

The United Synagogue Day School also uniformly upped its tuition by four per cent this year. Full-day senior kindergarten now costs $10,400, while last year it cost $10,000. Grade 1 is up to $10,700 over last year's $10,300, and grades 2 through 8 now cost $11,200, up from $10,800 in 2005-06.

Tuition also increased at Toronto Jewish high schools. The Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto increased its fees to $15,650, including a capital levy, from $15,150 last year, a rise of three per cent.

At the Bnei Akiva high schools, Ulpanat Orot Girls' School and Yeshivat Or Chaim, tuition rose four per cent, from $15,100 to $15,650.

The director of the UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, Seymour Epstein, said there are two main causes for the tuition increases.

"The first is the increased demand for high quality, which is always good," Epstein said. "The second is the increase in teachers' salaries, which is determined by teachers' unions. Teacher salaries make up the lion's share in any school's budget.

"[The rise in tuition] is unfortunate because we feel for the parents who are struggling to pay these fees, and for some parents, it's a real sacrifice.

"But these costs are going up and these fees [have to] go up," he said.

Epstein said each school determines fee increases independently, and while federation has a subsidy program to help pay for tuition, "the determination of fees is really controlled by the schools, not us." — *J.F.*

Coast to Coast

# Wiesenthal digital hate report out in French

By DAVID LAZARUS
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) decried a 20 per cent rise in hate and terror-promotion websites at the recent Montreal release of the 2006 edition of Digital Terrorism and Hate.

It marked the first time that the annual CD, now in its eighth edition, was released in Montreal, because its content, also for the first time, is being narrated in French, as well as in Spanish.

The 2006 report puts the number of hate and terrorism sites, as well as blogs, newsgroups, chat rooms, portals and the like, at more than 6,000 worldwide.

"The bad news is that those who peddle hate are determined in their efforts to pollute the world," SWC national affairs director Leo Adler told reporters at a Montreal news conference.

But Adler told *The CJN* that there are "only a handful" of Canadian-based sites that he would consider problematic, a tiny number compared to other countries. He said this is because of Canada's strong anti-hate laws, as well as the co-operation of the Canadian Association of Internet Providers and the power of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which can send Internet transgressors to court, where they could face jail time.

Adler cited the example of two Internet hate sites on Montreal-based servers, including one that was pro-Hezbollah, that were successfully shut down this past May.

"We would like to see some kind of regulation," Adler told *The CJN*. "Every other form of media requires some form of licensing. If it can be done for satellites and cable, it can be done for the Internet."

In a statement, Adler said that "looking beyond the numbers, online activities have undergone a qualitative shift that present existential threats to society.

"The Internet has become a 'virtual university' for terrorists and manuals from how to build a 'dirty bomb' and make poisons, to tutorials on how to use global positioning devices to attack a motorcade."

In Montreal, reporters were shown several examples of what extremists are posting online, including how-to videos on making a suicide bomb belt and instructions on how to turn an ordinary cellphone into a bomb.

## *More than 6,000 sites worldwide*

"The Internet has really become the medium to inspire, recruit, and communicate among extremists and terrorists," Adler told *The CJN*.

He said the SWC uses researchers all over the world who do nothing but scour websites, viewing an estimated 25,000 per month.

"When we say there are over 6,000 [hate and terror] sites, it is really just a sampling," Adler said.

He agreed that the increase in sites found does not necessarily reflect a rise in the number of people supporting such sites, but "the number is not the most important issue," he said.

"You can have hard-core militants, active proponents, all the way down to passive sympathizers, like rings in the water that get less intense from the centre after you throw a rock in," Adler said.

"The real issue is the lack of accountability and the impossibility to govern it."

One of the problems lies in the fact that hate can be posted virtually unchecked by authorities, because extremist groups can use more than one server in more than one country. In the United States, servers are virtually untouchable because of free speech laws there.

Although the nature of the Internet makes it virtually impossible to find all the extremist sites out there or shut them all down, Adler said tools do indeed exist to shut down as many as possible if, similar to Canada, nations implemented more stringent guidelines for Internet servers and providers.

"I really think it can be done," he said.

Richard Marceau, a former Bloc Québécois MP who is Jewish and a consultant for the Friends of the SWC, told reporters that "it is not a question of censorship, but responsibility." He also noted that young people are especially vulnerable because sometimes hate sites are disguised as innocuous sites for youth.

"Teachers should know that sites that might appear legitimate are not," he said.

Marceau said that "Canadian authorities certainly have shown awareness of Internet hate activities. But the increasing promotion of weapons of mass destruction requires a more robust strategy, greater resources and more timely awareness of a rapidly changing and growing threat to Canada and the world."

# *Oshawa councillor seeks to uncover city's Jewish past*

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Oshawa city councillor Louise Parkes is determined to find out all she can about a partially abandoned Jewish summer colony in the city, but she needs help from the descendants of the people who spent the summer there.

According to the information gathered by Parkes and Oshawa tax collector Timothy Dwyre, about 20 Jewish families established a small community in Oshawa, near Whitby, off Taunton Road in Cedar Valley, at the tail end of World War II in 1944.

Despite the fact that many of the original 20 cottages are either abandoned, deteriorating or burnt out, Parkes, who is Jewish, said that while one side of the summer colony is "a little run down," there are still a few beautiful little cottages that people are living in.

"There was a report that came to council about the properties, and we had to determine whether they would be going into tax sale," which means that if none of the owners of the properties or their descendants come forward to claim the cottages, the tax collector – in this case, Dwyre – would sell the properties to pay the taxes owed to the city.

Louise Parkes

Parkes said she believes the city is interested in tearing down the whole area, adding that about two years ago, the city tore down a synagogue in the same area without bringing the issue to council.

"When I heard that, I was really, really disappointed," Parkes said.

She does not want to see the summer colony suffer the same fate as the synagogue.

"I was expecting a ghost town and I saw a vibrant community, and I would like to see it remain intact."

Parkes described what the area looks like today, and explained that the cottages were built on a creek and that the inhabitants used to dam it to create a swimming hole.

"You go down this cottage pathway and you discover this circle of homes, some of which are occupied, and then when you come around to the beach, you see two burnt-out structures in the woods… [but then] you see these pretty little cottages. There are lots of trees, pines, etc. It's a nice little area," she said.

"It's part of our history, and I think the land is valuable and to get rid of it over taxes would be a shame."

She said they are trying to get in touch with the descendants of the owners of the properties to protect their property rights.

"They may owe the city money, but they also have properties that have some value," Parkes said, adding that one of the properties sold for more than $100,000.

But more important to Parkes than settling outstanding tax payments is getting in touch with descendants who have information about the area and its history.

"I'm trying to find out the story. I want to get in touch with the people who stayed there. I'd really like to find the descendants because I think it is an important part of our history and I want to find out why the community was started and who the rabbis were – or maybe there wasn't a rabbi," Parkes said.

"I have heard now of a couple of people who went there [every summer] that I'm going to follow up on.

"People had no idea that this place even existed," she said, adding that her husband's family has owned a furniture store in Oshawa since 1934, and even as a member of the Jewish community in Oshawa, her father-in-law thought the Jewish summer colony was a summer camp.

"I guess I knew about the Jewish community in Oshawa through my husband… but I had never heard this story. And all the time that I have been here in Oshawa, I have made it my business to find out more about the Jewish community here because I think it is a large part of our Canadian history."

She said she and Dwyre suspect that the reason the summer colony was established in Oshawa was that anti-Semitism was a problem in Toronto during and after World War II, which meant Jews might not have had access to Toronto beaches.

She added that they may have eventually decided to leave the area when anti-Semitism subsided in Toronto, and they became more established and were able to buy vacation property elsewhere.

"I just want to know who they were and where they went and why they came. And I would like to know if they came because of anti-Semitism in Toronto."

If anyone has any information about the summer colony in Oshawa, please contact Louise Parkes at lparkes@oshawa.ca.

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# Role of multinational force in Lebanon explored

By ELIAS LEVY
*Staff Reporter*

Avi Primor, a respected Israeli diplomat, is a former Israeli ambassador to Germany and the European Union, and a former vice-president of Tel Aviv University. He is currently director of European studies at the interdisciplinary centre of Herzliya University.

Primor, who is close to Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz, has, from the beginning of the war with Lebanon, been responsible for evaluating the possibility of deploying an international military force in southern Lebanon.

In an interview from his home in Tel Aviv, Primor discussed the war.

**Canadian Jewish News:** *Could the international community force Israel to accept a ceasefire?*

**Primor:** In the final analysis, the situation is this: no one wants war and everyone wants a ceasefire, but it depends on the conditions. If we're talking about having a ceasefire imposed on us, as Hezbollah, Iran and Syria are asking, in order to preserve the status quo ante, it's out of the question. The situation in southern Lebanon has to change drastically, completely.

At the moment, the Lebanese army is too weak to deploy troops in southern Lebanon. The other possibility is to call on a strong international force capable of fighting the Hezbollah militia and allowing the government in Beirut to impose its authority on all of southern Lebanon. If these conditions were met, then there could be a ceasefire. Meanwhile, Israel must continue to fight Hezbollah, and at the same time, prepare the ground for the deployment of an international force.

**CJN:** *What role does Israel see for this multinational force?*

**Primor:** This would have to be very different from other peace forces that have been sent to the Middle East. It would be an international force modelled on the multinational force that was established in Kosovo, or the one that attacked Iraq in 1991 to liberate Kuwait. It would be a combat force, not a force of observers.

A few days before her first visit to Lebanon and Israel, American Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the same thing – that any international force must have the mandate and the military potential needed to be active rather than passive like the UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) soldiers now stationed in southern Lebanon.

**CJN:** *Is this multinational force likely to be in place soon?*

**Primor:** No, it would take several weeks to deploy. The troops have to be organized, with the approval of their governments, once the governments have the approval of their respective parliaments. The military intervention force will also need to have a clear mandate from the United Nations.

**CJN:** *Would this force operate under the aegis of the United Nations?*

**Primor:** No. This military force would not be under the direct command of the United Nations, but probably under that of NATO. The UN will only give its approval to the military force to give it international legitimacy.

**CJN:** *Do you think the Lebanese government will agree to collaborate with this international intervention force?*

**Primor:** It's in the Lebanese government's best interest to collaborate closely with this multinational force whose principal mandate will be to disarm Hezbollah. Without the help of the political authorities in Beirut, the military force will not be able to accomplish its objectives.

**Avi Primor**

**CJN:** *What are the main countries that will provide soldiers for this international military force?*

**Primor:** The countries Israel would like to see participate are the ones that have a stake in Lebanon. First of all, France, which has a stake in and an emotional attachment to Lebanon and a military force that can carry out this type of foreign mission. The French military has already proven itself in several countries. But France can't and doesn't want to do this work alone. It will probably receive support from other European military forces, certainly from Germany.

**CJN:** *Is it possible that the presence of German soldiers on Israel's northern border will make Israelis uncomfortable?*

**Primor:** Yes. The majority of Israelis would view with disfavour any deployment of German military forces along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Any accidental confrontation would have dramatic consequences for both Israel and Germany. But if there are German forces, I think they would have to take on two important tasks: helping with logistics, and stationing troops in northern Lebanon along the Syrian border to prevent the passage of Iranian arms coming to Lebanon through Syria.

**CJN:** *Will the high number of Lebanese civilians who have died in IDF bombings of Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon weaken the support of western governments for Israel?*

**Primor:** I don't share that view. On the contrary, I believe it has been a very long time since Israel has had the benefit of such strong international support, including that of Europe. But that doesn't mean there aren't critics or concerns. The images that are being shown – you see them more than we Israelis do because our television stations protect us from them – are tragic images. You must understand that no sensitive human beings can remain indifferent to these images.

I attended some of the conversations that Condoleezza Rice had with top Israeli politicians during her first stop in Jerusalem. Eighty per cent of these discussions dealt with humanitarian issues in Lebanon. Nevertheless, Rice, like the Bush administration, unconditionally supports the State of Israel. She does not want a ceasefire. On the contrary, she wants Israel to continue to fight Hezbollah. There are even a fair number of Americans who are pushing us to attack Syria.

Yet the American politicians are very aware of the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon. And American public opinion, like public opinion anywhere in the world, is very sensitive to the war images coming from Lebanon. Still, the fact that European public opinion is also very sensitive to these dreadful images doesn't mean that it does not support Israel in her war, which is a just war, a war of defence against the Islamist forces that attacked us.

**CJN:** *In an interview with the newspaper* Le Monde *(July 27), French President Jacques Chirac said: "In this conflict, the blame is obviously shared." Did that declaration shock Israelis?*

**Primor:** Of course it shocked us. But you must understand that France has always been very sensitive toward Lebanon. The country is, in a way, its precious child. In addition, if France has to be at the forefront in southern Lebanon, it doesn't want to alienate a majority of Lebanese. It wants the popular support of the Lebanese people. France can't support Israel unconditionally because it would have very little credibility with the Lebanese.

I understand France's position. But I can also tell you that in private conversations we have had with French political figures, we have seen that the French position is not so black-and-white.

**CJN:** *In this conflict, English-speaking countries, specifically the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia, are supporting Israel, whereas non-anglophone countries, especially in Europe, are criticizing – some vehemently – Israel's entirely legitimate response to the Hezbollah attacks. How do you explain this?*

**Primor:** I don't know how the situation appears in Canada, but the United States and England are both in an all-out war, in Iraq and Afghanistan, against Islamist terrorist forces. These two countries, both directly affected by Islamist terrorism, are more sensitive to Israel's struggle against terrorist organizations. Europe, with the exception of England, is not present on these battlegrounds.

**CJN:** *Is this conflict likely to significantly tarnish Israel's image in the world?*

**Primor:** I think Israel's image will depend a lot on the outcome of this conflict. If this war ends with Hezbollah being significantly weakened, international law being imposed, and the restoration of the legitimacy of the government of Beirut in all of the Lebanese territory, I believe the overall result for Israel will be positive, although there will always be critics.

*This article appears in full in French in this week's Montreal edition of* The Canadian Jewish News. *Translation by Carolan Halpern.*

# *An existential struggle*

**Continued from page 24**

ing Israel? The clear answer is no… If Hezbollah stopped attacking Israel, would Israel stop attacking Hezbollah? Just as clearly, the answer is yes."

The *Globe* continues: "If Lebanon ever managed to do what the United Nations has demanded and took control of the south away from Hezbollah, neutralizing it as a threat to Israel, the Israelis would have no motive for any kind of military action in Lebanon… It simply objects to seeing southern Lebanon turned into a launching pad for attacks on Israeli citizens by a militant group that swears to seek its destruction."

Israel rightly sees its battle with Hezbollah and its sponsor, Iran, as an existential struggle (think what might happen if Hezbollah placed non-conventional warheads on its rockets, which number in the thousands). Some journalists understand Israel's predicament, while others – sometimes within the same news outlet – do not.

* * *

**Correction:** The Aug.3 column incorrectly asserted that editorials on Israel in the French-language newspaper *La Presse* had been negative. In fact, while news reports in *La Presse* have been unbalanced against Israel, the paper's editorial position has been very fair.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*


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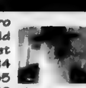

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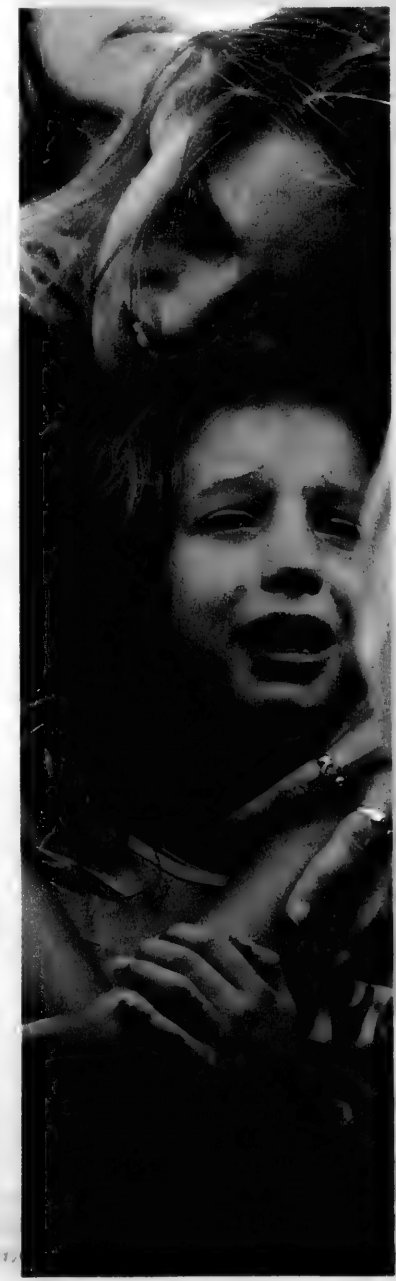

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The above list reflects names provided at the time of publishing

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# Winnipeg man receives Order of Manitoba

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Philanthropist Arnold Frieman says he was honoured to have been inducted into the Order of Manitoba in mid-July, but he is somewhat mystified about who nominated him and why he was selected.

Frieman, who is president of Advance Electronics, has received numerous letters of congratulation, but says there must surely be others who are as deserving of the recognition as he is, if not more so.

On the other hand, if you ask almost any charitable or community organization in Winnipeg, you would doubtless hear that he is a very deserving member of the Order of Manitoba. That's because Frieman never says no to any community endeavour that asks for his support, whether it be a donation in cash, in product or in time. And he himself says it doesn't matter if the organization is Jewish, or non-Jewish or what ethnic group may be involved.

Frieman and Advance Electronics have supported health-care institutions, the performing arts, sporting events and organizations, the United Way and the many Jewish community and Israeli causes.

As an example of his philanthropy, he says he persuaded one of his suppliers to provide the Royal Winnipeg Ballet with a portable sound system worth $85,000 even though the ballet company said it could only afford to pay $40,000.

Frieman paid the $40,000 himself when it turned out that the ballet couldn't even afford that.

In the 1970s and '80s, he was a leader in the fight to free Soviet Jewry.

In that same period, as a member of the board of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, he led a drive to raise funds (about $100,000 as it turned out) to underwrite a Beethoven series that included all of the composer's symphonies and concertos.

As well, he notes that he and his wife, Myra, were the first members of the Jewish community to help Sudanese refugees who have come to Winnipeg in recent years.

"I know what it's like to be hungry and scared," he says.

Frieman's outlook on life was shaped by his experiences during the Holocaust. He was born in Hungary in the early 1930s and lost most of his family in the Holocaust. He spent time in Bergen-Belsen and was a slave labourer before managing to escape.

After the war, the teenage orphan went to Norway where he studied electronics. Because of his experiences in the Holocaust, his initial impulse as a young man was to cut himself off from everything Jewish.

"I was consumed with rage," he says. "I had real issues with the God of the Jews because of what happened to our people in Europe."

While he did go to Israel in 1948 to help fight for the young Jewish state (he was determined not to stand passively by while another Holocaust might be happening, he says), he returned to Norway to continue his studies, after he was discharged. He came to Winnipeg after the Korean War broke out because he feared another world war and wanted to be as far away from conflict as he could get.

After a few years in Winnipeg, he found his way back to the Jewish community in a roundabout way. Through an uncle and aunt in Ireland, he was contacted by a local Jewish couple, Sam and Minnie Heft, who invited him for dinner, befriended him and treated him like a son.

Frieman considers Advance Electronics his greatest legacy and life work. He started the company in 1953 as a two-man service shop. Today, it is the most diversified electronics company in North America.

"Our business ranges from sales of $2 batteries to multi-million-dollar projects through our professional sound division," Frieman says. "We have equipped churches and synagogues, hospitals and educational institutions and the new MTS Centre [the city's two-year-old 15,000-seat hockey arena].

"Our range of products and service is unmatched," he adds. "We go to considerable expense to train our people. We have the finest technical crews available. And we do our own service work.

"The electronics business is a tough business that is getting tougher all the time," Frieman notes. "But Advance Electronics continues to grow because of our unique and comprehensive approach to the market."


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# Winnipegger helps to restore Polish Jewish cemetery

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Jakob Lewin was born and raised in the eastern Polish town of Losice. Having survived the Holocaust, he and three siblings settled in Winnipeg.

Now Lewin's son, Viktor, is part of a small group of children of former Losicers who are working to restore the Jewish cemetery in Losice and erect a memorial on the site to victims of the Holocaust from the town.

"Although my father died three years ago, perhaps his brothers and sister will live to see the completion of this memorial," Viktor Lewin said.

Lewin became involved in the project six years ago when he came across an Internet posting by Warren Grynberg of London, England, and Yitzhak Eisenberg, who lives in Tel Aviv, both sons of former Losicers.

"Warren and Yitzhak were looking for other descendants of Losice survivors," Lewin said. "Coincidentally, Yitzhak's family and my father's family lived in the same house in Losice."

Lewin, a retired Winnipeg Transit bus driver, and his wife, Cheryl, acquired a copy of the Losice Yizkor Book, which they proceeded to translate. They also helped establish a Losice memorial website (www.zchor.org/losice/losice.htm), which includes the first four chapters of the Yizkor Book. Lewin said the Yizkor Book is also available for viewing on the New York Public Library's website (www.nypl.org), and that a network of Losice survivors and their descendants, spanning six countries, has been established.

The centuries-old Jewish community in Losice numbered about 3,000 – half the town's population– in 1939. The number of Jews had swelled to more than 6,000 by August 1942, when the Nazis deported everyone in the town's ghetto. They also destroyed Losice's major synagogue and uprooted tombstones in its Jewish cemetery.

The gravestones, Lewin said, were taken by Jewish slave labourers to the town's Gestapo headquarters – formerly a dentist's home – where some were used to pave the yard and stacked to make walls. Others were used to fortify a Nazi bunker on the property that still exists.

The cemetery grounds, he added, were later turned into a park with a bandstand.

Lewin first travelled to Losice in August 2002 with his daughter Brianne to see the conditions there for himself.

"I have been back several times since to promote the dedication of our memorial," he said.

"Our major goal through the Losice Cemetery Restoration Project is to reclaim and restore the Jewish cemetery, thereby honouring the memory of our ancestors and the Losicers who were murdered in the Holocaust. We also want to bring attention to the integral role that Jews played in the life of Losice."

The organizers have enlisted the aid of the Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project, as well as the help of local officials. Funding has also been provided by several Jewish foundations, as well as Losice survivors and their descendants, and other generous individuals.

Continued on page 31

# Winnipeg's Vaad approves new kosher butcher

***Old butcher plans to serve clients without a hechsher***

**By MYRON LOVE**
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Omnitsky's Kosher Foods, which lost its hechsher last month after years as the city's only remaining kosher butcher, is importing kosher meat from Toronto after Winnipeg's kashrut agency allowed a non-kosher butcher to do the same.

In a letter to customers, Omnitsky's owners Sasha (Sam) and Inna Gekht, Russian immigrants who bought the shop about five years ago, said they have decided to stay in business as a "kosher" butcher independent of Winnipeg's Vaad Ha'ir kashrut agency. Omnitsky's is now bringing in glatt kosher meat products from Shefa Meats in Toronto. The Gekhts report, and informal conversations with customers confirm, that most of their clients will continue to support the business whether or not it has the Vaad's approval.

The Vaad, however, has worked quickly to fill the void left by its removal of Omnitsky's certification. The Vaad-certified Hali Kosher Meats officially opened for business in south Winnipeg on Aug. 15. (Omnitsky's is in north Winnipeg.)

Hali is owned and operated by the Odwak family, who have been in the non-kosher meat business since 1938. The family operated a butcher shop on Main Street in the downtown area for years. In 1997, they moved the business, Norman's Meats, from the decaying downtown core to a new location in south Winnipeg.

For the time being, Hali Kosher Meats and Norman's Meats will operate out of the same location, but the Vaad's kashrut supervisor, Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, said the plan is to have Hali operating out of a separate location within three months. Since there is no more kosher shchitah in Manitoba (as of July 14), Hali will also be bringing in its meat from eastern Canada.

(The city's two shochets, one of whom has heart problems, are both in their early 80s, and the removal of Omnitsky's certification led to their retirement. In an advertisement last week in Winnipeg's *Jewish Post and News*, the Vaad said the longtime shochets were not nationally certified to work as slaughterers of kosher meat.)

A second south Winnipeg establishment, Desserts Plus, is also selling packaged, frozen Shefa meats and Chai chickens. Desserts Plus used to be a kosher caterer, but lost its certification a few years ago.

In their letter to customers, the Gekhts noted that their store has served Winnipeg's Jewish community and others in Western Canada for more than 84 years since opening in 1922.

"We were the only remaining kosher store west of Toronto selling fresh meat to consumers via a local supplier," they wrote. "During this period we were under the supervision of the Vaad Ha'ir of Winnipeg and fully complied with all of their rules and regulations. Since we purchased the business, we have never received a violation notice.

"The Vaad has informed us that it has embarked on an historic mission to elevate its standards of kashrut so as to better serve the kosher consumer and all of the Vaad's licence holders. As a result of its mission, the Vaad presented to Omnitsky's a 'take it or leave it,' radically different contract from our existing one, which we did not sign. Without any further notice, a representative of the Vaad walked into Omnitsky's, snatched its licence off the wall, removed its supervision and announced such to the community, in both local Jewish and general media."

It had always been the practice at Omnitsky's to kasher meat on request, but not as a matter of course. All the meat in the shop had been slaughtered by the two Vaad shochets, while the shop would complete the kashering process by salting and de-veining the meat. But for the past few years, the Vaad had been urging Omnitsky's, without success, to kasher all of its fresh meat.

In their letter, the Gekhts noted that they had been in discussions with the Vaad for several months.

"We informed the Vaad that we agreed in principle to its desire to elevate its standards but not at any cost," they wrote. "The Vaad presented us with three different contracts. Each time we believed that we had come to an understanding, we received another contract that contained new and more onerous terms. As a result, we have reached an impasse with the Vaad and we are actively searching for other alternatives."

Rabbi Cohen said that Winnipeg's Vaad has about 125 licensees across Western Canada, and he said that almost all of them – except for Omnitsky's and three or four smaller accounts – have accepted the new Vaad standards aimed at elevating Winnipeg Vaad licensees to national standards.

# Gravestones excavated

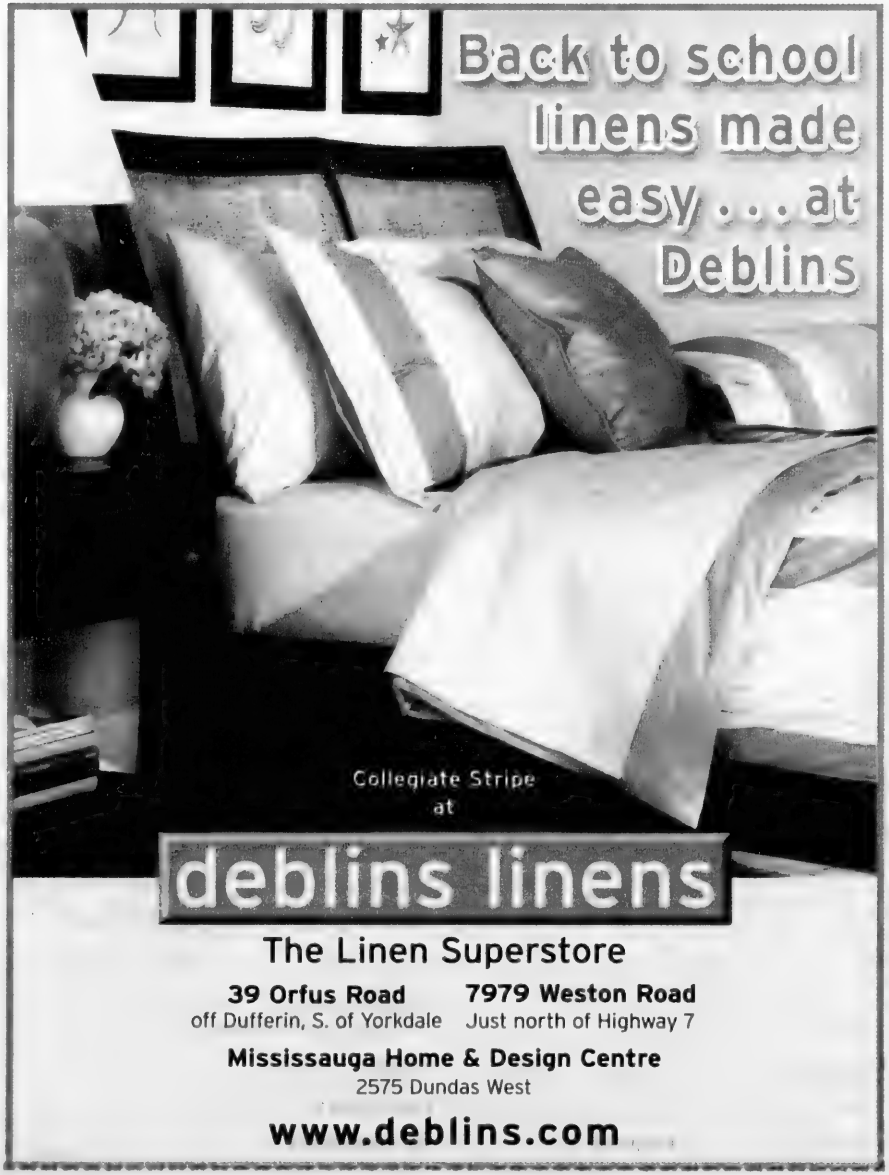
**Continued from page 30**

In September 2003, the gravestones were excavated and the process of restoration began. To date, Lewin said, about 1,500 gravestones have been recovered. Many of them have beautiful carvings and others are painted in several colours. One is even inscribed in Ladino, indicating a connection with the Jewish emigration from Spain and Portugal.

The town has been storing the gravestones in a warehouse until the cemetery wall and gate have been rebuilt.

"We are considering a number of architectural designs, including one which would incorporate the gravestones into the structure of the wall," Lewin said. "The bandstand would be used as the base for the erection of a memorial, which would be enclosed by gates."

The restoration project co-ordinators have also established the Lewin-Grynberg Scholarship program in an effort to encourage research into Losice's Jewish history, Lewin said.



# Commemoration planned to remember Jews of Lodz

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

The Polish city of Lodz is paying tribute to the prisoners of its Jewish ghetto who were killed in the Holocaust, and its mayor was in Toronto late last month to update local survivors on the project.

"By September 1939, one-third of Lodz was Jewish. Today, there are [almost] no Jews in Lodz – only 350 out of the 870,000 [people]," Jerzy Kropiwnicki, who initiated the multimillion-dollar memorial project after being elected mayor in November 2002, told an audience of ghetto survivors and their families at the Polish Consulate.

The commemoration includes a museum and memorial, as well as a park where ghetto survivors have planted trees. It also featured a 2004 ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the liquidation of the Lodz ghetto by the Nazis.

The mayor said that when he started to discuss the idea of a large-scale memorial and commemoration, "people warned that I would be crucified by both the Jews and the Poles."

But that hasn't been the case. "The main achievement was to get the city of Lodz to show its real heart," said Kropiwnicki, a Catholic nationalist and a one-time minister in Poland's national government.

In the end, he added, more people in Lodz volunteered to help than were needed. "We have an open city, with people participating voluntarily," he said.

The project, which is being funded by the city and private donors, began with Kropiwnicki's desire to create a physical memorial to the 90 per cent of Lodz's 200,000 Jewish ghetto prisoners who perished in the Shoah.

During a visit to Toronto in 2003, he told *The CJN* that he took on the project because "it's decent and the right thing to do," and because he felt it was unfair that there was no monument in Lodz to what had been a large segment of its population.

When the mayor began advocating for the memorial, it so happened that Radegast Train Station, constructed for the purpose of deporting Jews from the Lodz Ghetto to their deaths at the Chelmno nad Nerem and Auschwitz-Birkenau camps, had been unused since the Holocaust and still stood intact.

Now dubbed the Radegast Station Annihilation Monument, the original wooden station building serves as a museum and is part of a complex that took more than two years to complete and cost $1.8 million (US).

Another element of the complex is the Tunnel of the Deported, a structure that people can walk through while reading names engraved on both sides of people deported to the death camps.

"You can just say the number 200,000, but it's just a number," he said. "But if you make people walk along and read the names of all the Jews taken to the death camps, it's much more effective."

Lodz's mayor Jerzy Kropiwnicki

The city of Lodz is currently constructing a cemetery monument inscribed with the names of the death camps. "It is administered by the city museum and has already attracted many visitors, including a lot of young people," Kropiwnicki said.

Another endeavour to honour those imprisoned in the ghetto was conceived by Halina Elczewska, herself a Lodz Ghetto survivor. She proposed that each survivor could plant trees in what is now called the Survivors' Park, close to the ghetto. "The survivors were enthusiastic about something that was not mournful and was a nice place for people to come and spend time."

The mayor also spearheaded the preservation and identification of the actual buildings that comprised the Lodz ghetto, which have remained largely intact since the war.

But when the time came to create a visitors' route in the ghetto with commemorative plaques, he found himself embroiled in controversy.

"We wanted to have the plaques in German, Polish, Hebrew and English, but within one day of posting this information on our website, we had over a thousand people protesting the fact that the plaques would partially be in German," Kropiwnicki said.

"Needless to say, we did not put German on the plaques."

Many grateful Lodz ghetto survivors were in the Toronto audience, with one speaking up to say, "Thank you mayor of Lodz. On behalf of all the survivors, we thank you very much for what you're doing for us."

Max Moneta, 79, who was not in the Lodz ghetto but survived four concentration camps, praised Kropiwnicki's achievements. "We have to appreciate people that are not Jewish who are doing so much for mankind, especially for the Jewish people. There were a lot of Poles that were bad, but we can't judge the whole country," he said.

"Let's hope that our children will say, 'Never again.'"

Meanwhile, in a gesture of friendship to the Jewish people, the city of Lodz has offered to host an all-expenses paid vacation to Lodz for 15 teens from northern Israel to give them a break from the current fighting with Hezbollah, the *Jerusalem Post* reported .

The idea for the vacation came from Kropiwnicki himself.

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# The countdown has begun for Olmert

By ANSHEL PFEFFER
*Jerusalem Post*

Comment

No matter how you analyze UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and the cease-fire that was to take effect at 8 a.m. Monday morning, and even if you accept the government's claim that it's good for Israel, there is no way that it can be good for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

This was the war that was going to establish Olmert as a bona fide leader. For the first couple of weeks, Olmert's popularity ratings soared sky-high as the public expressed its trust in the government's decision to go after Hezbollah. There was a great deal of disappointment and skepticism regarding the Israel Defence Force's (IDF) conduct following the two kidnapping debacles at Kerem Shalom on June 25 and two weeks later at Biranit, but for once, the politicians seemed to be calling the right shots.

The war was supported by a consensus including everyone but the far-right and the far-left. The opposition, apart from the Arab parties, was at its most loyal, and the public, despite the fact that almost a quarter of its members were forced to live in mortal danger, was stoically supporting its leaders.

And the nation didn't waver, even when the war turned out to be a far cry from the quick and elegant air operation that had been envisaged at the start. There was not much of a protest, even when serious questions began to arise about the strategic wisdom directing the campaign. Israelis accepted that they had to make terrible sacrifices, even pay for their leaders' mistakes, for the greater good. That we seemed to have Uncle Sam's full support made the choice even easier.

Now the feeling is that, while the public was prepared to grin and bear it, it was the politicians, especially Olmert, who weren't able to go the extra mile. The cabinet's decision last week to extend the operation by at least two more weeks and make an all-out push for the Litani River, with the casualties that would certainly be part and parcel of it, was supported, according to all the opinion polls, by a wide majority. But the order to halt the troops pending a diplomatic solution in New York was too much for an already overpatient public.

Why did Olmert and his ministers falter at the last minute? Was he unable to withstand international pressure at the critical moment? Was the spectre of lengthening casualty lists too much for him?

The answer to these questions will probably be stuff for historians, but with the ceasefire, many Israelis, including those who sat for a month in stifling bomb shelters, reservists who dropped everything and reported to their units, and families anxiously waiting for a telephone call from their sons in Lebanon and dreaded the knock of the local IDF liaison, are feeling that their sacrifice has been betrayed.

After years of dismissing the United Nations as an ineffectual and anti-Israel organization, how can Israelis believe that of all the possibilities, that organization will be the one to make sure Hezbollah never again threatens our northern towns and villages.

Despite its failings, including the recent ones, there remains only one institution that Israelis firmly trust, and that's the IDF. Now Olmert will go down in history as the prime minister who didn't let the army finish the job.

It doesn't matter whether he was right or not to accept the UN resolution. It might well be the best deal Israel could have gotten in the circumstances, but that's not how the public perceives it. And if anyone thought the generals were going to be loyal to their political masters, all they have to do is read the headlines quoting anonymous senior officers telling the media that the government tied their hands. Everyone knows the generals made a ton of mistakes themselves, without any help from the cabinet, but ultimately, in the popularity sweepstakes, the military beats the politicians hands down, every time.

The ceasefire in the north, if it is implemented at all, also signals the end of the political ceasefire. Politicians on the right and the left are already clamouring for Olmert's head, both wings claiming, from their own point of view, that at least 120 lives have been sacrificed for no real purpose.

Of course that doesn't mean Olmert is about to commit political hara-kiri. Anyone who observed his nine years as mayor of Jerusalem knows he is quite comfortable swatting away public criticism and a hostile press. He will pay no heed to those in the media who began calling for his resignation over the weekend, and he is more than willing to take on his political rivals.

Meanwhile, his coalition seems stable. Leaders of all the parties were partners in the war decisions and they will find it hard to jump ship. It's also difficult to see who can mount a real opposition to Olmert. The left is still powerless, with scant public support. On the right, Benjamin Netanyahu has yet to regain his credibility, almost totally destroyed in the last election.

Netanyahu has acted as an admirable spokesperson for Israel, giving the government his unstinting support throughout the crisis, but his efforts were mainly targeted at the foreign audience and it is yet to be seen whether that will be enough to reduce the deeply held suspicion of him in what was formerly the Likud electoral heartland. He would be wise not to pounce too quickly and open himself to accusations of political opportunism at the expense of our soldiers. Right now, he seems to prefer a wiser, long-range strategy, and if he manages to enlist former chief of general staff Moshe Ya'alon, he will start on the long road to political recovery.

It's hard to see where Olmert goes from here. Save for a dramatic military operation – perhaps a well-deserved attack on the Iranian nuclear project – he has no way to regain his lost credibility.

Few believe that in the current public climate, especially since the settlers' share in the death-toll of the war has been so high, Olmert can go ahead with what was the main plank of his electoral platform.

Painful retreats and peace plans are only possible under popular prime ministers – Menachem Begin with the Egyptian treaty, Yitzhak Rabin at Oslo and Ariel Sharon in his disengagement from Gaza. A discredited prime minister going ahead with such a controversial plan, whatever its merits, is a recipe for chaos and even civil war. And without realignment, the entire justification for Olmert's premiership will have dissolved.

Less than six months since the election and once this war is over, Olmert's sole aim will be to survive as PM. The moment that happens to a prime minister, it's a sure sign that the countdown to his departure has begun.

# 'We need to stay united'

By EFFI EITAM
*Jerusalem Post*

Comment

Everyone knows that this ceasefire with Hezbollah doesn't mean much. It is not a true accomplishment. It won't succeed in resolving anything substantial, because it does not disarm Hezbollah and it does not guarantee that our kidnapped soldiers are coming home.

The accomplishments of the ceasefire are truly less impressive than the real accomplishments of this war: We have struck a huge blow to Hezbollah through our armed forces.

From the beginning of the war, we have stood more united behind the government than ever before. We have found support in the eyes of the whole world and we have stood united. This is not, by any means, the time to start fighting among ourselves. We need to concentrate now on two things: strengthening and supporting the IDF and the outlying communities.

On the backs of our great military and great citizens, we need to build our next steps.

On the political front, the time will come to raise grievances, but now is not that time. We can't give Hezbollah and Syria and Iran a victory by going to pieces ourselves. I will ask my friends in the Knesset not to start internal fights. We need to stay united long enough to bring our soldiers back and repair the lives of people in the north.

I have problems with the way things have been handled, but I know that now is not the time to air my grievances. Now is not the time for politicians to start attacking each other to gain more headlines.

*Effie Eitam is a member of the National Union Party.*

# Olmert pledges talks for soldiers' return

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz met with the families of kidnapped soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev on Sunday and broke the news to them that the ceasefire in Lebanon would be implemented without their sons returning home.

Diplomatic officials had promised the families that Israel would insist on Goldwasser and Regev returning home from Lebanon along with the rest of the IDF in any agreement to end the fighting. But Olmert said he had to make a difficult decision to allow the war to end.

"I decided that we shouldn't condition the entire ceasefire on getting the kidnapped soldiers back," Olmert told his cabinet Sunday. "We were not willing to remain in the mud of Lebanon and not allow the people in the north to return to their homes, nor were we willing to give Hezbollah the power to veto the ceasefire by refusing to release the soldiers. As difficult as it was, this is what I told the soldiers' families."

The United Nations ceasefire resolution that passed in cabinet on Sunday calls for the unconditional return of the soldiers, but not in an operative clause. Olmert said it did not matter what kind of clause it was, and the Lebanese government would be held accountable if the soldiers were not released.

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# The war's political casualties

By AMOTZ ASA-EL
*Jerusalem Post*

Opinion

Beyond the thousands who were physically hurt on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese border, the past month's fighting has left three political casualties.

The first is Syria.

The Lebanese government's decision last week to deploy its army in the south confronts the Assad dynasty's thinly veiled violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and historic denial of Lebanon's right for independence.

The deployment has yet to happen, and once it does chances are high it will be far from perfect.

What was presented as Hezbollah's nod of approval for the United Nations' ceasefire resolution was a fig leaf for a major Syrian setback, the second phase of what began the Cedar Revolution last year, when non-Shiite Lebanon finally began disconnecting the umbilical cord Damascus had kept wrapped around Beirut's throat for decades.

The second casualty is Islamism.

The Islamist revolution, as the Hebrew University's Emmanuel Sivan demonstrated in *The Crash Within Islam*, began not with a Shiite desire to conquer the West, but with a largely Sunni quest to defend Muslims from the temptations of western civilization. However, as Islamism conquered Iran on the one hand, and as Europe failed to digest its Muslim minorities on the other, the movement became torn between those out to conquer the world and those who sought accommodation with it.

Back in the 1990s, after the downfall of communism, Iran tried to export its revolution by looking north and east, to the newly independent, and historically Muslim, republics of central Asia. That effort failed, at least initially, as American, Russian and Turkish influence gave rise to pragmatic, if authoritarian, regimes. It was against that backdrop that Islamist expansionism found an available niche in Lebanon, a country rich with Christian history and European flavour, and, at the same time, poorly guarded by eastern powers and Arab regimes who could be counted on to be fooled by a Lebanese Islamism disguised as an anti-Israeli rather than a pro-Iranian effort.

Now this ploy has been exposed.

Though the extent of its military setback has yet to be gauged, Hezbollah's role as an Iranian proxy out to hijack Lebanon is now universally realized. Hezbollah may survive this military bout and may even retain some of its firepower, but its revolutionary ammunition has been spent.

Paradoxically, this war should also lay to rest another revolution, one that is the very inversion of Islamism, a revolution that is led by Jewish secularists, looks west, and not only shuns its originators' expansion but in fact offers their voluntary shrinkage.

It's called convergence.

Convergence, as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert named his plan for a unilateral withdrawal from most of the West Bank and the relocation of at least 70,000 Israelis, has been presented by him as the natural continuation of disengagement, former prime minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal last year from Gaza. It isn't.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

For most of its supporters, disengagement was about the quest to drastically reduce the number of Palestinians under Israeli rule. This is certainly what it was for me, as I led the *Jersualem Post*'s controversial support of the idea, along with my colleagues Bret Stephens and Calev Ben-David. This is also what I explained at the time to Olmert, and this in fact is how Sharon himself put it to me, as I tried, in vain, to explain it to now Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

For the majority of Israelis in the middle of the political spectrum, disengagement was Oslo's antidote, a tall partition between us and our Palestinian neighbours. For Olmert, it turned out, disengagement was something else. For him it was an instrument for fashioning himself as a visionary, a statesman who resolved the Arab-Israeli conflict. This, apparently, is what he meant by saying that convergence would turn Israel into "a country that is fun to live in."

Whatever he may have meant by "fun," Olmert would surely agree that seeing the West Bank launch, at Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the kind of rocket attacks south Lebanon is now delivering to Haifa and the Galilee would be anything but fun. It would be a national disaster, and for him, personally, the end of his career.

Much was said this week about the political autism Olmert displayed in telling a foreign correspondent that the war in Lebanon would boost his convergence plan. One had to wonder, despite his frantic retraction of the statement that evening, how Olmert could not intuitively appreciate, or at least notice, the disproportionate share of West Bank residents among the troops he had sent to fight in Lebanon.

Yet the real problem in the relationship between Olmert's election-campaign plan and the real-life war is that he apparently fails to understand what the latter means for the former, which is that he can now forget about abandoning the West Bank unilaterally.

We, the Middle Israelis who largely voted Kadima and at any rate constituted disengagement's social and political backbone, will not be there to back it, and without us it can't happen. The way we see it, two empirical tests we made, one in Lebanon

# Many Israeli Arabs on Hezbollah's side

By URIEL HEILMAN
*JTA*

**NAZARETH, Israel** — When Israel began dropping bombs on Beirut in response to Hezbollah's cross-border raid on last month, Nael Saleh said he felt upset.

Watching the news from his home in the Israeli city of Nazareth, Saleh saw the destruction in Lebanon as yet another act of "Israeli aggression."

"The Israeli government declared this war against Lebanon for no reason at all," Saleh said. "The law of the jungle is the law that is used in this era. What is forbidden for other nations is allowed for the State of Israel."

As Israel and Lebanon moved closer to a ceasefire last weekend, Saleh said he opposed any cessation of hostilities that would allow foreign troops to remain in southern Lebanon – even temporarily.

"We are against international forces in southern Lebanon because it is considered as an occupation and it is not for the protection of the Lebanese people, but encouraging the State of Israel not to implement the Geneva Accords and the UN resolutions" on eastern Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, he said.

Saleh is an Israeli citizen, but he is also an Arab one of approximately 1.2 million in the country out of a total population of slightly more than seven million.

Though they are Israelis, these Arabs' political leanings generally are closer to those of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and Arabs elsewhere in the Middle East, than to those of Israeli Jews.

So amid the heavy fighting in Lebanon, opinions like Saleh's have become commonplace in places like Nazareth, an Arab city of some 60,000 people in northern Israel – even though Nazareth finds itself in the path of Hezbollah's Katyusha rockets.

When one direct rocket hit on the city killed a pair of Arab brothers, aged 7 and 3, on July 19, a neighbourhood sheik blamed their deaths on Israel.

The brothers' aunt reportedly said she was willing to sacrifice herself for Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

These sorts of expressions have prompted some Israeli Jews to label Israeli Arabs as disloyal and untrustworthy, and to implicitly justify the Arabs' second-class treatment by the Israeli government.

"Most Israeli Arabs identify with the enemy," Michael Kleiner, a former Knesset member and head of the Herut Party, told JTA. "In every battle of ours, from soccer to war, they hate us and seek our downfall and identify with the enemy."

Nowhere is Israeli Arab criticism of Israel more evident than among Israel's Arab legislators. Knesset member Azmi Bishara, of the Balad Party, said Israel is "deliberately targeting civilians in Lebanon" as part of the Jewish state's "barbaric thirst for revenge," adding, "Israel is a terrorist state."

Not all Arabs in Israel take such harsh views of their country.

"We have to hang Nasrallah – someone who led to so many deaths on both sides," said Nader Aley, a mechanic in Nazareth whose garage is adorned with an Israeli flag. Aley harshly criticized Israeli Arabs who lambaste the Israeli government at every turn. "They want the security of the state, the money of the state and the benefits of the state, but they don't have a kind word for the state," he said bitterly.

Israeli Arabs have been disproportionately affected by this war, due to their heavy concentration in the conflict zone in northern Israel.

Arabs have suffered more than one-third of the civilian deaths in northern Israel.

"It's a pity about every drop of blood that's been shed on both sides," said Yousef Farouk, a money-changer in Nazareth. "I blame both sides."

Farouk, like many Arabs in Israel, said he holds Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Nasrallah equally culpable – and he doesn't see them as that different.

In a region where every country and ethnic group has a competing narrative, Israeli Arabs tend to account for this war differently than most Israeli Jews.

Many say Israel bears the blame for turning a kidnapping incident into a war, and for starting past wars in the Middle East.

They say peace will come only if Israel withdraws from lands they say it occupies illegally: the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Shebaa Farms. Hezbollah claims Shebaa Farms, a small area occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six Day War, as Lebanon's, but the United Nations says it is part of Syria.

## Female reservist killed

The conflict with Hezbollah claimed the life of its first Israeli military servicewoman. Keren Tendler, 26, was a mechanic aboard a CH-53 Sikorsky transport helicopter that Hezbollah shot down over southern Lebanon on Saturday. She was one of a handful of women mobilized for the war as reservists. Four fellow crew members died with her.

## Author Grossman loses son

A son of Israeli author David Grossman was among last weekend's military fatalities in Lebanon. Sgt. Uri Grossman, 20, was killed by a Hezbollah rocket attack on his tank in southern Lebanon, the army said Sunday. David Grossman, one of Israel's most well-known left-wing writers, had no immediate comment. Last week, Grossman and fellow authors A.B. Yehoshua and Amos Oz issued a joint letter calling on the Olmert government not to expand its offensive against Hezbollah, but instead to accept a ceasefire offer made by the Lebanese government.

# Israel's forests, wildlife devastated by war

By URIEL HEILMAN
*JTA*

**JERUSALEM** —Whenever this war with Hezbollah ends and the people of northern Israel finally return to their homes, they'll be going back to more than empty streets, freshly dug grave sites and a beefed-up military presence.

They also will be coming home to a radically altered physical landscape.

Devastated by fires sparked by Katyusha rockets, northern Israel has seen its forests obliterated, its grazing lands laid waste and its wildlife annihilated over the past four weeks.

The country may never look the same, experts say.

"We have very serious damage," said Moshon Gabay, spokesperson for the Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority. "In previous wars we did not suffer damage like this. Every Katyusha that falls starts a fire."

Firefighters struggle to save a forest in the Galilee. [Israel photo]

The green hills of the Galilee have turned orange and black, smouldering with the remains of forest fires. The sky, usually bright blue this time of year, is shrouded in thick grey smoke. The large animals and many birds that live in the area have taken flight, and countless numbers of smaller and slower animals have been killed in raging fires that have turned verdant hills to ash.

So far, officials say, more than 7,000 acres of undeveloped land have been destroyed, including about 2,500 acres of woodlands encompassing roughly 700,000 trees. Some of those trees were as old as the State of Israel.

"It's an ecological catastrophe. Animals are dying. Trees are getting burned," said Orit Hadad, an official with the Jewish National Fund in Israel; where it is known as Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael. "Even if every tree is replanted, to bring these forests back to the state they were in will take 50 to 60 years."

That means that most of the survivors of this war will not live to see the landscape return to its prewar state.

Among the hardest-hit areas have been the Naftali forest range near Kiryat Shmona, where more than three-quarters of the forest was obliterated, and the Birya Forest in the western Galilee, near Safed, where more than 600 acres have burned.

Less is known about how the animals that live in this largely rural area have fared. Firefighters have found the remains of many slow-moving animals, such as snakes and turtles, in burned areas. Larger animals that managed to escape likely will suffer from loss of food sources and a sharp reduction in available grazing lands, experts said.

"We're very aware of this problem of disruption of the food chain, even if there is not much we can do," said Michael Weinberger, a JNF forest supervisor in the central Galilee and Golan Heights.

Tourists who return to this area after the war may be startled to find Israel's most popular hiking spots, where waterfalls poured over lush ridges, virtually unrecognizable.

Last week, the fires from Katyushas reached Mount Meron, already scorched, and nearby Nahal Amud, a canyon that runs from the Upper Galilee to the Kinneret Lake and was replete with waterfalls, blooming plant life and animals ranging from gazelles to wild boars.

There is little that Israel's Nature Protection Authority, which maintains the area, can do for these lands at risk. Even after the war ends, the authority will not replant, since the areas are protected reserves or natural areas where the rule of thumb is to let nature take its course.

Even if officials tried, there would be no way to restore the variety of plant life, wildlife and woodlands native to the area.

"It all depends on the rain that will fall," Gabay said. "We let these areas repopulate naturally."

The JNF says it will try to replant as many trees as possible after the fighting is over. Each acre will cost an estimated $5,500 for the first two years to resoil, replant and treat, officials said.

For now, the focus is on putting out the fires.

Because most firefighters in northern Israel are busy trying to extinguish blazes sparked by the Katyusha rockets in urban areas where human lives are at stake, the fight against forest fires has been conducted mostly from the air.

Israel's Interior Ministry has run out of money to pay for the planes, so the JNF is picking up the tab with an emergency fund, for which it has raised nearly $4 million. The money is also going to send kids to summer camps away from rocket attacks, build security roads on the Gaza border and purchase firefighting equipment, including fire trucks, helmets, vests, goggles and a fire retardant the planes are using to douse the fires.

"We are all working 12- to 16-hour days – crews on fire trucks and on the ground," said Paul Ginsburg, JNF's head forester for Israel's northern region. "Forests that have taken 50 years to grow, that saw two generations of foresters, are burning. Everything we do is under the threat of Katyusha attacks. The work is stressful and heartbreaking."

Many more environmental threats loom, experts say. In Haifa, petrochemical plants and refineries vulnerable to Katyusha rockets pose a serious danger to area residents. If such a site is hit, it could send toxic chemicals that would contaminate the entire city.

"The concern is very problematic from an ecological point of view," said Ronit Fischer, director of the Haifa branch of the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel. "If something falls there, it will be a very complicated disaster."

The damage to Israel's environment has not been limited to the north.

In the area around the Gaza Strip, along Israel's southern coast, more than 15,000 trees have been destroyed as a result of Palestinian Qassam rocket attacks, according to the JNF. Additionally, the Israeli army has had to alter the natural landscape in many places to accommodate new military bases, lookouts or patrol roads.

The heaviest damage from the war has been where Hezbollah missile crews are aiming their rockets: the Galilee, a mountainous area that was covered by fir and pine trees, with abundant grazing lands and bountiful wildlife. Some Katyushas have fallen in the Golan Heights, but the damage there is small by comparison, and experts say the burned grasslands there should be able to recover by next year.

Shalom Blayer, CEO of the Golan Heights Winery, said the vineyards of northern Israel have been spared so far, though some vineyards abutting the Lebanon border have been declared no-go zones by the military.

Underscoring the vulnerable state of agriculture-based businesses in northern Israel, he said, "This is what I know for now; I can't tell you what will be five minutes from now."

In the distance, another air-raid siren roared to life.

## Israel Briefs

***IDF tests lifesaving bandage***

The Israel Defence Forces is currently trying out, but not yet using in the field, a $100 (US) bandage that has been found to stop hemorrhages in about a minute. U.S. Army experience has shown that the HemCon Bandage can save the lives of many wounded soldiers, a large number of whom die from uncontrolled hemorrhaging before they can be evacuated. The HemCon Bandage contains positively charged molecules of chitosan – a natural polymer derived from the exoskeletons of crab, shrimp and other crustaceans – that attract negatively charged red blood cells. While an ordinary gauze or tourniquet often has little effect in halting spurting wounds, the HemCon bandage triggers an adherent clot that halts the bleeding. "You can have a hole in your heart, and 60 seconds later it's sealed," says Kenton Gregory, who invented the bandage five years ago in Oregon.

***Israel can't host games***

Israel was barred from holding international soccer games because of the rockets landing in northern Israel. UEFA, the governing body for European soccer, said that all games scheduled to be played in Israel will be played abroad until further notice. The ban means that Maccabi Haifa will have to find an alternate site for its Champions League match Aug. 22 against Liverpool.

***Give Lebanese army chance: former security adviser***

Israel should consider the deployment of the Lebanese Army in south Lebanon as a way out of the current crisis, former National Security Council head Giora Eiland. Eiland, who served as head of the NSC during the period of disengagement from Gaza, also said that he did not think Israel and the Palestinians could ever reach a political agreement based on a two-state solution inside the current boundaries. "There is no real political solution between Israel and the Palestinians that can be achieved in the foreseeable future, or ever."

*– with files from JTA*

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# Venezuela's Chavez to break ties as verbal war escalates with Israel

By LARRY LUXNER
*JTA*

**WASHINGTON** — Last month, shortly after Iran's president again declared that Israel should be wiped off the map and that the Holocaust was mostly Zionist propaganda, Venezuela's president embraced Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran, calling him a "true friend and brother."

Earlier this month, Hugo Chavez equated Israel's aerial bombardment of Lebanon with Nazi war crimes and recalled his ambassador from Tel Aviv. The next day, Israel's Foreign Ministry responded by calling home its envoy in Caracas, Shlomo Cohen.

Last week, Chavez announced he was about to break diplomatic relations with Israel altogether.

The escalating war of words between Israel and Venezuela, who are longtime trade partners, is causing concern among Venezuela's dwindling Jewish community and in Washington, where U.S. officials view Chavez as Latin America's greatest threat to democracy.

But Bernardo Alvarez, Venezuela's ambassador to the United States, defends his president's actions.

"We don't have any problems with Jews," Alvarez told JTA in an interview last week at the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington. "We have a large Jewish community, and we have had relations with the State of Israel for a long time.

"But Venezuela's position is that we should do something, because this massive bombardment and killing in Lebanon is morally unacceptable," he added. "We are waiting for the international community to put a stop to it."

With some 15,000 Jews, Venezuela is home to one of the largest Jewish communities in Latin America, yet it's the only country to recall its envoy to Israel in order to protest the current fighting.

"We thought we should tell the Israeli government that this is not the way to do things – no matter what happened – and that you cannot resort to such violence," said Alvarez, who never during the interview criticized Hezbollah's continuing rocket and missile attacks on Israeli civilians or its kidnapping and killing of Israeli soldiers. Hezbollah is supplied and financed by Iran, though Alvarez claims Venezuela's anti-Israel position "doesn't have anything to do" with Chavez's trip to Tehran.

"We have a long relationship with Iran that goes back many years, and is based on many common interests, starting with oil," he said.

Alvarez tried to distance Chavez from some of Ahmadinejad's more inflammatory statements, explaining that "we have relationships with many countries around the world, and it doesn't mean we support all of them. Venezuela's position is very clear: we don't agree with that statement made by the president of Iran" calling for Israel's destruction.

He added that Venezuela has good relations with Libya, and now has observer status at the Arab League. "This is part of our strategy of reaching out to the world," he said.

The strategy has infuriated the Bush administration in the United States, which has watched as Chavez travels the globe, embracing not only Ahmadinejad and Libya's Moammar Ghadafi, but also other dictators such as Cuba's Fidel Castro and Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus.

In an interview earlier this month with Al-Jazeera, Chavez said Israel's airstrikes against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon were an "unjustified aggression that is being carried out in the style of Hitler, in a fascist fashion."

Last week, more than 50 Holocaust scholars – including Michael Brown of York University and Gil Troy of McGill University – sent a letter to Chavez condemning his statements. The letter asked him to retract his statements that the Israelis "are doing what Hitler did against the Jews" and that Israel is carrying out "a new Holocaust." "Any comparison between Israel and the Nazis outrageously distorts Israel's actions and trivializes the enormity and nature of the Holocaust," the letter states.

Earlier this year, Chavez was accused of fanning the flames of anti-Semitism after a Christmas eve speech in which he referred to "minorities, descendants of those who crucified Christ" who today control the world's economy. The government later claimed Chavez wasn't referring to Jews.

But the incident heightened concerns about Chavez dating back to a police raid on a Jewish school in Caracas in November 2004. Two high-ranking officials from the World Jewish Congress met with Chavez in late July at the residence of Argentina's president, Nestor Kirchner, to discuss his government's attitude toward Venezuela's Jewish community.

The congress would not give details of the meeting.

The United States remains Venezuela's biggest customer, buying 60 per cent of the country's total exports. The biggest component of the trade is oil. Venezuela's state-owned PDVSA oil monopoly ships 1.2 million barrels of crude a day to U.S. markets and also owns refineries in Louisiana, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As well, it has 100 per cent ownership of the Citgo gas-station chain.

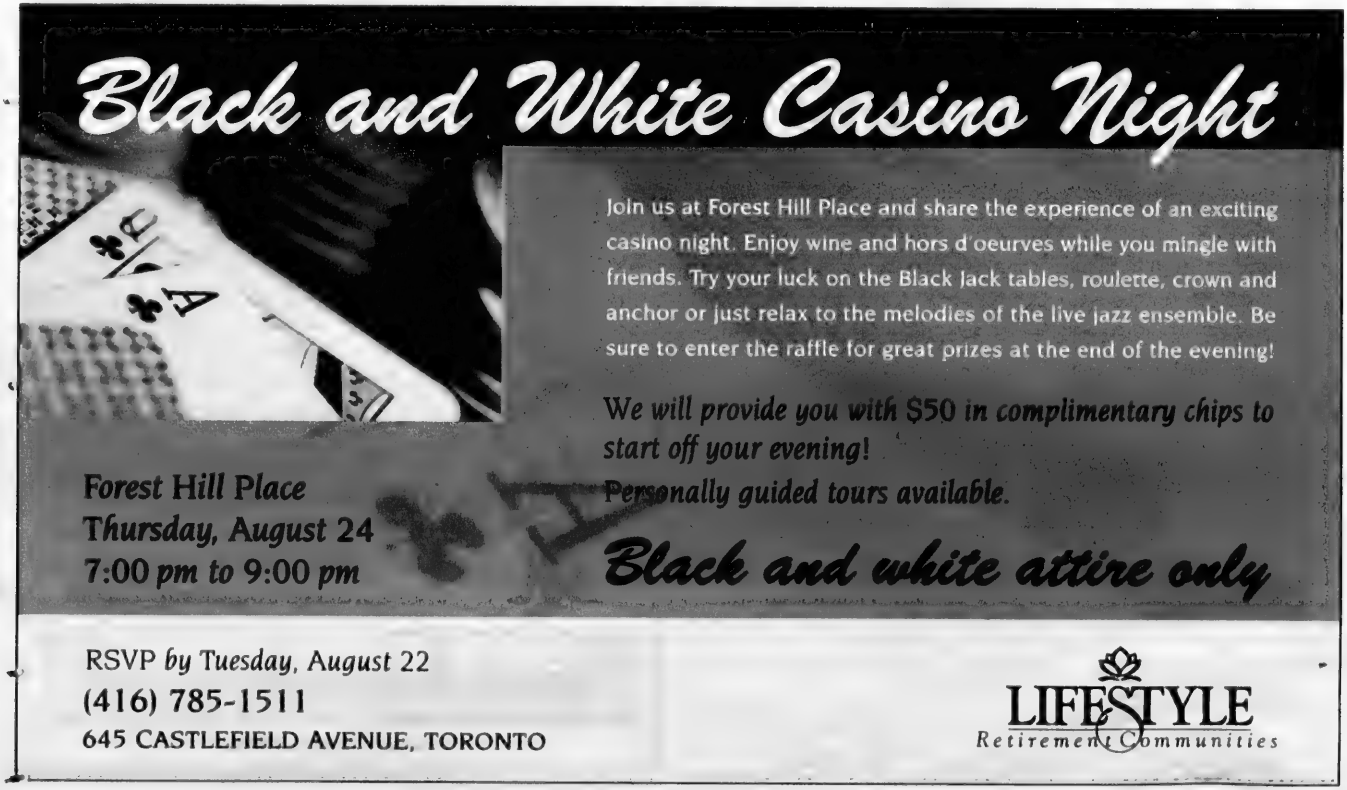
Bilateral relations took a turn for the worse after Chavez, who had led failed coup attempts against the Venezuelan government in the early 1990s, was elected president in 1998. Washington prevented Israel from selling Venezuela spare parts for its aging F-15 fighter jets.

Thanks partially to record-high oil prices that allow his government to spend lavishly on social programs, Chavez remains wildly popular. Presidential elections are scheduled for Dec. 3, though if the election were held today, polls say, Chavez would win 55 to 60 per cent of the vote, thanks to years of pumping oil revenues into new housing projects, community clinics and road construction.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's political opposition is fractured, with one presidential candidate – prominent Jewish economist Teodoro Petkoff – withdrawing his candidacy earlier this month.

At least one Latin American expert cautions against overreacting to Chavez's incendiary comments.

"Remember that in dealing with Chavez, he's far more bark than bite," said Larry Birns, director of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs. "He also has no self-censoring capacity. After he says something, his most seasoned diplomats rush in and engage in damage control."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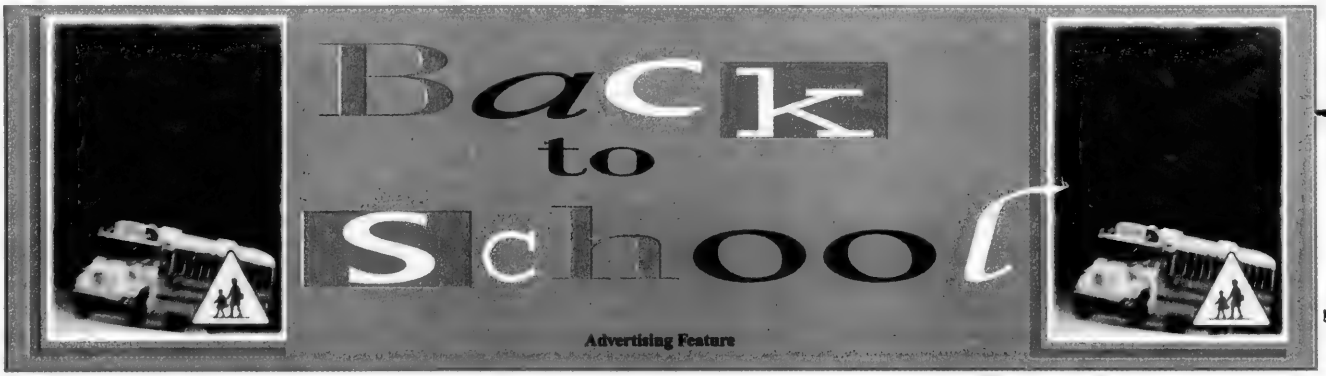


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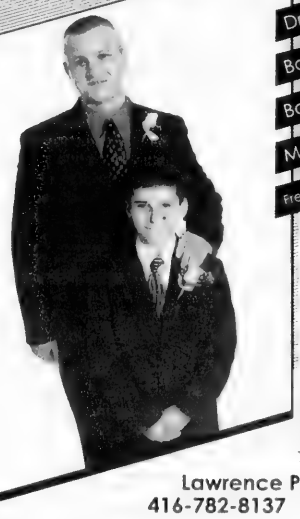

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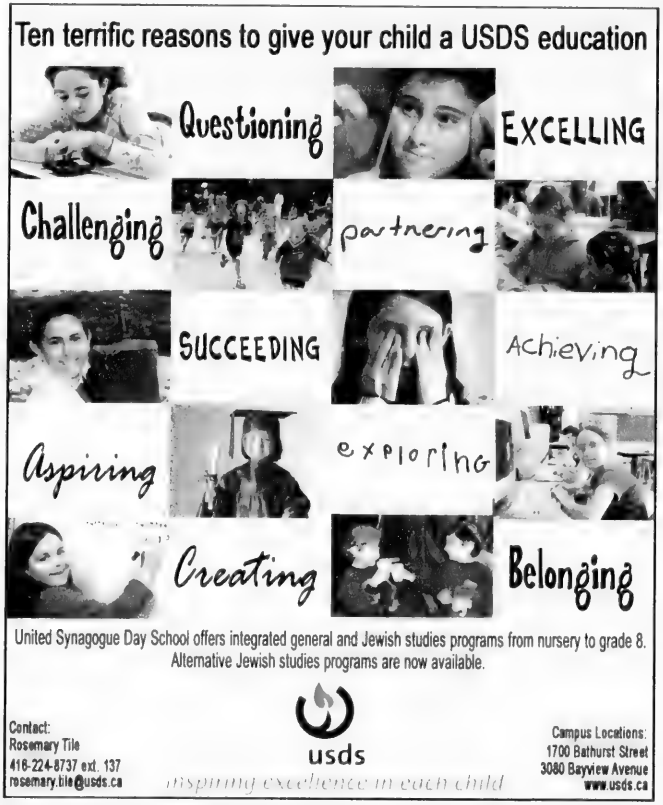


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2) **Yesod/Foundation Program** – The goal of the program is to support students in grades 1 and 2 who need to consolidate their first language skills before being introduced to a second language. The customized curriculum builds a strong foundation in general studies and gradually integrates Hebrew language instruction and promotes academic excellence.

3) **TeLeM/Adapative Program** – This program, beginning in grade 4, is designed to deliver our current Jewish curriculum in English for students who would benefit from learning Jewish studies in their first language. During the Jewish studies portion of the day, subjects are taught, discussed and evaluated in English, with the integration of texts, key vocabulary and terms in Hebrew. Hebrew language arts continues to be delivered in Hebrew.

4) **Mechina** – This program provides an opportunity for students who have not previously attended Jewish day school to enter at middle school (grades 6-8). They receive Hebrew language instruction and study the Jewish texts in English.

5) **Song, Circle & Celebration™** – USDS, in partnership with Beth Tzedec, will sponsor five fun-filled events over the 2006/2007 school year. Preschoolers, parents and grandparents can celebrate their Judaism in a warm nurturing environment. Based around Jewish holidays and themes each program includes music, arts and crafts, snack and playtime activities. Events will take place at both campuses.

6) **Math, Literacy and Technology** – USDS offers a cutting edge math curriculum called Math Makes Sense and a focus on literacy which is the touchstone of academic success. Technology is integrated into the program across all subject areas allowing for enriched curriculum.

7) **Progressive Teaching Strategies** – The approach of Differentiated Instruction includes Multiple Intelligences Theory and encompasses the child's interests, learning styles and maturity. Educators develop different approaches to teaching that meet the range of needs in the classroom.

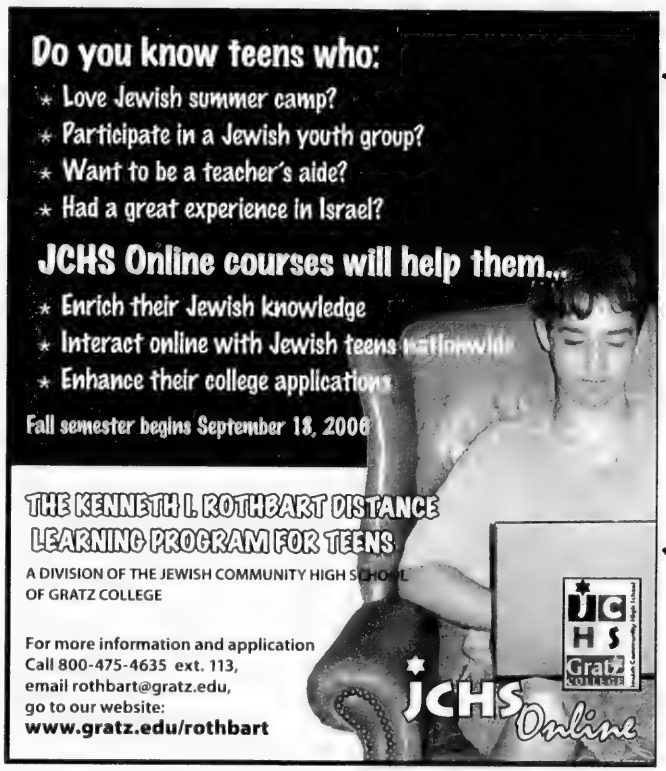
8) **Construction at Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Community Campus** – As part of its strategic plan for the future, USDS is moving ahead with a strong presence in the north. This new state of the art facility is set to open in Vaughan in 2008.

9) **Bathurst Campus Renovation** – USDS, in partnership with Beth Tzedec Synagogue, is working on a joint renovation that features a full size gym, green spaces and larger classrooms.

10) **Outstanding Professional Educators** – USDS educators are committed to the core mission of the school. Their passion for drawing on the moral and educational purpose at the heart of USDS brings about teaching that is second to none. We welcome Ashley Waltman, former principal at North Toronto Collegiate, as the new Bathurst Campus principal. We also welcome Jordana Mednick, USDS alumni and graduate of JTS in New York, as the nursery school teacher at the Bayview Campus.

USDS is part of the Conservative Movement's Solomon Schechter Day School Association. Lucy Cohen, Head of School, is excited about the opportunities that these initiatives provide. They build on the USDS goal of "inspiring excellence in each child."

For more information contact Rosemary Tile at 416-224-8737 ext. 137 or rosemary.tile@usds.ca.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Israel at War

# Conservatives, Liberals vie for community support

## PM's strong support of democracies comes as no surprise

By MATTHEW COORSH

In only a few short months since the election of Stephen Harper's government, Canada's Jewish community has been afforded a clear view of what the future for Jewish advocacy holds in a Conservative government.

**Conservatives**

Mr. Harper's comments regarding attacks on Israel by Hezbollah terrorists have come as a surprise to many – particularly those in the Jewish community. But to those who paid attention to Mr. Harper and other Conservative candidates during the run-up to the election, the prime minister's strong support of democracies like Israel comes as no surprise.

Mr. Harper's new-found support among those in the Jewish community comes in stark contrast to his standing in the community only months ago. While campaigning door to door and in synagogues around Toronto during the last campaign, volunteers often heard a barrage of criticism about Harper and the Conservatives. "He's scary," "I don't trust his eyes," "look what the last Conservative government did to us." A familiar chorus of rhetoric ingrained in psyches by years of Liberal smear.

How quickly it seemed Jews sought to forget years of anti-Israel bias by Canada's "natural governing party." With an eye to the past, we were all too eager to forgive Liberal prime minister Mackenzie King's refusal to allow Holocaust refugees into Canada or Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's cancellation of the fair funding tax credit for non-Catholic religious families. And only two years ago, it was Paul Martin's government who consistently supported or abstained from resolution after resolution in the United Nations unfairly criticizing Israel's right to exist.

What a difference a year makes. While many Jews in Canada once shuddered at the thought of electing a Conservative government, today many have been left scratching their heads. Never before in the history of this nation has the Jewish community and State of Israel been the recipient of such unwavering support.

But if this fact alone is not enough to convince the Jewish community of the wisdom of supporting Conservative candidates, one need only look to the platform of Ontario Leader of the Opposition John Tory and his caucus to realize what Jews stand to gain from electing a Conservative government. Mr. Tory has unequivocally stated that a government under his leadership would reintroduce legislation to solve the obvious education funding unfairness and provide the parents of children attending Jewish day school some sort of remedy.

It's time we opened our eyes to the truth about Conservatism in Canada – it's good for us as Canadians and it's good for us as Jews. I implore you to consider these facts the next time you step into a voting booth in your community.

*Matthew Coorsh is president of the Progressive Conservative York Centre Electoral District Association. He can be reached at mattcoo@hotmail.com.*

## We support Israel's right to defend itself

By KEITH MARTIN

Over the past several weeks, there has been much attention paid to the way in which the federal government has responded to the crisis in the Middle East and how opposition parties have reacted. In particular, there has been concern by some members in the Jewish community that the Liberal Party has not demonstrated sufficient support for Israel in this current crisis. I feel that as the foreign affairs critic for the Official Opposition, I should clear up this misunderstanding.

**Liberals**

Three weeks ago, I returned from Geneva where I met with various United Nations organizations and NGOs on this crisis. During those meetings, I was provided with the details on the high civilian casualty rate and destruction of infrastructure. Many officials expressed their concern that due to the hostilities, desperately needed humanitarian assistance and aid workers could not safely enter southern Lebanon. Thousands of civilians were isolated in heavy combat areas, unable to leave and rapidly running out of basic supplies.

Also, Hezbollah's support in Lebanon had risen from 13 per cent at the beginning of the conflict to 89 per cent as of the end of July. At the same time, anti-Israeli sentiment had risen throughout the region. This had increased, not decreased, the security threats to Israel and Jews living in and outside the Middle East.

The Liberal Party believes that the loss of life in communities along the Israel's northern border and in Haifa amongst Israelis, the serious damage done to the economy and infrastructure of Israel, the fact that thousands of Israelis have been living underground for the last five weeks, and the psychological stress Israelis have endured from these unprovoked attacks is deplorable.

Neither I, nor my colleagues in the Liberal Party, view Hezbollah as anything but a foreign-sponsored terrorist organization whose attacks continue to endanger the people of Israel, Lebanon and the region.

So allow me to make our position on this crisis perfectly clear. We support Israel's right to defend itself. We acknowledge that this conflict was started by unprovoked attacks by Hezbollah, supported and aided by the governments of Syria and Iran. We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the actions of these groups that undermine the safety and stability of the region. We are concerned that in the effort to remove Hezbollah, more than 1,000 Lebanese civilians have been killed (40 per cent of whom were children), and that these deaths, along with the destruction of Lebanon's infrastructure, are being effectively used as a propaganda tool to stimulate anti-Israeli feelings and encourage more people to wage violence against Israel. The long-term implications of this to the security of Jews everywhere cannot be underestimated.

We support Israel's right to engage in military actions against Hezbollah, however, these actions will not remove the threat to Israel. Thus our plan to address this crisis includes the following: implement a ceasefire, even for 48 hours, so that civilians can safely leave northern Israel and southern Lebanon. This would also allow the United Nations and other aid organizations to distribute urgently needed humanitarian aid to these areas.

We support a UN-sponsored force to enter Lebanon as soon as possible to assist the Lebanese government in disarming Hezbollah and destroying its arms caches and to assist the Lebanese government in regaining control over its country.

We support multinational talks to remove Hezbollah's military wing from Lebanon and support a program to strengthen the Lebanese government's ability to provide for the social needs (infrastructure, health care, etc.) in southern Lebanon.

We support the immediate return of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers as well as the release of detained Palestinian parliamentarians.

We support sanctions against Iran and Syria if they continue to work to inflame the region.

We support the resumption of peace talks and the sustainable resolution of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict under the auspices of creating a viable and secure Palestinian country next to a safe, secure Israeli state.

The Liberal Party's proposals for the region are for the long-term safety and security of Israel, Lebanon and the region as a whole. We would not promote nor condone any initiative that violates this principle.

*Keith Martin is the member of Parliament for Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca and the foreign affairs critic for the Official Opposition.*

**Canadian and Israeli flags were held high at a rally in Toronto.** [RNS/Reuters photo]

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# The power of intention

Life Coach Corner

Judy Siblin Librach

When you wake up in the morning, create a positive intention for yourself such as "I'm going to have the best day ever." And chances are, that is exactly what will happen.

When we create from a place of openness and possibility, the sky is the limit. Look at children. They never think "no" or "I can't do it." They take chances and risks and often will believe they can be and do anything they set their minds to. So can you. As Wayne Dyer, a therapist, author and motivational speaker, says, "Our intention creates our reality" and "what we think creates our life."

If you act as if you have already achieved what you desire, the likelihood of your achieving it is much greater.

I had a client once who was hoping to become a songwriter. I suggested to him that he change the phrase to "I am a songwriter" because if he only hoped to compose songs, he would forever remain in a state of hoping. I invited him to create a clear intention that he would write a song by the end of the week. He became excited by the possibility and the result was phenomenal. He wrote a song called *Try,* and it was good enough to be a hit single on the radio. He has now written seven songs and is working on a musical.

This is a perfect example of how he set a positive intention for himself and made one of his dreams come true. Athletes do this all the time. They visualize getting that winning goal or scoring that final touchdown. They can practically feel the Olympic medal dangling around their neck or the sensation of lifting the Stanley Cup over their heads while the crowd roars.

Intention, according to Webster's dictionary, determination to act in a certain way. It's your aim, intent, design, objective or goal.

Intention is often married to your desire. As therapist, author and motivational speaker Denis Waitley says, "When you want something, you become motivated to get it."

But where many people fall short is they don't state their intention in a clear and straightforward manner. So instead of saying, "I would love to lose 10 pounds one day," you have to make your goal more concrete. As the teacher, speaker and author Hal Urban says in *Life's Greatest Lessons, 20 Things That Matter*, "Goals are dreams with deadlines. When we put a target date on our dreams, it's the first step in turning them into goals.

So make your intent or your goal specific and detailed. Paint a picture with words. Give the goal a date, make it visual, narrow it down, brainstorm and find new and creative ways to achieve it and you'll be on your way.

Dyer tells about a conversation he overheard after the events of 9/11 in New York in his book *The Power of Intention.*

"A grandfather was talking to his grandson, telling him, I have two wolves barking inside of me. The first wolf is filled with anger, hatred, bitterness and mostly revenge. The second wolf inside of me is filled with love, kindness, compassion and mostly forgiveness.'Which wolf do you think will win?' the young boy inquired. The grandfather responded, 'Whichever one I feed.'"

We always have a choice and can choose to feed the second wolf that barks from a position of hope and love for humanity.

So imagine a specific thing that would make you happy. Putting good thoughts out into the world helps attract those very things into your life. What intention do you have for yourself, for your family and for the world?

Articulate your goal clearly by writing it down or saying it out loud to someone you trust. Act as if everything you wish for is already here and then step into the new possibility of what you and your life can become.

And remember, if you create a clear intention for your life to glow, chances are it will do exactly that.

*Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained coach. Website: www.findingyourbliss.com; e-mail: judyelle@ican.net*

# JIAS program connects skilled newcomers to jobs

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Jewish immigrants have been getting a leg up on the Canadian labour market thanks to Jump Start, a program developed by Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, Toronto (JIAS).

The goal of the program, which has been running for about one year – it has a two-year grant from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – is to connect newcomers to positions that match their training and expertise.

Jump Start co-ordinator Elisa Lepek said that many immigrants coming from such places as Israel, Argentina, the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe are trained in professions that include teaching, law, engineering and administrative services.

"No matter how 'job ready' they are, however, they're reduced to finding survival jobs to support their families, because they can't get their foot in the door," Lepek said.

"They do not have access, in Toronto, to the invaluable social and professional networks naturally developed over one's educational and work life."

These people are motivated to work, she said. "They're not looking for charity. All they want is an opportunity. It's not about favours. It's about adding value to the workplace.

"Most immigrants left their home country for good reasons, and they left behind a good employment record."

If the potential of newcomers is wasted, "we share in the responsibility for a downward cycle of reliance on communal funds, ensuing poverty, and the inevitable and irreparable disengagement from Jewish communal life," Lepek added.

Jump Start serves its clients by providing a continuum of opportunities such as mentoring, networking, volunteer positions, employment and business partnerships.

"We help them with resumes and cover letters, and if they need more training, we refer them to the proper place. When we refer someone from our program, they are ready to go."

Since Jump Start began, it has placed more than 30 people in jobs related to their fields. "A lawyer who had worked in child welfare in his native Argentina, for example, is now working in a bank because they needed a Spanish speaking person with legal experience."

Another woman who had worked as an administrator in India, Lepek said, had to juggle a few offers before she decided on a position in a charity organization.

"This is how communities are built. The quicker we connect them, the more successful their immigration will be."

Jump Start has created a database of employers, she said, "and we are always ready to make a match. There is a high demand for jobs in engineering, teaching and bookkeeping.

"[Potential employees] are not looking to start at the top. They want a job that matches their capabilities."

There are a number of job initiatives in Toronto for immigrants, Lepek said, "but there is not the same awareness in our own community. [Our ancestors] were all newcomers at one time. We have to put ourselves in their shoes."

For more information, call Lepek at 416-630-6481, ext. 24, or e-mail elepek@jias.org.

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# Holocaust memorial book recalls a town in what was Germany

***History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemuhl: 1641 to the Holocaust*, by Peter Simonstein Cullman, Avotaynu.**

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

The Nazis wiped out a succession of Jewish communities during the Holocaust, and the community in Schneidemuhl was one of them.

Peter Simonstein Cullman, a retired Toronto goldsmith whose maternal ancestors dwelled in that town, has written a memorial book about it.

*History of the Jewish Community of Schneidemuhl: 1641 to the Holocaust* is a model of its kind – thorough and readable. Cullman, who was born in Berlin in 1941 and immigrated to Canada from South Africa in 1977, is not a professional historian. But he has served Schneidemuhl quite well with this account of its rise and fall.

Schneidemuhl, known also as Pila, was part of greater Poland until it passed into Prussian hands in the 18th century. With Nazi Germany's defeat in 1945, Schneidemuhl once again became Polish.

Cullman dedicates the book to the Jewish men, women and children of Schneidemuhl who were murdered by the Nazis. "Their names have been rescued from anonymity," he observes. "They are not forgotten."

Jewish roots in Pila – which is also spelled Pyla – can be traced to the mid-17th century, when Jewish traders settled in that town in western Poland.

As elsewhere in Europe, Jews were subjected to restrictions. They lived in a ghetto, cut off from the rest of the inhabitants by a trench and a tall wooden fence so that their Christian neighbours would not have to endure "the sight and sounds of the Jews." In addition, they could not practise certain professions.

**Peter Simonstein Cullman**

From 1772 onward, Prussia controlled the region where the town was located. By that juncture, Jews comprised about a third of its population of 1,203.

Having done his research, Cullman comes up with the information that there were 14 small Jewish merchants, 19 butchers, six tailors, five furriers, two barbers, two teachers and an unspecified number of haberdashers, tobacconists, horse traders and an innkeeper during this period.

The Jews of Prussia and of Schneidemuhl were officially emancipated in 1812. But this made no difference to Jews who sought better opportunities abroad. Cullman says that emigration sent waves of Jews to Britain, Australia, South Africa, North America and even Morocco.

Most of the immigrants followed the faith of their parents, he notes, but in some cases there were conversions to Christianity and Islam.

The community tripled in size to 1,039 in the mid-19th century, when Schneidemuhl became an important railway junction. Around this time, its occupational structure changed and the ghetto disappeared.

As Jews were increasingly integrated into mainstream society, they gradually drifted out of trade and into the professions, medicine, law and so on.

After the great fire of 1834, virtually nothing remained of the ghetto, and Jews began moving into areas of town that had been off-limits to them.

But as Cullman notes, anti-Semitism, a phenomenon as old as assimilation itself, was never too far from the surface. He cites a few examples of the rising tide of anti-Semitism.

Be that as it may, Jews were German patriots. Three Jewish men fought in Prussia's 1866 war with Austria, while 15 volunteered for the 1870 Franco-Prussian War. Patriotic fervour swept the community when Germany went to war in 1914, and 15 Jewish soldiers were killed on the battlefields.

Jewish displays of patriotism had no effect whatsoever on anti-Semites. During the 1920s, the Jewish cemetery was repeatedly vandalized, and attempts to find the perpetrators were unsuccessful.

By 1925, Schneidemuhl's overall population was 37,551, of whom roughly 10 per cent were Jewish.

The rise of Nazism was keenly felt. Adolf Hitler's Nazi party picked up 10 per cent of the vote in the September 1930 election, but 53 per cent in the November 1932 election.

In the last democratic election in March 1933, following Hitler's accession to power, the Nazis increased their share of the vote to a whopping 56 per cent.

The atmosphere in Schneidemuhl turned menacing as Jewish schoolchildren were forced to put up with racial slurs.

Kristallnacht, in November 1938, was a watershed for the town's Jews.

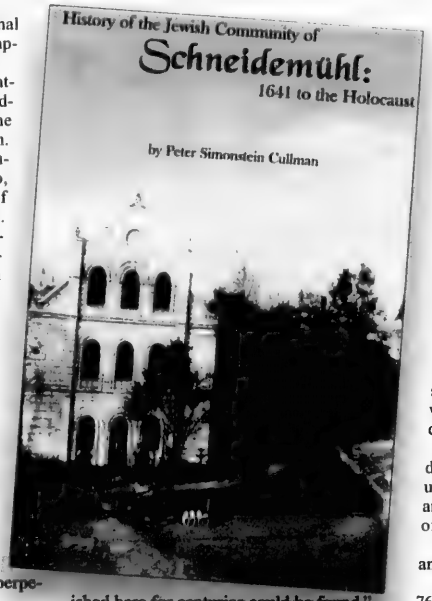
The venerable synagogue, which had long been a national historic monument, was torched by Nazi hooligans.

Cullman, whose family survived due to false papers identifying them as Christians, estimates that at least 10 Jewish-owned businesses were destroyed during that rampage.

In the aftermath of Kristallnacht, Nazi vandals desecrated headstones in the Jewish cemetery. Some were used for building purposes, in a travesty reminiscent of the Middle Ages.

Germany had indeed sunk low.

On a visit to Pila in 1998, Cullman visited what remained of the cemetery. "One could see but an expanse of lawn," he writes. "Not one gravestone with even the faintest inscription could be found here, where four generations of the Simonstein family lay buried. No evidence that a Jewish community had existed and flourished here for centuries could be found."




As the Nazis tightened their grip on Germany and inflicted yet more pain and suffering on the Jewish community, Jews were forced to live in specially designated houses and wear the dreaded yellow star.

Faced with a hopeless situation, the Jewish burghers of the town emigrated when they could, finding a haven in such far-flung countries as the United States, Canada, Britain, Brazil, Argentina and Shanghai in China.

Jews in mixed marriages were protected, at least for a while.

Jews who remained in Schneidemuhl and the surrounding region by 1941 paid the ultimate penalty and were deported eastward to the Lodz ghetto, the Riga ghetto, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Treblinka.

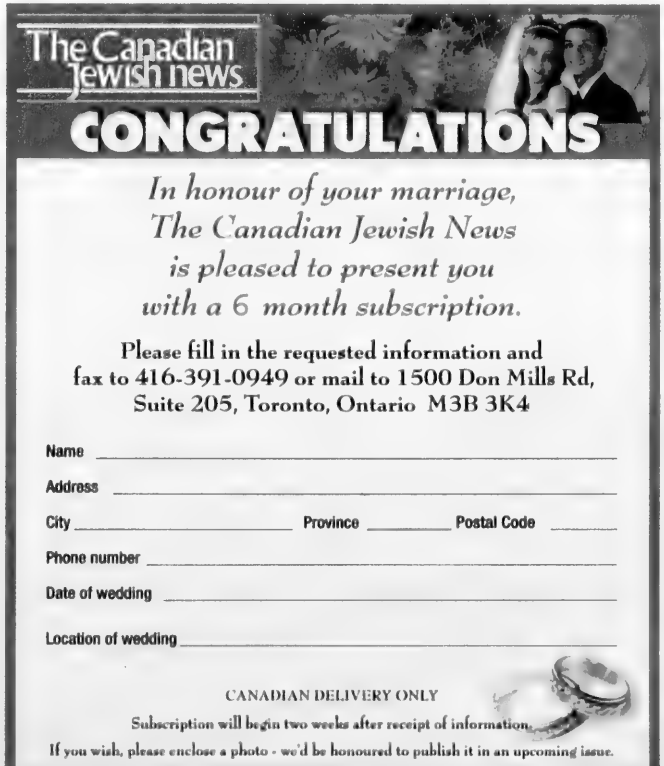
Schneidemuhl was hit by Soviet air strikes beginning in the spring of 1944, when the Red Army was within striking distance of the town.

On Jan. 22, 1945, the authorities ordered the civilian population to be evacuated. But the order was never carried out and civilians bore the brunt of the Soviet offensive.

A month later, the Red Army stormed and captured the town.

Today, in Pila, a green and modern city of 76,000, the traces of its German past are gone, as are its German and Jewish minorities.

But in the pages of this book, the memory of those days lives on.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# Soap opera character's revelation matches actor's personal journey

By RACHEL SILVERMAN
*JTA*

If you didn't catch *The Young and the Restless* recently, here's what you missed: Neil blew off Dru for dinner. Nick and Sharon continued struggling with their divorce. And Brad Carlton came out as Jewish.

That's right, Carlton – a mainstay of the long-running soap series – told viewers that his real name is George Kaplan and that his mother, Rebecca Kaplan, is a concentration camp survivor.

Carlton's declaration of his lineage illustrates the degree to which the Holocaust, and Judaism, have infiltrated pop culture. Though a soap opera may seem an unlikely genre for a lesson in Jewish history, *Young and Restless* head writer Lynn Latham says it's just the opposite.

The veteran soap writer pointed out in an e-mail exchange with JTA that "storytellers are storytellers no matter what form we work in ... and we are always looking for compelling stories to tell.

"I believe the most riveting ones reflect real life," she added.

Don Diamont, who has played Carlton on the show for two decades, couldn't agree more.

"You can't tell the Holocaust story too many times, however the Holocaust story is told," he said.

The plotline has particular significance for Diamont: He too is Jewish, and like his character, Diamont – whose real last name is Feinberg – came to his Judaism later in life.

Raised the "ultimate secular Jew," Diamont knew little of religion growing up. His family had a Christmas tree but no Chanukah celebrations.

Diamont has vivid childhood memories of being taunted for being Jewish.

"I remember going home and saying to my dad, 'What's a kike?' He said, 'It's the worst thing you can call a Jew.'"

The bullying led Diamont into fights at school, and gave rise to conflicting emotions.

"When you have no sense of who you are, any sense of where you come from, who your people are, and then you're attacked in that sort of way, there's a natural sense of pride," he said. "But the other half is ashamed because you're being made fun of, you're being abused."

Diamont took his mother's maiden name when he began acting and modeling. He remembers an agent recommending that he choose a more "rhythmical" name.

"Donald Feinberg is kind of like a neon sign," he said. "Its flashing 'Jew, Jew, Jew.'"

But Diamont's attitude toward Judaism began to change as an adult when his older brother, who had been diagnosed with a brain tumour, began to study for his bar mitzvah. Diamont decided to study too.

His brother died before becoming a Bar Mitzvah, but Diamont underwent the rite of passage at age 29.

Diamont's sense of Judaism also was heightened by his father's death. As he grew sick, his father expressed regret at not having given his children a Jewish education, Diamont said.

"Particularly with my dad's passing, I really felt a longing just to get more in touch and ask who I am and where I come from," Diamont said. "I'm not suddenly going to become the most religious, observant Jew in the world, but as I started getting older, the pride started to overcome the shame."

Now Diamont goes to synagogue on High Holidays, celebrates Chanukah and has seen two sons bar mitzvahed, with another one scheduled for 2008.

After playing the same character for 20 years, Diamont said it was a pleasant surprise to find out that the character's true identity was not unlike his own.

"I open a script one day and I knew that they were delving into the character's history, but I had no idea my real name was George Kaplan," he said. "I called upstairs to the head writer and I said, 'So, I'm Jewish?' And she said, 'Are you OK with that?' I said, 'Well, yeah, I am Jewish.'"

Diamont is glad his character, a chiselled Navy SEAL, doesn't conform to stereotypes.

"It's not usually Rambo, not Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible*, not Colin Farrell in *Miami Vice*. He's not the guy taking names and kicking ass," Diamont said. "This guy is not Woody Allen."

Carlton set the record straight about his identity in an episode two weeks ago.

When World War II broke out, Carlton's mother, Rebecca Kaplan, was stripped of her possessions and sent to a concentration camp. But because she spoke German and knew a great deal about fine art, Rebecca was put to work cataloguing stolen Jewish artwork.

"It's what kept her from the gas chamber," Carlton explains in the episode.

In typical soap opera form, the intrigue doesn't end there. Killers are chasing the family because Rebecca Kaplan was partly responsible, after the war's end, for the return of lucrative goods stolen by Nazis.

Will the Nazi bounty hunters have their revenge? Will Brad Carlton's friends accept his new identity? Will the Holocaust continue to play a role in what has been the No. 1 daytime drama for 16 years?

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# 91-year-old pianist headlines KlezKanada

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — Irving Fields, who created a sensation in 1959 when he blended popular Yiddish tunes with Latin rhythms on the album *Bagels and Bongos*, is performing at this year's KlezKanada festival in the Laurentians.

At 91, the cocktail pianist and jazz-fusion pioneer is still at it after 75 years of tickling the ivories in nightclubs, hotels, cruise ships, resorts and casinos, as well as entertaining at private parties for the likes of Barbara Walters, Donald Trump and, recently, U.S. First Lady Laura Bush.

The New York native is enjoying something of a revival: he's a regular on CBS' Late Show with David Letterman, and last year, Reboot Stereophonic, a nonprofit company dedicated to preserving Jewish music classics rereleased *Bagels and Bongos*.

Another legendary entertainer, Theodore Bikel, best known for his starring role in *Fiddler on the Roof*, is also coming to KlezKanada, which is being held Aug. 20 to 27 at Camp B'nai Brith. He'll give a cabaret-style concert Aug. 22. Bikel gave a benefit concert in Montreal in May for the KlezKanada youth scholarship fund.

Yet KlezKanada founder and director Hy Goldman said his goal is not to keep the old-timers in gigs, but to encourage a new generation of artists of klezmer and other Jewish music.

So he's thrilled that Matt Haimovitz, considered one of the best young cellists in the world and known for his dedication to bringing classical music to unconventional venues, has joined the KlezKanada faculty. Haimovitz, 35, a McGill University music professor, dropped by KlezKanada's 10th edition last year and was impressed with how the event brings together the interpreters and lovers of Jewish music of all kinds in a totally laid-back environment, as well as its mission to transmit this culture to the young.

The 11th edition of KlezKanada has its largest registration ever – a capacity 480 participants.

"We have literally had to turn away people," Goldman said. "On principle, we will not expand beyond the dining hall's capacity. There is only one sitting for meals, in order to create a sense of community.

That total includes a record 125 young people attending on scholarships from throughout North America, as well as from Europe, Israel, and a dozen from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Estonia.

KlezKanada always bills itself as a celebration, so it's appropriate that the festival will be the site of a bat mitzvah this year, that of 12-year-old Ilana Dresdner, daughter of faculty member Sruli Dresdner.

As his creation (with the late Sara Rosenfeld) enters its second decade, Goldman is looking to expand KlezKanada's influence beyond a week in the country each year for like-minded people.

"Our first 10 years were about growth. This year, we are beginning a new phase of outreach and education, concentrating on youth, going to schools and making appearances at other festivals," Goldman said.

After seeking out musically adept youngsters for years, he's now turning his sights on the next generation of potential audience members for Jewish music.

"What we are accomplishing – and quite successfully, from the feedback we have received – is turning our kids on to their Jewishness, in some cases more so than those who are enrolled in the Jewish day school system," Goldman stressed. "That isn't meant as an indictment of the school system. It's simply to show that music has been a most effective way of igniting joy for learning in our youth."

Goldman wants KlezKanada, and the joyous revival and rejuvenation of Jewish culture after the Holocaust that it represents, to be more visible in the Jewish community and the wider public.

On Saturday evening, Aug. 19, Montrealer Josh "So-Called" Dolgin, a former KlezKanada youth scholar who has established a musical career fusing klezmer with hip hop, will headline a klezmer concert at Le National, a downtown Montreal club, as a lead-up to the opening of KlezKanada the following day. Other musicians and bands associated with KlezKanada will also perform, including Michael Alpert, Beyond the Pale and Shtreiml.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, prior to heading for the Laurentians, many of KlezKanada's faculty will spend the afternoon performing at the Ottawa Folk Festival. This will coincide with the release of the first "best of KlezKanada" CD. The festival has set up its own recording label and plans to issue a series of CDs.

Goldman admits that KlezKanada was run by the "seat of our pants" for its first decade, but is now on a more stable footing thanks to what has become an international board of directors made up of people with the management skills needed for what has become a huge undertaking.

For more information, visit www.klezkanada.com.

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Arts & Travel

# Montrealer making doc about Klimt's *Adele*

By HINDI DIAMOND
*Special to The CJN*

One month before her 90th birthday, on Jan. 15, 2006, Maria Altmann received the news that a Viennese court ordered Austria to give up all claims to five paintings and return them to their rightful owners, Altmann and her family.

Maria Altmann, left with Canadian film-maker Ilana Linden.

The decision was the culmination of Altmann's 60-year legal battle with the country of her birth to reclaim ownership of five paintings of her aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer, by Austrian artist Gustav Klimt. The decision gave hope to those Holocaust survivors still seeking restitution for artwork that the Nazis stole from them.

Ronald Lauder, the son of cosmetics magnate Estee Lauder and the former U.S. ambassador to Austria, purchased the luminescent, gold-flecked painting of Adele for $135 million, a figure that broke all records for a painting sold to an individual. It's estimated that four other Klimt masterpieces that have been returned to the family are worth $100 million (US). It was announced last week that they will be auctioned by Christie's this fall.

Klimt's painting of Adele Bloch-Bauer.

Hot on the heels of this scenario comes word that the extraordinary saga of the portrait that travelled across the ocean almost a century after it was painted in 1907 has spawned a documentary, *Portrait of Adele*, being made by Montreal filmmaker Ilana Linden.

"The minute I read several articles about this story, it just blew me away. I felt in my heart I had to get involved," Linden said.

"I knew I had to make this into a documentary. It was just mind-blowing that after six decades of wrangling and denial, Altmann, this feisty 90-year-old niece of Adele Bloch-Bauer… finally emerged victorious in her battle for restitution of five Klimt paintings stolen by the Nazis."

The Israeli-born Linden, whose parents are Holocaust survivors, immigrated to Canada in 1961. She has more than 35 years of experience in the arts as a producer and a director, and is the director of her own theatre company. Her Montreal production of David Mamet's play *Oleanna* was critically acclaimed.

Linden and Robert Krakow, the executive producer of *Portrait of Adele*, travelled to California, Vienna and other locations to film the documentary. Krakow is a Boca Raton lawyer, writer and producer.

"We didn't just want to tell the story of the restitution of the illegally held art. We go back in history to portray turn-of-the-century Vienna and re-enact scenes of Adele's life – an extraordinary woman whose artistic salon was a magnet for the elite in the music and art world," Linden said. Adele died in 1925, at the age of 43, long before the Nazis came to power.

"Our documentary covers the harrowing fate that befell the Bloch-Bauer family, and how their entire world was wiped off the map by Hitler," Linden said.

"There is a chilling connection the family had with the Nazis. Not only did they steal the magnificent antiques and paintings but they also took over the sugar factory the family owned, which became the Nazi railroad headquarters.

"Adele's husband, Ferdinand Bloch, a Czech sugar magnate, also owned a castle outside of Prague, where artist Klimt frequently visited. This castle became the headquarters of Nazi chief Reindhardt Heydrich, where he planned the Final Solution of the Jews. "Ironic, isn't it?" Linden observed.

The filmmaker said she is amazed at how humble Altmann is. Altmann has said to Linden: "Oh, what I have suffered is nothing, but for me, it [what happened to the portrait] symbolized what happened to all the Jews. When you look at the painting of Adele, it is immortal. It will outlive the last survivors of the Holocaust, and continue to have its mesmerizing effect on all who see it."

When the portrait was featured in a Klimt exhibition organized by the Nazis in Vienna in 1943, Adele's identity was not revealed. Instead, a sign that read "Lady in Gold" was used to identify the painting. The Lady in Gold's identity has now been restored. And she takes her place in history as a remarkable Jewish woman who will be remembered through the ages.

Lauder is exhibiting the painting at his Neue Galerie museum in New York until Sept. 18.


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# *Performer sees herself as an ambassador for Jewish culture*

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Performer, vocal soloist, dancer, lyricist, composer, cantorial singer – Aviva Chernick does it all, and often with a Jewish twist.

Chernick, 35, thinks the most important aspect of her work is the responsibility that comes along with being an artist.

"As artist, we have a great responsibility to speak our own truths so others can see themselves expressed in our art," she said.

She grapples with the question of "what's my responsibility" even today. "There's a dichotomy: I'm an artist, a Jewish woman. How do I balance Jewish life and my desire to remain active and accessible to mainstream culture?

"We all are ambassadors for our own culture," she continued. "I want to show others what's so beautiful about what we do [as Jews]."

Born in London, Ont., Chernick, who is now based in Toronto, grew up in a traditional Conservative Jewish home, participated in USY and attended Camp Ramah. At 18, she decided she wanted to study theatre and went to York University, which was the only place offering an undergraduate program in directing at the time.

Aviva Chernick

"I studied playwriting and design, and I did a lot of acting," said Chernick, 35, describing her four years at York as "good, great, crazy."

As an undergraduate, Chernick also participated in Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation project, interviewing Canadian Holocaust survivors about their lives, something she describes as a "massive experience."

The Holocaust quickly became the focus of Chernick's theatre projects at university, and she staged an adaptation of Euripides' *The Trojan Women* that was set in the Warsaw ghetto.

Chernick said that as a Jew growing up in a traditional, warm Jewish home that was very pro-Israel and placed an emphasis on Jewish scholarship, she always felt a tension with the outside world.

"I have to be very truthful with my relationship to Judaism. Real Jewish practice is about grappling," she said.

"What Judaism needs from me is the willingness to engage in a process which is not black and white, to work with tradition and halachah and my own desires and dreams."

Incorporating those desires with tradition has resulted in many fruitful creative endeavours for Chernick, one of them being Shabbat Fusion, a service held at Holy Blossom Temple on the last Friday of every month. Shabbat Fusion, which starts up again in October, combines dance and music from around the Jewish world with a traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service.

> **'I want to show others what's so beautiful about what we do'**

Chernick is currently training as a cantorial soloist with Cantor Benjamin Maissner at Holy Blossom, where she will be leading auxiliary services on Yom Kippur, but she also makes time for solo gigs and to perform as part of a larger band.

Audiences will be able to check out that band, Shakshuka, for free at Ashkenaz 2006: A Festival of New Jewish Culture on Sunday, Sept. 3. The group plays traditional Jewish tunes taken from eclectic sources and gives them a contemporary sound. Chernick sings in Hebrew and Ladino while the band plays arrangements that incorporate jazz, rock and Latin influences, yet are respectful of the original traditions. For instance, one song has a Latin groove, but its lyrics contain the first line of the Song of Songs.

Another new project that allows Chernick to integrate performance and service is The Huppah Project, in which she sings the traditional wedding repertoire set to original, contemporary musical arrangements after the *bedecken*. Then, she and her bandmates perform a wedding ceremony under a chupah to their own acoustic world music arrangements.

"We want a textured, rich atmosphere woven together by the music that is not invasive," Chernick said.

Chernick, who officiated at her first wedding ceremony last week, is always searching for something that allows her to serve the Jewish community.

"I want to be of service and be satisfied and be giving," she said.

Chernick will be performing with Shakshuka Sept. 3 at 4:30 p.m. on the Toronto Star Stage at Harbourfront Centre, and with The Huppah Project later the same day at 8:30 p.m. at Harbourfront Centre's Marilyn Brewer Community Space. Both performances are free. For more information about Chernick, Shakshuka or The Huppah Project, visit www.avivachernick.com.

# Jewish groups court Mel Gibson

By TOM TUGEND
*JTA*

**LOS ANGELES** — The race is on to become the first Jewish group to land an appearance by Mel Gibson.

First out of the starting block was Rabbi David Baron of the Temple of the Arts in Beverly Hills.

Rabbi Baron alluded to the actor's profuse apologies for his anti-Semitic slurs, then invited the director of *The Passion of the Christ* to speak at Yom Kippur services, "in order that you might directly express to the Jewish community your remorse."

Rabbi Baron added, "In our faith, we are commanded to forgive when the offending party takes the necessary steps and offers an apology from the heart."

Many congregants of the Temple of the Arts work in the entertainment industry. Many synagogue members expressed strong objections to the invitation.

Rabbi Baron responded with another open letter, pointing out that he had invited Gibson not to speak but to deliver a public apology.

Some have suggested that the publicity accruing to the first Jewish institution sponsoring Gibson's mea culpa might have played a role in the temple's invitation.

Attempts to reach Rabbi Baron, on vacation in Europe, were unsuccessful.

Two other Jewish organizations have publicly invited Gibson. The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City also extended an invitation to Gibson.

Asserting that he took Gibson's previous apology "very seriously," director David Marwell added in his letter that "In making a genuine commitment to learn about the Jewish people, you could find no more appropriate place to start your journey than our museum."

Marwell closed by saying, "We look forward to the opportunity of participating in your journey of understanding."

Marwell rejected the suggestion that the museum was seeking publicity. "We are in the business of educating people every day," he said.

If Gibson visits the museum he obviously would attract press attention, Marwell acknowledged, but said such a visit "should not be a media circus."

A third invitation has come from the "1939 Club," a Los Angeles-based association of Holocaust survivors and their children.

William Elperin, the group's president, said in a phone interview that he had invited Gibson "not to talk to us, but to listen to us. He has done enough talking.

"Who better to educate Gibson about the ultimate effects of anti-Semitism than those who experienced the Holocaust?" Elperin added.

He said he was not looking for publicity and originally had extended the invitation in a private letter. When there was no response, he was advised to go public as the best way to catch the actor's attention.

Of all Jewish organizations, none has better entree to Hollywood's A-list than the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which has assiduously cultivated the brightest stars and directors.

However, centre founder Rabbi Marvin Hier said "under no circumstances" would he invite Gibson. "He can't be cured by a press release or be koshered by a 24-hour 'conversion.'"

Among the hundreds of invitations Gibson has received to speak or confess his sins, "lots" are from Jewish groups, said his publicist, Veronica Pinto.


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# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## MICHAEL REDHILL PLAY *GOODNESS* OPENS AT EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Volcano, a Toronto experimental theatre company headed by **Ross Manson**, was keen on taking *Goodness*, a play by local novelist-playwright **Michael Redhill**, to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival until a funding crisis temporarily put the plans on hold. A call for funds in June resulted in what Manson described as "the most encouraging, and actually quite moving, outpouring of support I have ever had as a theatre artist."

Hannah Moscovitch

The sum of $24,000 was raised in less than two months thanks to large contributions from the Tarragon Theatre (where *Goodness* ran for six sold-out weeks last fall) and from the John McKellar Charitable Foundation, the Zukerman Family Foundation, the David Glenn Fountain Foundation, Bluma Appel and nearly 200 others.

Manson described the play as "an articulate and powerful examination of genocide and the morality of storytelling," and filmmaker **Atom Egoyan** said it "deserves as wide an audience as possible." It opens this week for a two-week run at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh.

* * *

**Jewish Films at Bloor Cinema: Shlomo Schwartzberg**, former programming director for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, presents *Let's Talk!*, an occasional series of films with Jewish content at the Bloor Cinema.

The series begins with the sweeping French-Israeli epic *Live and Become* (2005) by director **Radu Mihaileanu**. The film, in French, Hebrew and Amharic with subtitles, chronicles the tumultuous life of a young Ethiopian boy who poses as a Jew, is rescued by Israel during Operation Moses, and tries to discover who he is and where he really belongs as he grows up in Israel.

Bloor Cinema, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 9 p.m. $4 for seniors; $5 for Bloor members; $8 for non-members. www.bloorcinema.com

* * *

**Names in the News: Hannah Moscovitch**, a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal, wrote the play *Essay*, which debuted to critical acclaim at last year's SummerWorks Theatre Festival and was voted best new play by *Now* magazine.

*Essay* probes the highly charged realm of gender and classroom politics and is "a play with a true conflict, with no absolute right or wrong in it," Moscovitch told *Now* magazine last year. "I hope the audience will find themselves switching allegiance throughout the piece."

A new production of *Essay*, directed by **Michael Rubenfeld**, is to be staged as part of the Groundswell Festival of New Works by Women. The performance features **Richard Greenblatt**, **Claire Jenkins** and **Jordan Pettle** at the Tapestry/Nightwood Studio, Distillery District, Cannery Building, Studio 315. Monday, Aug. 21, 8 p.m.

Moscovitch, meanwhile, wrote another stage vehicle, *The Russian Play*, which was included in this year's SummerWorks Festival.

* * *

**Yiddish at Roy Thompson Hall: Gloria Valentine** sings in Yiddish at the Canadian Organization of Senior Artists and Performers' 18th annual Seniors Jubilee at Roy Thompson Hall. Valentine opens the show recreating the character **Nonna**, a role she played in the long-running hit *Tony and Tina's Wedding* at Second City. Aug. 14 to 18

* * *

**Three Casting Calls**

• Markham Little Theatre seeks actors for two one-act plays it intends to stage in late November. The plays are *The Real Inspector Hound* by **Tom Stoppard** and *A Night in the Theatre* by **Lawrence Casler**. Auditions take place Aug. 23 and 24, 7:30 p.m. Contact director Kerry Harman, 905-294-8466; e-mail kerry.harman@ sympatico.ca

• Encore Productions seeks cast members for *Sylvia*, a comedy by **A. R. Gurney** to be directed by **Mark Tingle**. Audition dates are Aug. 28 and 29, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Rehearsals start in September and performances are Oct. 26 to Nov. 5 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, Studio Theatre. Auditions by appointment only. Non-paying. 416-733-0558

• Teatron Jewish Theatre seeks actors for upcoming productions of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* by **Alfred Uhry** and *The God of Isaac* by **James Sherman**, both to be produced in the Leah Posluns Theatre in January and March respectively. Auditions take place Sept. 12 and 14. Please send your resumé and photo by e-mail to teatron@sympatico.ca or by mail to Ari Weisberg, artistic director, Teatron Theatre, 41 Warwick Ave., Toronto M6C 1T7.

* * *

**At the Galleries**

• **Judy Singer**, who gives drawing and painting classes in her North York studio, opens her garden for an art show and sale of paintings by her talented students. Singer's new paintings will be displayed in her studio. 224 Armour Blvd. Thursday, Aug. 17, 5 to 9 p.m. Rain date Thursday, Aug. 24. www.judysinger.ca

• *In Search of Vashti*, an audio art installation outside the Royal Ontario Museum, explores the disappearance of Queen Vashti from the *Book of Esther*. The 45-minute audio piece, which runs continuously day and night, was created by local artist **Evan Tapper** with assistance from a Toronto Jewish Visual Arts Award from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. You'll find the headphones on the stairs outside the ROM's former main entrance on Queen's Park Crescent. Until mid-September. www.insearchofvashti.net

## Correction

The story "Richler parodied other writers, new book contends" (*CJN*, Aug. 3) should have indicated that the book's author now lives in Kitchener, Ont. Another city was named in the story. *The CJN* regrets the error.


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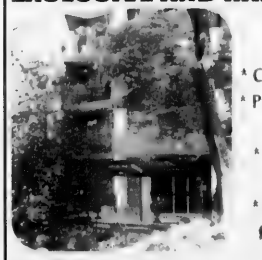

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# IDF holds line along Litani River

**Continued from page 1**

Late Sunday night, officials indicated that the navy and the air force will not lift the siege on Lebanon until the Lebanese government takes action to control access into the country, as required by the UN's ceasefire resolution.

But the question of what Israel will do if Syria sends convoys of weapons into Lebanon to help rehabilitate Hezbollah remains unanswered.

"This is a serious question that requires a decision by the diplomatic echelon," the officer said. "We need to prevent Hezbollah from rebuilding itself. The question is how far are we willing to go to do that."

So with Israeli soldiers holding the line along the Litani River, the IDF is now waiting for the 15,000 UN observers to deploy in southern Lebanon, together with the Lebanese army, as stipulated under the ceasefire agreement.

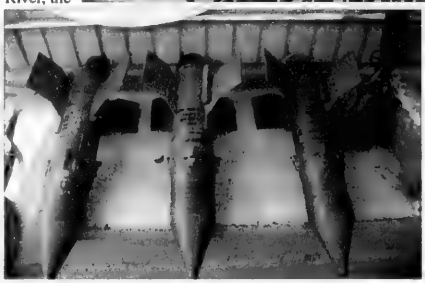
Deputy IDF chief of staff Maj.-Gen. Moshe Kaplinsky told the *Post* Sunday that the multinational force was expected to begin deploying in the next few days, and there was a chance that the IDF would begin withdrawing from Lebanon by the end of the week.

"It could take just a few days for the multinational force to arrive," Kaplinsky said from a bunker in Northern Command headquarters in Safed. "Until then, we will continue to defend ourselves and we will engage anyone we believe is endangering our soldiers."

Not all the details of how the ceasefire will be enforced have been worked out, and late Sunday night, senior IDF officers, led by the head of the IDF planning directorate, Maj.-Gen. Haki Harel, met with top UN officials to iron out the issues left open.

Despite the public uproar over the late launching of the massive ground offensive up to the Litani River on Friday, the officer said the operation created the right conditions for the ceasefire agreement.

"We would not have succeeded in creating an Israel-favourable agreement without the operation launched on Friday," Defence Minister Amir Peretz said during a tour of the Northern Command.



**The IDF displays some of the weaponry captured from Hezbollah. [Israel Sun photos]**

The day after the bloodiest day of battle claimed the lives of 24 IDF soldiers, fighting continued on Sunday with clashes in Randumia, Abu-Turin, Tel-Nahes and Ayta al-Shab that left five soldiers dead. More than 15 Hezbollah gunmen were killed in the clashes.

In the central Lebanese village of Abu-Tawil, one officer and three reservists were killed when Hezbollah guerrillas fired anti-tank missiles into their infantry force. Another three soldiers were seriously wounded.

Further south, in the village of Tel-Nahes, an officer was killed and another seriously wounded when an anti-tank missile scored a direct hit on their tank. Later in the day, a number of soldiers were wounded when a Katyusha landed in an Israeli village near Kiryat Shmona. Another 21 soldiers were lightly wounded during the day.

# Red Cross asked to use its 'moral authority'

**Continued from page 1**

cannot argue they are not bound to comply with the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC might be the only organization to save these captives' lives.

"The ICRC should energize its unique global position and international credibility and prestige to use its best efforts to ensure that these kidnapped Israeli soldiers are being treated under international standards of care," he wrote.

In the United States, meanwhile, Hastings, a seven-term Democratic congressman who represents the Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach areas of Florida, wrote to American Red Cross chief executive Jack McGuire asking that "pressure" be applied to the ICRC to visit the kidnapped Israeli soldiers.

"As an organization of enormous credibility and status, the ICRC can use their moral authority to verify the health and safety of the Israeli soldiers," Hastings stated in his letter to McGuire.

"Neither Hamas nor Hezbollah have given any indication as to whether these soldiers are injured or even alive. Recently, Israel received concrete evidence that Hezbollah plans to transfer the two soldiers to Iran. Wherever these captives are being harboured, international law demands they are held under humanitarian conditions," Hastings wrote.

Fred Turner, Hastings' chief of staff, said the American Red Cross has indicated it has already "made inquiries" with the ICRC.

Grafstein said he and Hastings were engaged in "parallel" efforts, but both lawmakers have a relationship that stemmed from their work at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, a regional security organization with 56 participating states. Grafstein said Hastings is an old friend, a longtime supporter of Israel and a civil rights activist.

Turner said Hastings took on the soldiers' case because "he is first and foremost... interested in human rights, civil rights, both domestically and abroad."

Grafstein said seeking the freedom of captives is part of Jewish tradition and is repeated daily in the *Shmoneh Esrei* prayer. "To my mind, the key thing we have to do here comes from the Torah and from davening and is part of the Ismelis' strategy," he said.

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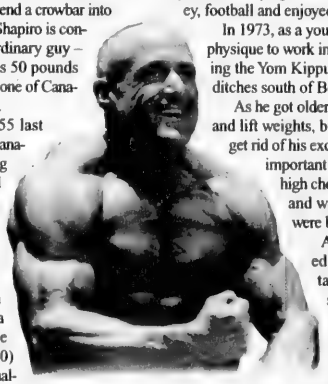
# Former 'shlob' sculpts his prize-winning physique

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

It's true that if Jerry Shapiro wrapped his 11-megaton biceps around your head, he could probably crack it open like a walnut. Not to mention he's probably strong enough to stop a single-seat airplane from taking off and bend a crowbar into a horseshoe. But as far as Shapiro is concerned, he's still just an ordinary guy – a former "shlob" who was 50 pounds overweight but who is now one of Canada's premier bodybuilders.

Shapiro, who turned 55 last week, has been named to Canada's national bodybuilding team and has been tagged to travel to Sicily in November to compete in the International Federation of Bodybuilders (IFBB) World Championships. Shapiro earned the spot on the national team with a first-place finish in the grandmaster class (over 50) at a world championship qualifier at York University.



Jerry Shapiro

Two months before, at the 2006 Ontario National Qualifier in Ajax, Ont., he finished first in the grand-master category for athletes over 50 and second overall in the light heavyweight division. Last year, he was named grandmaster champion of the Ontario Physique Association provincial qualifier, grand-master fourth- place winner at the 2005 Fitness and Model Expo (FAME) World Championships and third-place winner at the 2004 MuscleMania Canadian Nationals.

Not bad for a guy who four years ago was just looking for a way to shed some weight and feel better about himself.

Shapiro believes his story can be inspirational for the masses of overweight ex-athletes and potato-chip connoisseurs who may work out at the gym but who still can't seem to get into really good shape.

As he tells his story, he was always interested in sports and keeping fit. He played high school hockey, football and enjoyed the martial arts.

In 1973, as a young man, he put his sturdy physique to work in Israel as a volunteer during the Yom Kippur War, digging irrigation ditches south of Be'er Sheva.

As he got older he continued to work out and lift weights, but he seemed he couldn't get rid of his excess pounds. What's more, important health indicators, such as high cholesterol, high blood sugar and worrisome sodium levels, were beginning to concern him.

Around that time, he decided to see a nutritionist, Natalie Bean-Sole, who designed a plan for him that cut out some of the less healthy foods and got him eating right. No more coffee and high-fat muffins for breakfast. He started to reduce the high-carb, high- sugar and high-fat foods and replace them with healthier choices.

As his diet changed and his workouts started to provide results – all without any chemical boosts – guys in the gym suggested his physique was cut out for bodybuilding.

It was, he said, "like buying a house in the Manor, stripping off the linoleum and finding hardwood floors below."

Three years ago, his main trainer at Strictly Fitness, a gym on Dufferin Street in Toronto, encouraged him to enter bodybuilding events. One of his buddies, a guy in his early 50s, was already involved in the sport, and being competitive by nature, Shapiro decided to give it a try. He ramped up his training regimen with two-a-day cardio and weightlifting workouts. Coupled with some yoga, he'd put in 18 to 20 hours per week in advance of competitions. His wife, Este, was behind him all the way.

The results speaks for themselves.

As he sculpted his body to his new specifications, he found that not only did he look better but he felt way better, too. Today, he feels like a different person and has a level of confidence he never possessed before.

His new healthy lifestyle was also expressed in his business, as he developed, with the help of researchers at the University of Guelph, a protein-packed energy snack called Power Pop. "I make a product and I can look in a buyer's eye and I walk the walk," he said.

Though he walks in the footsteps of famed bodybuilders like Arnold "the Guvernator" Schwarzenegger, Shapiro tries to retain his natural humility

"I don't see myself as the guy they tell me I am," he said. "I see myself as a guy in good shape. When I get on stage, I wonder if I'm good enough… but when I hit the stage, it's show time."

He's just an ordinary guy and he believes his experience could be a lesson for others. "This should be an inspiration for everybody out there," he said. "I'm not special. It's determination, focus, that's the real message."

# International basketball games moved out of Israel

By SHARON SOLOMON
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — The escalation of the military conflict in the north has now taken its toll on Israeli basketball.

FIBA, world basketball's governing body, has notified the Israel Basketball Association (IBA) that no international games will be allowed to be played in Israel until further notice.

Israel's European championship qualification opener against Bosnia on Aug. 31 is now likely to be played on foreign soil.

The national team is also scheduled to host Portugal and Macedonia in September.

FIBA board president George Vasilakopoulos dispatched an official letter to IBA chair Yirmi Olmert with the news, setting Aug. 18 as a deadline to find an alternative venue for the games.

However, the decision is not set in stone. Since learning of the possible ban, Maccabi Tel Aviv president Shimon Mizrahi has been successful in lobbying for postponement of a final ruling.

FIBA will hold another meeting on Aug. 19 to re-evaluate the situation and announce its final decision.

"We will not give up easily," Olmert said about the development. "I am encouraged by the fact that the decision is not final.

"We will explore other options, but I will invite FIBA security officials to show them that Tel Aviv is safe."

Last week, Israel returned from a successful pre-season tournament in Lithuania that saw Israeli head coach Tzvika Sherf's team beat Russia and Senegal but lose to Lithuania.

The FIBA ruling follows a similar decision by European soccer's governing body UEFA, which said all Israeli clubs involved in European competition must play their home games outside of Israel.

# The devil that I know

Sandie Benitah
20Something

When I graduated from university, I was one of the lucky ones – or so I thought.

Just a month after graduating, I landed a job at a successful community paper, writing news and other fun stuff.

But just as I remember exactly how happy I was to land a job, I also remember exactly how humiliated I felt each time my new boss singled me out in front of my colleagues, yelling at the top of his lungs about my incompetence.

Though I was young, I was smart enough to know that his complete disrespect for anyone below him was not personal. The rumour was that he had made everyone at the office cry at least once.

Nonetheless, each time, I let him put me down, and not once did I stand up for myself. To this day, I'm still haunted by my cowardice.

Maybe that's why I couldn't put down *The Devil Wears Prada* by fellow twentysomething Lauren Weisberger. And by the time I got to the part where she tells off her own devilish boss, I was ready to pick up my own phone and let off some steam.

I never did tell him off, but this time, it's not because I was a coward. It's because I'm struggling to understand what makes a good boss.

Does a good leader intimidate everyone into frightful obedience? Does a respected boss act cool and laid back so everyone will think he's the greatest?

What about a boss who's in her 20s?

I've been lucky. Since that first "devil," I've had some great bosses and mentors who have assured me that I'm not a complete loss and who have even trusted me to be a "boss" myself.

But being a so-called team leader when you're in your 20s comes with its own set of challenges, and to be honest, I'm still figuring out all the rules.

For example, is it OK to consider your co-workers friends instead of just colleagues? I thought it was, until one of them came to work an hour late without calling and without an explanation.

"Babe," I said, talking in the language of my generation. "You gotta call me next time, all right?"

"Ya, sure," she said offhandedly.

That's when I realized my friends would be the first to give me that respect.

"I'm serious. Don't let it happen again," I said, turning tough.

But in the end, I was still the only one who felt bad.

As a twentysomething "boss" (my gosh, the term makes me so uncomfortable, I can't handle not putting it in quotation marks) of other twentysomethings, I find myself constantly at odds with how I'm feeling.

I don't want them to think that I think I'm better than anyone else, but at the same time, I need them to respect my decisions.

I want to spend hours gossiping about the latest Laguna Beach episode, but at the same time, I need to be tough about meeting deadlines.

I want to be a friend, but instead all I can afford to be is fair.

Not only do I have to be fair to my own bosses and carry out my responsibilities, I want to be fair to my co-workers and treat them with the respect and kindness that I never got from my own first boss.

But most of all, I have to be fair to myself.

I never want to be some twentysomething's "devil," but that doesn't mean I can't let go of that fear long enough to have respect for my own accomplishments.

At some point, I have to accept that being proud of myself and having self-confidence will not make me a mean person. It will just make me a real boss, without the quotation marks.

# RAINBOW SLAW

1 1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 tblsp. apple cider vinegar
1 tblsp. sugar
1 tblsp. pure maple syrup
1 small green cabbage, thinly sliced (about 8 cups)
1 small red cabbage, thinly sliced (about 8 cups)
2 medium carrots, peeled, grated
1 small sweet potato peeled, grated
1 large unpeeled Fuji apple, cored, grated
1 large unpeeled Golden Delicious apple, cored, grated
1 medium green pepper, cored, seeded, thinly sliced
3 green onions, finely chopped
paprika

Whisk mayonnaise, apple cider vinegar, sugar, and maple syrup in small bowl. Place green cabbage and next 7 ingredients in very large bowl. Pour dressing over; toss. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover and chill 1 hour.

Chill. Sprinkle with paprika and serve.

Use the large-holed grating disk and the thin slicing disk of the food processor for easier preparation.

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## About Life

**Dear Ella,**

Five years ago, I met a wonderful caring man and we got married. When we met, I was living on my own and had a promising career. I continued working after I got married, even though my husband is a very successful entrepreneur. Eventually, I got pregnant and we decided together that I would be a stay-at-home mom.

I now have two small children and things have really changed around here.

I feel like a slave, not an equal partner in this marriage. I cater to Stan's every need and make sure everyone is well taken care of. What do I get in return? Not a whole lot. Sure, I have a wonderful home, food on the table and a reliable car, but my emotional needs are not being met at all. Nothing is appreciated, everything is expected. I am unhappy and need to fix this.

**It's My Life, Too**

**Dear It's My Life, Too**

In the past you were rewarded for a job well done with a weekly paycheque. Those days are over, but the rewarding feelings and appreciation should not be. Stay-at-home moms make all kinds of sacrifices and often put their own needs last. You are not doing anyone any good if you are unhappy.

You and Stan have been able to discuss important matters in the past, so why not try again? Often the pressures of daily routines don't allow a lot of time for discussion, but this is too important to put on the back burner.

You need a plan. You must make the necessary arrangements that will allow you to have the time and privacy to have this talk. Don't wait. This issue will not disappear on its own. You are doing your job well – perhaps too well. You have made it very easy for everyone to live their lives comfortably, and you've put your own needs last.

You need to rein everyone, including the kids, back in. Start by delegating chores. If you can afford it, hire help to allow you more personal time.

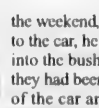
Don't underestimate what your contentment brings to your family. My guess is that Stan would be hurt if he knew how you have been hiding your unhappiness. I'm sure that was not his intention.

*Readers may submit their questions to Ella at* The CJN., *email ebl@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

# A revolution of peace!

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER



Hatred needs to be capsized. We Jews know hatred, and although there is little of it here in Toronto in the guise of anti-Semitism, we are constantly reminded of it, most recently because of the current heartbreaking war against Hezbollah (if a war can be anything but).

But hatred does not find its way into our village alone. It is like a swarm of nasty bees and buzzes around everywhere.

Last week, I was at my friend's cottage on Christian Island, a native reserve with areas for summer homes.

There we schmoozed with a police officer who told us how difficult it is to police the island, especially when weekend campers arrive – "often with guns, machetes and knives expecting" violent Indians to attack them when the wolf has howled.

He related that once in the course of his duties he pulled over when he saw a car full of guys, who were about to pitch a tent for the weekend, swigging beer. As he got closer to the car, he saw the driver toss a beer bottle into the bushes. When he asked the driver if they had been drinking, six of them piled out of the car and one responded: "I guess an Indian would know the clinking sound of a bottle well."

There he was, a native police officer and father, on an island settled and owned by Canadian aboriginals; a place where they should be protected from the racism they are so often recipients of, being disrespected, and the target of hatred. Damn, what audacity.

It seems while this World War 2½ erupts, our thirst for hatred and violence is growing like never before.

Recently, I read the *New York Times Book Review* section. Book after book reviewed dealt with horrendous subjects. One of the books reviewed, Scot Smith's novel *The Ruins*, is about a man who discovers a crashed plane containing $4. 4 million and then promptly hacks "to death a remarkable number of people." The *Times* also reviewed a book called *Execution*, by Geoffrey Abbott, about the ways and means of institutionalized killing over the ages including chapters on the gas chamber, the guillotine, the electric chair, burning at the stake, firing squad and hanging – the A to Z list of favourite means of taking someone's life.

Our fascination with the macabre side of life has increased incrementally over the last few years. Even our newsmakers are showing more graphic footage of wars they cover, pretending in some strange way they are important to watch. In fact, an aerial view of the destruction of a truck carrying human beings is a breach of victims' privacy and comparable to slowing down to see an accident by the side of the road.

The Dali Lama said hatred among nations would stop when we learn to love one another other as individuals. Indeed, I believe this is the truth and therefore call for a revolution of goodness to be launched throughout the world to convince villagers and city folk alike that the time to end war, hatred, destruction and the mass murder of hundreds of millions is now.

Start such a movement to learn, teach and model about the potential for our world to achieve peace. Learn the peaceful aspects of the Torah, if that is your blueprint for peace, and translate it into action. Christians, Muslims, atheists and everyone else – learn about peace, too.

Today, Jews are dying once again in Israel (rest in peace). Last century, six million Jews and hundreds of millions of others were butchered and still we miraculously kept our planet from being destroyed. This century, we may not be as lucky.

Shalom is the world. We need so badly to let it grow.

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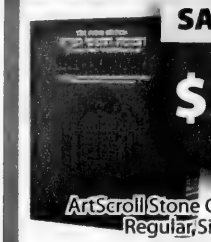

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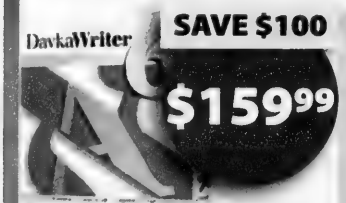

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## This Week

### National

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**Canadian youths** join Israeli army. *Page 14*

**Colin Powell** praises Canada's pro-Israel stance. *Page 32*

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**Listening to the echo:** Reaching out to the younger generation. *Section B*

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# Israelis, Arabs and Iranians meet at AIDS conference

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

An "unprecedented and quite unusual" meeting between HIV/AIDS researchers from Beirut, Tehran, Bethlehem, Khartoum and, yes, Jerusalem took place last week at the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto.

The Aug. 15 meeting was organized by the Global Network of Researchers on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa [GNRMENA], an apolitical scientific forum that shares ideas and research projects and facilitates scholarly exchange about HIV/AIDS in the region.

In Toronto, researchers from the United States, Israel and Muslim countries "were sitting in the same room and talking as scientists to each other," said Dr. Inon Schenker, senior HIV/AIDS prevention specialist at Hebrew University and founding chair of the Jerusalem AIDS Project NGO. .

"The fact that this could have happened in an open, scientific forum – no closed doors, no police guarding – is a very important message by itself. While we often talk about HIV as a virus that discriminates, I think that HIV can also be a bridge – a bridge to peace, a bridge to collaboration," he said.

"This is more than just a slogan, because we know that the HIV virus really crosses all borders and boundaries, and in a small region like ours, it's crucial for us to work together."

But last week's meeting was more than just talk: it also set in motion co-operation between Palestinian and Israeli HIV researchers, as well as others in the Middle East.

"We have agreed to start mapping the research initiatives in each country and finding threads of collaboration," Schenker told *The CJN*.

**Continued on page 31**

**Dr. Inon Schenker of Hebrew University** [*Jessica Freiman photo*]

# Toronto's Orthodox community:
## *Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?*

By FRANCES KRAFT and LEILA SPEISMAN
*Staff Reporters*

***Special Report***
***Part 1 of a series***

A group of people, some friends and some strangers, are sitting having dinner at a wedding. Two couples meet in a restaurant. Casual acquaintances stop to chat on the street.

Three different scenes.

What's common to all of them is the subject of conversation: what is going on in Toronto's Orthodox community.

While Jewish geography, communal gossip, Israel and shul politics are common topics of discussion among Jews, this time the focus is unusual, as is the frustration that often accompanies it.

Concern about what many consider to be a drastic move to the far right of religious observance by some in the Orthodox world is nothing new. What seems to have stirred the pot, though, is what has come to be referred to as the "Slifkin affair," a brouhaha that erupted this past winter when the British-born, Israel-based Rabbi Natan Slifkin – also known as the "Zoo Rabbi" for his educational Torah-related zoo tours – visited Toronto to speak at a program sponsored by Torah in Motion, a Modern Orthodox educational organization that hosts lectures and programs.

Three of his books – including *Mysterious Creatures* and *The Camel, the Hare and the Hyrax*, which include ideas about the origins of the universe that are anathema to his fellow haredim – were banned by Israeli and North American haredi rabbis in early 2005.

**Continued on page 26**

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**Cotler criticizes ceasefire resolution — please see page 41**

## The News in Brief

### CANADA

#### Relief Funds Pledged

**OTTAWA** — Prime Minister Stephen Harper last week announced the creation of a $25-million Lebanon relief fund. The two-year fund will be used to respond to requests by the Red Cross, the United Nations and other multilateral and non-governmental organizations to address stabilization and reconstruction in Lebanon after the recent ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel. "As a leader on the international stage, Canada has a responsibility to help those suffering from circumstances beyond their control," Harper said.

#### Street Named for Poet

**MONTREAL** — Cote St. Luc is naming a street after the late poet Irving Layton, who died last January in the Montreal suburb at a seniors home where he had been living for five years. Cote St. Luc city council voted to name a new residential street Irving Layton Avenue. Layton lived in Cote St. Luc in the 1950s and early '60s and raised his two eldest children there. "Given the links which [Layton] has to our city, his international renown and his recent passing, naming the new street after him is a mark of respect he rightfully deserves," Mayor Anthony Housefather said.

### WORLD

#### Hate Incidents Rise

**LONDON** — Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain escalated in July due to hostilities in the Middle East, a survey found. The Community Security Trust, which monitors security in Britain's Jewish community, recorded twice as many incidents in July 2006 as in July 2005. The trust also warned that the risk of a terror attack against the British Jewish community was heightened, though no specific threats have been linked to the recent foiled terror plot at major London airports.

#### Cartoon Exhibit Open

**TEHRAN** — An exhibit of cartoons on the Holocaust opened last week in Iran. Earlier this year, Iran began a competition that solicited the works in reaction to the controversy over the publication of cartoons in a Danish newspaper about the Islamic prophet Muhammad. One of the more than 200 cartoons displayed shows the Statue of Liberty holding a book on the Holocaust in one hand and giving a Nazi-style salute in the other, Associated Press reported.

#### Man Sues Auschwitz Museum Over Suitcase

**PARIS** — The son of a man killed at Auschwitz took legal action against the Auschwitz Museum in order to obtain his father's suitcase, the *Sunday Times* of London reported.

Michel Levi-Leleu, a retired French engineer, spotted his father's suitcase at an exhibition in Paris on the Holocaust that contained items borrowed from Poland's state-run Auschwitz Museum. His father's name and prisoner number are on the suitcase and the Auschwitz Museum agrees that they were his, the *Times* reported.

Levi-Leleu sued the museum for the return of the suitcase, which he saw for the last time in 1943 when he was three and his father was deported. The museum is seeking to keep the suitcase in an effort to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, according to a museum statement made in court papers cited by the *Times*. The *Times* said the case is the first in which a relative has demanded something back from the museum, and officials there worry it could set a precedent.

#### Not-Guilty Plea

**SEATTLE** — The alleged shooter in the Seattle Jewish federation shooting pleaded not guilty Aug. 15. Naveed Haq is being held on nine counts, including aggravated homicide and malicious harassment – under Washington state's hate crimes statute – in the July 28 attack that left one woman dead and five injured. At an Aug. 10 hearing, he surprised the court and his lawyer when he tried to enter a guilty plea, but he apparently changed his mind afterward. Prosecutors have 30 days to decide whether Haq will face the death penalty.

#### Fund Established

**SEATTLE** — A fund has been set up to assist victims of the July 28 shooting at Seattle's Jewish federation. Donors can visit www.jewishinseattle.org to contribute. The fund is being run by the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco. Some of the money may go to renovations and security costs for the federation's offices. The attack left one woman dead and five people injured.

#### Oz Shul Hit Again

**SYDNEY** — A shul on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, was attacked for the second time in two weeks. On Aug. 15, vandals hurled concrete blocks at the doors of the Parramatta Synagogue. Two weeks earlier, a group of men whom witnesses described as being of Middle Eastern appearance threw blocks at the compound, damaging its rabbi's two cars and his residence, located next to the synagogue. The shul is isolated from the major part of Sydney's Jewish community and is close to areas with a high Muslim population.


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# Duceppe defends his participation in anti-Israel rally

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe says he has no regrets about the prominent role he played in the huge Aug. 6 rally in Montreal that had a strong anti-Israel tone and attracted Hezbollah sympathizers.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Duceppe rejected criticism that he either showed poor judgment because it could have been foreseen how the event would unfold, or that he deliberately took part in the rally for political gain, knowing that Israel's bombardment of Lebanon had little support among Quebecers.

The latest to criticize Duceppe is Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker, who told the media in a teleconference on Aug. 15 that he was "shocked and disappointed" by Duceppe's participation in what he considers "a blatantly anti-Israel march… by a highly incited crowd."

He released a letter to Duceppe dated Aug. 8 in which he writes: "I find it inconceivable that the leader of a respected, major Canadian political party lends support and associates his name, and that of his party, to a demonstration that glorifies a terror organization that has been outlawed in Canada and that shamelessly seeks the elimination of the state of Israel, a liberal democratic country, sharing the values held by Canada, and ranking among Canada's close friends."

Baker accuses Duceppe of causing "irreparable damage" in appearing to "proffer encouragement" to Hezbollah, that sends "a very sad and foreboding message" to Israel and communities, "both Jewish and Christian," in Canada and the world who support the struggle against terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) sent Duceppe a more conciliatory letter expressing appreciation for his denunciation of Hezbollah's terrorism and call for its disarmament, while expressing serious concern about the rally and the "toxic" atmosphere in Quebec since.

Duceppe said the Bloc does not support Hezbollah and it is inaccurate to characterize the rally or its organizers as pro-Hezbollah. He regrets that some "radicals" were in the rally, but said he does not believe he can be held responsible for these individuals' actions.

He said his and his party's position, since the beginning of the conflict, has been that Israel had the right to fight back against Hezbollah, but its retaliation exceeded the "criteria of proportionality" set out in international law, and there should be an immediate ceasefire by both sides.

He believes Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and should be disarmed, according to United National resolutions, which he said he was booed for saying at the rally.

He said that marching in the rally allowed him to express his regret over the toll suffered by Lebanese and Israeli civilians.

Duceppe said he would not describe the rally as "anti-Israel" either, because "criticizing a decision or a policy of the Israeli government of Israel does not mean we are anti-Israel, just like we can criticize the Canadian government without being anti-Canadian." He also noted that there were Jews in the rally.

Duceppe was a speaker at the press conference announcing the rally, and the Bloc Québécois is listed among the 60 organizations endorsing the event and a statement issued placing most of the blame for the conflict on Israel, as are the Parti Québécois, the Liberal Party of Canada and Quebec Solidaire, a left-wing sovereigntist party launched in February that has no elected members.

PQ leader Andre Boisclair and Montreal-area Liberal MP Denis Coderre also marched with Boisclair in the rally. (*The CJN* requested an interview with Coderre last week, but he had not responded by deadline.)

The rally, Duceppe said, was a democratic exercise, something denied to people in countries like Syria and Iran."Because there were some radicals is not to say there should have been no demonstration."

The Hezbollah flags, photos of Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and other identifiable images were a very small part of the event, he said, adding that he wished they hadn't been there. A small contingent of anti-Zionist Neturei Karta haredim was also there.

**Continued on page 53**

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# *Israel is an angry place*

*From the editor's desk*

Some three days after the ceasefire with Hezbollah went into effect, Israel – where this column was written – was an angry place.

Everybody was angry at somebody, although they were not all angry at the same people.

Most people were upset with the outcome of the war and with the way decisions were made by the top echelons of the political establishment. Some people are angry at the top echelons of the defence establishment, too.

According to three different polls conducted two days after the ceasefire, the approval ratings of both Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz have sunk to their lowest levels since the two men took office more than three months ago.

Some two-thirds of Israelis believe that Olmert did not handle the war properly. The figure of disapproval is even higher for Peretz.

"Why go to war if you don't intend to fight?" one headline in *The Jerusalem Post* sneered. "Ehud Olmert never had any military aims – or, more accurately, he never had any intention of doing what was necessary to achieve them," the author of the accompanying article wrote.

On the subject of who actually won the war, debate raged, literally, in homes, coffee shops, hotel lobbies and sidewalk parkettes; on the opinion pages of every newspaper and on the very noisy, seemingly ubiquitous talk shows among friends, acquaintances, family, self-styled experts and highly-credentialed but feisty television studio guests, .

In *Ha'aretz*, the double headline over a column by Reuven Pedatzur was: "How we suffered a knockout: In Damascus, Tehran and Cairo, people looked on in astonishment as the Israel Defence Forces failed to bring a tiny guerrilla group to its knees."

The term "knockout" however was popular among headline writers on both sides of the issue.

For example, it also appeared in a commentary on the outcome of the war written by Uri Dromi in the *Jerusalem Post*. "No knockout blow for Israel: It was still a victory on points."

While there was no consensus on the ultimate political, military or geo-strategic effects of the conflict, there was indeed collective agreement that mistakes were made during the actual waging of the war.

The most egregious example was the story told by some reservists of the lack of proper provisions for them after they entered the battle. Some soldiers found themselves fighting for more than 24 hours straight without food or water.

But as many people told *The CJN*, the single most unsettling aspect of the war – even more unsettling than initial setbacks during the Yom Kippur War – was that rockets and missiles rained down on Israeli cities, towns, villages and homes for more than a month. On the last day of fighting, some 250 Katyushas were launched against Israel. And had the fighting continued, thousands more would have fallen still.

The finger-pointing of blame began in earnest even before the ceasefire, as various editorialists and other pundits had already called for the resignations of the prime minister, the defence minister and the chief of staff.

Forty-eight hours after the ceasefire, Peretz appointed a five-person panel of prominent individuals, headed by former chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, to investigate the army's performance and state of readiness for the war in Lebanon.

The panel will be publishing its first report within three weeks.

Adding to the already heightened sense of disappointment and agitation among the public was the news report, leaked to *Ma'ariv* on the day of the ceasefire, that Chief of Staff Dan Halutz had found the time to place an order to sell his stock portfolio on July 12, the very day that Hezbollah kidnapped two IDF soldiers and killed eight others.

Even before all the facts were known, the level of indignation spiralled quite high. If Halutz ought not to resign over his leadership of the war, he ought to resign over his selfish sense of misplaced priorities, many people demanded.

That he apparently made his original request before he actually knew of the kidnapping seems not to have persuaded too many people to restrain the tone, at least, of their angry rhetoric.

Israel was indeed an angry place last week, but amid the anger there were still sprinklings of elevating, good news.

Like a strong breeze into a limp, motionless sail, the country's collective mood revived temporarily by the arrival last Wednesday of 550 olim – some 150 Canadians, 150 Britons and 250 Americans on flights sponsored by Nefesh b'Nefesh in partnership with the Jewish Agency. In fact, some 4,000 new olim arrived during the fighting along the northern border.

"It's the only country in the world, where the prime minster waits at the airport to welcome new immigrants," Jewish Agency chairman Ze'ev Bielski told the olim as they gathered in a special assembly hall at Ben-Gurion Airport.

But given the high volume of editorial and public opinion shrapnel flying in and around his office last week, the airport was one of the safest political places for Ehud Olmert to be.

***— MBD***

SeeJN

**LENDING A HAND: Young volunteers pack up some of the one million books of *Tehillim* (*Psalms*) that Chabad distributed to soldiers and civilians in northern Israel. Chabad was one of many volunteer organizations that tried to help thousands of Israelis who were forced to remain in bomb shelters during Hezbollah's month-long rocket barrage on Israel's north. [Isranet photo]**

**HISTORIC ALIYAH:** **Some 150 Canadians were part of a group of more than 550 North American and British Jews who moved to Israel last week as part of a six-day global aliyah campaign by Nefesh B'Nefesh, which was run in close co-operation with the Jewish Agency for Israel. It was the largest number of western immigrants ever to arrive in Israel in one day. A specially chartered El Al flight left Aug. 15 from Pearson International Airport, and two additional flights, one from the United States and another from the United Kingdom, left the same day. All three landed in Israel within one hour of each other on Aug. 16 and were met by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. An emotional goodbye ceremony at Pearson's Terminal 3 included a good-luck cake and words from Ya'acov Brosh, Israel's consul general in Toronto; Tzvi Richter, director of social services for Nefesh B'Nefesh; Dina Gidron, outgoing regional director of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Israel Aliyah Centre; and Ted Sokolsky, president of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.** **[Carolyn Blackman photos]**

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# Jewish schools welcome news of $100M education fund

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

The heads of some of Toronto's largest Jewish day schools said they're pleased by the news of a forthcoming $100-million fundraising drive for Jewish education and hope it can help tackle pressing financial challenges.

Lucy Cohen, head of school at United Synagogue Day School (USDS), said she sees "tremendous potential" in the fund, which is set to be launched later this year or early next year by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"I'm delighted that federation is allocating such a significant sum to addressing the whole challenge of Jewish education in all its aspects," she said.

Cohen said she hopes the fund will allow schools to increase the quality of the education they offer.

"The issues of investing in quality of product is very important: professional development and training, up-to-date materials and the whole aspect of technological integration is enormous. If this [fund] will ameliorate some of the stresses that day schools feel, then I applaud the initiative of the federation."

With the rising cost of tuition, affordability also remains a "critical issue," Cohen said. "[Affordability] is still an impediment for many families in allowing them to give their children a Jewish education."

Howard English, spokesperson for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, told *The CJN* that a date to launch the education fundraising drive has not been set.

"We're going to be talking about the fund within the next few weeks and determining the nature of the fund, to whom we will be appealing, the use of the fund – a lot of the details have not been determined," English said. "We are deeply committed to the initiation of the fund, but fund details are going to be worked out in the next couple of months."

He said the fund is federation's "top domestic priority."

Seymour Epstein, executive director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, told *The CJN* last week that the fund will be used for all aspects of Jewish education, and that across-the-board tuition reductions are unlikely, because the fund would not be large enough to generate sufficient annual interest for that purpose.

Epstein also stressed that tuition subsidies to parents, which stand at about $7.8 million per year, remain federation's single largest budget item.

English said federation recognizes the financial pressure on parents, adding, "We haven't by any means slowed down our discussions with the government on funding, and we understand that government funding is the key to influencing the cost of Jewish tuition."

Shana Harris, director of education at Bialik Hebrew Day School, welcomed news of the endowment fund.

"Any investment in Jewish education for me is an investment in the future of the Jewish People," she said.

"Providing Jewish education for our children is really important for Jewish continuity, Jewish identity, and a connection with Israel. Giving that to children would be important."

She, too, stressed the importance of affordability. "I would hope that making Jewish education affordable for a greater portion of the population is something the community will look at," she said.

"Any money invested in Jewish education that would include a larger number of children would be important. It's an important investment in our Jewish future," she added.

Like Cohen, Harris also emphasized the issue of quality. "I would like to see us providing the best quality Jewish education for our children."

David Prashker, director of Leo Baeck Day School, declined to comment on the fund itself, but he wished the BJE success with its initiative. "Jewish education across Toronto will benefit enormously because of this campaign," he said.

Mark Smiley, director of education at Associated Hebrew Schools, said he is a "really big believer" in major endowment funds for Jewish education.

"I think it is so important that the community create 'superfunds' for the purpose of enhancing Jewish education," Smiley said. "I'm hoping that part of that [federation] fund will make all forms of Jewish education more accessible.

**Continued on page 21**

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# Hollow promises from hollow men

On Saturday, Israeli commandoes struck deep in the Bekaa Valley in the southeastern region of Lebanon to prevent an attempted transfer of weapons from Syria to Hezbollah. Neither the Lebanese army nor the pitifully few and timid forces of UNIFIL were ready, willing or capable of doing so. But to prevent Iran and Syria from using the pretext of the ceasefire to re-arm Hezbollah, Israel acted, once again, in its own self-defence.

Of course, the United Nations, led by its all-too-often Israel-bashing Secretary General Kofi Annan, quickly condemned the Jewish state for violating UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of Aug. 12, the legal basis for the current tenuous ceasefire. Typically and predictably, Annan did not condemn the attempted re-arming of the Hezbollah terrorist army as a violation of the ceasefire. His soft-spoken, studied vituperation was directed only at the Israelis.

How odd. How illogical. How hypocritical.

Israel agreed to the ceasefire because it is predicated upon, and incorporates, United Nations Security Council resolution 1559, passed in September 2004, which calls for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and supports the extension of the control of the government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory.

But the secretary general himself dampened any expectation that Hezbollah would be disarmed by the Lebanese army or UN forces.

"It is not expected to be achieved by force what must be realized through negotiation and an internal Lebanese consensus," Annan explained. His suggestion that Hezbollah – read Iran – will negotiate a voluntary surrender of its arms in Lebanon is either breathtakingly naive or duplicitously disingenuous.

Israel also agreed to the ceasefire because it promised to bring what U.S. President George W. Bush referred to as a "robust [international] force on the ground." As of this weekend, however, Annan was said to be pleading with UN member states to provide troops for that force on the ground. Indeed, France, which fiercely opposed the U.S. proposal to bring a NATO-sponsored force to the area, has already backed away from its promise to commit substantial forces. The total French commitment to UNIFIL, apparently, will be 400 soldiers.

At the moment, therefore, Israel and, one must add, Lebanon are left with an increasingly hollow ceasefire promise made to them by Annan and his associates. T. S. Eliot could have had them in mind when he wrote his famous poem *The Hollow Men*.

"[Their] dried voices, when/ [They] whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless…
Shape without form, shade without colour,
Paralysed force, gesture without motion."

For Eliot, the phrase was a poignant literary image. For Israel, alas, the phrase may be a precursor of foreboding and further strife.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

French president Francois Mitterand told Iraq that France was willing to replace the Iraqi nuclear reactor that Israel had destroyed in an air strike two months earlier. But French officials said Mitterand told Iraq that France would impose tight restrictions to prevent the reactor's use for military purposes.

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### A false peace

With the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, Israel has declared that it shall cease its offensive military operations against Hezbollah. There are many who will welcome a cessation to the hostilities. Some Israelis may cry "victory!" even as they bury their dead. Israel has, after all, managed to evict some part of Hezbollah from its northern border, kill hundreds of its terrorists, destroy many long-range missiles and degrade its military infrastructure. Yet Resolution 1701 represents the culmination of a near-complete victory for Hezbollah, Syria and Iran, and a resounding defeat for Israel, and by extension, the whole western world.

Hezbollah, after all, has withstood the full force of the Israel Defence Forces and remained very much intact, its arsenal of rockets still secure and hanging like a Damoclean sword over the outstretched neck of the Zionist entity.

This striking defeat for Israel should not come as a surprise to anyone. It is the inescapable byproduct of a profoundly flawed policy posited on ceding land in exchange for disingenuous and treacherous assurances of peace and security from its enemies and the "international community." Throughout this terrible conflict, Israel has suffered from a profound lack of leadership. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has hopelessly mismanaged this war, bobbing and dancing like a marionette to the pull-strings and shrill cries of a hostile Europe and a timorous United States. His smug and bombastic assurances of a quick and total victory were drowned by the sinister whizzing of Katyushas streaking through the sky.

If anything good comes of this conflict, it is that it has, to some extent, united Israel's Jewish population, and starkly reminded them that the world is at war with their country. As desperate as it is to live like a normal nation, Israel must never again imbibe the false bromides of a peace disconnected from its reality, or succumb to panaceas of false hope. But memories are so short, and as Zion continues its inexorable march toward a precarious and uncertain future, its leaders and politicians thunder glibly on.

Israel has lost this battle. The West should pray that Israel does not lose the war.

**Alain Murad**
**Montreal**

* * *

### Olmert government must fall

Never in the annals of mankind has a major battle unfolded wherein unintended targets have not been struck. With every modern military technical convenience at her disposal, Israel attempted to avoid, as best it could, civilian casualties in its recent conflict with Hezbollah. Unfortunately, the state of warfare is not such that zero civilian deaths is an achievable standard. Although satellite-guided ordinance is helpful in preventing civilian casualties, it's the nature of warfare that bombs go aside or that wrong targets are hit. I am not aware of any military operation anywhere, ever, that has put such emphasis and effort on minimizing civilian casualties, to the lasting credit of the Israel Defence Forces.

In nine months of fighting in 1944-45, Allied forces caused 120,000 French civilian deaths in retaking France from Nazi Germany. Entire villages were flattened to get at but a couple of dozen Wehrmacht soldiers.

As painful as it might be, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's government must fall. Selflessly, Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defence Minister Amir Peretz must collectively assume the blame for the failure to strike a dizzying and lasting blow to Hezbollah. The IDF must be exonerated and conclusively shown that it was held back by indecisiveness and misplaced efforts at diplomacy with a group whose stated and unabashed aim is the eradication of all Jews everywhere. Presently, nothing may be as important to the future safety of our soldiers as recovering the IDF's reputation of invincibility.

**Isaac Citrom**
**Montreal**

* * *

### Education fund not postponed

In reference to the article "War postpones launch of $100M Jewish education fund" (*CJN*, Aug. 17), I wish to point out an error.

The launch of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's education endowment fund could not have been postponed because no date had yet been set to begin this important initiative.

For UJA Federation, Jewish education is a matter of urgent and utmost concern. Extensive discussions about the education endowment fund, a bold venture to which we are deeply committed, will be taking place while the Israel Emergency Campaign is underway. The existence of an Israel Emergency Campaign does not diminish the crucial importance of initiatives such as the education endowment fund. While all of us in the community are concerned about the situation in Israel, long-term planning for core needs never ceases. Indeed, the needs of Jewish education are always paramount. Without Jewish learning, there will be no responsive community in the future.

**Seymour Epstein**
**Senior vice-president, Jewish education and identity**
**UJA Federation, Board of Jewish Education**

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# No knockout, but Israel still wins on points

By URI DROMI
*JTA*

After a month of fighting, a ceasefire under the auspices of the United Nations has left all of us wondering: Is Israel better off than before the war with Hezbollah began?

The answer depends on whether you're an optimist or a pessimist – but I, for one, am a sworn optimist, and believe that recriminations aside, Israel has come out ahead.

It's true that the expectations Israeli leaders raised at the outset were exaggerated. Utterly destroying Hezbollah was an unrealistic goal. This is not a regular army with fixed targets that can be hit easily either from air or through ground operations. Rather, Hezbollah is a unique creature – a terrorist organization that uses guerrilla tactics, with a secure territorial base in southern Lebanon and the backing of two states, Iran and Syria.

In the six years since Israel evacuated southern Lebanon, Hezbollah managed to build a well-equipped, elusive army that could launch thousands of rockets from the yards of houses and mosques, using Lebanese civilians as human shields.

By amassing rockets that can be launched with simple timers, Hezbollah managed to outwit Israel's military superiority and harass northern Israel pretty effectively.

"Israel will not agree to live with rockets fired on its citizens," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said when he addressed the nation on July 17 for the first time since the war began. But we must admit that even on the last day of fighting, Hezbollah launched 250 rockets – its single-day record during the war – with thousands more still ready to launch.

Of course, there was a way to put an end to the Katyusha threat: All we had to do was declare that every Lebanese village from which a rocket was launched would be turned into a heap of rubble.

But a democracy – even when fighting against an enemy that takes advantage of that democracy's sensitivity to human life – shouldn't aspire to resemble its enemy. Therefore, the Israel Defence Forces had to try to distinguish between Hezbollah fighters and simple Lebanese citizens.

Even with these self-imposed restrictions, the results were impressive: most of Hezbollah's long-range rocket launchers were destroyed, together with the group's operational and logistic infrastructure, which it had built up meticulously over the years; armed drones launched against Israel were shot down; and approximately 500 Hezbollah fighters were killed, perhaps a quarter of Hezbollah's fighting force.

Yet Hezbollah's immediate losses are only part of the picture. With UN Security Council Resolution 1701, the situation in Lebanon has changed: Hezbollah was forced to accept the Lebanese army's deployment in southern Lebanon, augmented by a multinational force, something the group had resisted for years.

Israeli troops are still deployed in southern Lebanon, ready to act if Hezbollah refuses to disarm — as, indeed, it indicates that it will.

The two Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah on July 12, sparking the war, haven't been returned, but Israel took captive enough Hezbollah fighters to make a swap possible.

Voices in Lebanon now openly blame Hezbollah for the destruction it brought on the country, which had been rebuilding and returning to prosperity after 15 years of civil war.

Last but not least, Hezbollah's reckless adventure damaged its patron state, Iran: Not only was Iran's forward outpost weakened, but the world is now much more aware of Iran's sinister plans in the region.

Israel suffered more than 150 casualties and a lot of physical damage. Yet contrary to Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah's prediction that Israel would prove as weak as a spider web, it didn't collapse. Despite 4,000 rockets launched on their cities and towns, Israelis – both on the home front and the battlefield – turned out to be as resilient as ever.

As for Israeli deterrence, Israel has shown it still has the will to strike back. And if Syria or any other enemy should conclude that Israel has lost its military edge, they're in for a bitter surprise: Chasing little pipes called Katyushas, hidden in garages, is one thing; destroying military formations and infrastructure, shooting down aircraft and hitting tanks is totally different.

We don't have a Six-Day War here, with Arab armies entirely defeated in a matter of hours, or an Entebbe raid, where a problem is swiftly and neatly solved. Israel didn't score a knockout, as its leaders rashly promised at the outset of the war, but it definitely won a victory on points.

Of course, that won't stop Nasrallah from declaring victory himself. But it's noteworthy that he did it from his hiding place, and only time will tell whether he will ever again be able to address his followers in city squares, or whether he'll end up like Saddam Hussein, or even meet a different fate altogether.

Meanwhile, Olmert declared in the Knesset last week that Israel would continue to chase Hezbollah's leaders and make them pay for their aggression. That may be true, but if I were Olmert, I'd subscribe to the memorable line from *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*: "When you have to shoot, shoot. Don't talk!"

*Col. Uri Dromi, a retired Israeli air force pilot, is director of international outreach at the Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem.*

**Israeli reserve soldiers leave south Lebanon and return to Israel last week.**
**[Dan Bronfeld/IDF Spokesman/Israel Sun photo]**

# How can we help?

I am writing this column in Jerusalem, keenly aware of its serene beauty and Israel's frightful vulnerability.

It feels awkward to write this column weeks before you read it. How can I express my feelings when every few days the world shifts and so much happens.

*Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal*

I began this column sitting with my mother and husband on a plane to Israel, having flown out of New York right before they closed JFK down due to the terror threat in Britain. We planned this trip months ago. My entire family, including children and grandchildren, is coming to celebrate my mother-in-law's 90th birthday. It's a great moment, worthy of elaborate plans and so many travellers.

Yet, we travelled with trepidation as Israel remained in a precarious situation, struggling in an awful conflict. It's a dangerous time. And still we came, praying for a great celebration. As you read this, remember back three weeks and then two weeks. What were you feeling? Were you one of those who told me not to go? Or were you as naive as I, cheering us on, sure that things would be OK? They have to be.

I remember well our fears in 1967. How could Israel fight the vast Arab armies massed on her borders? But Israel was victorious beyond our wildest dreams. We saw a wonderful army and worthy soldiers at work. We learned to rely on their strength as we relied on Israel's presence for our continued national viability.

After spending a wonderful Shabbat in Jerusalem, I am more than ever conflicted. We were safe, secure and quite happy together, with both our mothers, alive and well. Yet when the day was over, nine soldiers were dead. Joy and sadness intermingled. The losses are so great and everyone is connected to some tragedy.

Can we win?

Will our confidence in Israel's army and military skill falter as they face an impossible task. Fighting an intractable and irrational enemy, Israel faces a world of immoral public opinion. What kind of world judges only Israel while giving terrorists a free pass. How is it possible that the liberal left is so blind? How can they encourage kidnapping and anarchy? And why do terrorists attack? What do they care for our little piece of land? We don't even have oil.

Like you, I have spent many hours each day reading articles and listening to the news. Confused and angry, I wondered at our powerlessness and the media's prejudices.

What can we do?

Come here, send money, have confidence. In just 58 years, Israel has managed to carve out a democracy, achieve unprecedented economic growth, scientific renown, cultural creativity, and humanitarian accomplishments. This is a wonderful country. Come!

# Some basic lessons for drunk Hollywood stars

It's time for some lighthearted thoughts. While having lunch with a Catholic friend of mine, we lighted on the topic of Mel Gibson's latest outrages. We decided there needs to be a "Celebrity 101" course that everyone in Hollywood must take before they venture into the entertainment biz.

*Joan M. Gerber in Vancouver*

First, we devised our syllabus:

**Topic 1:** What to do when stopped for drunk driving, with guest lecturer Nick Nolte – in case Mel Gibson is still in rehab.

**Topic 2:** Kabbalah, with guest lecturer Madonna.

**Topic 3:** TV talk shows – dos and don'ts.

**Topic 4:** How the Italians control Hollywood – and you thought it was the Jews! (Guest lecturers TBA, but hopefully we can snag Nicholas Cage, Quentin Tarantino, Francis Ford Coppola and others.)

**Topic 5:** Names given to children of celebrities. Apple and Jesus will give a followup lecture when they're old enough.

For the final exam, we decided to use multiple choice, so celebs only have to know how to check off boxes. No essays required.

**1.** What should you do when stopped by a cop for drunk driving?

(a) Say nothing until your publicist/lawyer shows up.

(b) Say nothing until your publicist/lawyer shows up.

(3) You should have taken a limo, dummy.

**2.** How do you ascend to a higher plane of consciousness?

(a) Take lots of those little pills they pass out at parties with bottles of water.

(b) Practice saying the alphabet backwards while holding your breath and counting to 10.

(c) You can't.

**3.** What should you say on TV when asked about your latest love-in/live-in/main squeeze:

(a) Smile, dummy (see question 1).

(b) Thank the host for caring, but you're not sharing.

(c) Show pictures of the two of you sharing a soda.

(d) Jump up and down on the furniture and slobber.

**4.** Fill in the following words (OK, we lied about multiple choice, but it's only a little lie. It depends on your definition of multiple choice. And lie.)

Hollywood is not dominated by the _____. The media is not dominated by the_____. The government of Canada is not dominated by the _____. The government of the United States is not dominated by the _____. There is no international _____ _____ (hint: two words, beginning with Z and C, respectively). World War III will not be started by the _____. The _____ and the bicyclists are not responsible for the ills of the world.

**5.** (a) What will you name your first boy? Choose one.

- Nebuchadnezzar
- Pomegranate
- Idi Amin
- Seymour Irving Sheldon Harvey – take that, Gibson

(b) What will you name your first girl? Choose one.

- Ophelia
- Kumquat
- Stella Dallas
- Mary Backstage Noble Wife

Note: Students, if you haven't smartened up by now, you should not have any more children.

Lunch was almost over – remember we were at lunch? – and we had to get serious.

With rockets falling on Israel, with our enemies practically hysterical with glee at the body count – theirs, not ours – it seemed like a good time to take a moment to remember that laughter is not the best medicine – I reserve that description for antibiotics and chicken soup – but it did help. A little. Then I went home to the latest reports from the Middle East, heartened only by the 1,600 people who turned out for our local rally in support of Israel.

Some of the rally organizers were rather nervous, given the attack in Seattle the Friday before our rally. But Jews came with their children and grandparents, non-Jews came to show us they cared and understood, and we heard a most generous and supportive message on behalf of the government of Canada.

So, one in the eye for you, Hezbollah, and one in the eye for you, Mad Mel.

Finally, the latest from Hollywood: Mad Mel wants to do tshuvah with the Jews. Well, we have one more suggestion: buy back all the video copies and distribution rights to that slasher Jesus flick. Then take the ludicrous amount of money you made on it and donate it to, oh, I don't know, how about resettlement of the Falasha Mora in Israel, or to repairing all the damage done by Hezbollah rockets.

I hope that someone out there has schlep with Hollywood University and gets Celebrity 101 underway soon.

# Israel in conflict

So much has been said and written about the current state of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah that I am not sure if I or any local commentator can make a further, significant contribution to this discussion.

*Gerald L. Gall in Edmonton*

Despite the rhetoric of Hezbollah and other Middle Eastern anti-Israel protagonists, this conflict has nothing to do with the plight of the Palestinains or the desire for a Palestinian state. What unifies the enemies of Israel is the obsessive and driven desire to destroy that geographically tiny enclave of freedom and democracy. Israel embodies western culture and values and does so in a Jewish milieu – all of which is anathema to the largely undemocratic and totalitarian environment that defines the region. And regimes such as Iran and its unprincipled leadership are highly hateful, grossly anti-Semitic and disseminate fallacious views of the Holocaust.

It is sad and disappointing that internationally recognized nations have an agenda to destroy a fellow nation. But that is the reality of the modern Middle East. It has been said many times that Israel must win each and every conflict because the consequences of losing even one war would lead to its destruction. No right-thinking person should ever countenance or even contemplate that horrific possibility.

With the recent hostilities occurring between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, the United Nations and many nations around the world are calling for an immediate ceasefire. It is, of course, understandable that people do not want further death, injury and destruction and want the area restored to a quiet, peaceful state of affairs.

But that is short-sighted, naive and misses the very point as to why there are active hostilities in the first place. Consider Hezbollah. Hezbollah foments violence and hostility by kidnapping and ambushing Israeli citizens during incursions into Israel and then sits back to watch the world condemn Israel for protecting its citizens and defending its sovereignty.

Clearly Hezbollah is a vicious terrorist organization and not a sovereign state. Its sole objective is the absolute destruction of the State of Israel. It cares little, if at all, about the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian impasse. It masquerades as a humanitarian organization by providing schools and assistance in rebuilding the homes that are destroyed by Israeli bombs. Yet it launches missiles from civilian enclaves without regard for the inevitable and tragic toll of civilian deaths that predictably follow from a preventative and/or retaliatory action by the Israeli Defence Forces

Hezbollah is armed and supported by Syria and Iran, two countries where freedom, democracy and human rights are alien concepts. Despite their respective religious differences, Hezbollah has recently received the support of Al Qaeda, essentially creating an axis of evil consisting of terrorist bedfellows.

So what would a ceasefire accomplish? It is a temporary solution. Hostilities might stop for a while, but this will give Hezbollah time to re-strategize and rearm in its efforts to destroy Israel. A ceasefire will serve to placate those who want temporary peace at any price, but the price would be the eventual restoration of renewed hostility and the continuation of a reign of terror.

The Al Qaeda experience has told us that the fight against terror is no less than a war. A ceasefire would hamper Israeli attempts to crush Hezbollah once and for all and would create, at best, a temporary cessation in this war on terrorism.

Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, Iran and Syria (and, for that matter, Hamas) are all players in the anti-Israel campaign. A ceasefire will permit them to rest, rearm and restore their aggressive conduct. We all want peace. We all want to protect civilians. But at what cost?

At the time of writing this column, the UN Security Council drafted a resolution proposing an immediate ceasefire together with the deployment of an international force. I hope that by the time this article is published there will be meaningful, sustainable and lasting peace in the Middle East. But realistically, this can only be achieved by the eventual disarmament of anti-Israel terrorist elements.

The Kirshner File

# War in Lebanon ends on inconclusive note

As Israelis took stock of the month-long war in Lebanon, which ended on an inconclusive note on Aug. 14, Israel's defence minister, Amir Peretz, announced that he had appointed a committee to study the performance of the Israel Defence Forces. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had already conceded that "mistakes" had been made and that an inquiry was required.

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader, put it more bluntly when he declared that there had been many shortcomings – "failures in identifying the threat, failures in preparing to meet the threat, failures in the management of the war… and on the home front."

Netanyahu's harsh comments reflected a widespread perception that Olmert and Peretz fell considerably short of the mark in managing a war that most Israelis supported as a just and unavoidable one foisted upon their country by reckless Hezbollah aggression.

In Israel, commissions are always set up when wars go awry. The Agranot Commission was struck in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, which caught Israel largely flat-footed. The Kahan Commission, which was appointed following Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, investigated allegations that Israel was complicit in the Phalange militia massacre of several hundred Palestinian civilians in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps.

The panel charged with examining the latest war in Lebanon may well conclude that Israel was more or less surprised by the enormity of Hezbollah's military resources, preparations and training, and that it was ill-prepared for the challenge of swiftly overpowering Hezbollah on the battlefield.

Hezbollah had six years to gather its strength for the war, which broke out on July 12 after a cross-border ambush during which three Israeli soldiers were killed and two were kidnapped. Right under Israel's nose, Hezbollah – a state-within-a-state, like the PLO prior to 1982 – fortified southern Lebanon with a maze of bunkers, tunnels and emplacements and acquired sophisticated equipment – notably rockets and anti-tank missiles – from its allies, Iran and Syria.

Thanks to fairly accurate intelligence, Israel was generally aware of these developments, but having been scarred by the 1982 war, Israel chose to exercise self-restraint and observe the status quo. Israel, however, failed to grasp the true scope of the looming threat and the extent to which Hezbollah had embedded itself into the fabric of the Shiite population in southern Lebanon. Israel also seems to have underestimated the threat posed by Hezbollah's bristling arsenal of short-range and long-range rockets.

In the spring of 1996, around the time the Israeli army and air force bombarded Lebanon in Operation Grapes of Wrath, Israel and the United States agreed to develop a laser shield to destroy Katyusha rockets in flight. Having been periodically hit by Katyushas since 1968, Israel was in dire need of a system to effectively counter such rockets. Work went ahead, but it was cancelled last September, in large part due to prohibitive costs, after $300 million (US) had already been spent on the project. Nevertheless, Israel and the United States continued to test the Arrow system, which is designed to intercept long-range missiles.

Once the war in Lebanon was underway, Israel – a nuclear power with the strongest army and air force in the Middle East – found itself essentially defenceless in the face of Hezbollah's indiscriminate daily rocket barrages aimed at towns, cities and villages in the Galilee. Hezbollah launched 3,790 rockets, killing 42 Israeli civilians and, in one particularly horrific incident in Kfar Giladi, 12 soldiers. Several of the rockets landed as far south as Hadera, though none were fired at Tel Aviv, as Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's secretary-general, had threatened.

Strangely enough, Israel did not activate the Arrow system to intercept Hezbollah's long-range missiles. But the air force was extensively deployed in what would be a futile attempt to neutralize the steady rain of rockets. The chief of staff, Gen. Dan Halutz, the former commander of the air force, strongly believed that his F-15s and F-16s could seek out and knock out the rocket launchers. Indeed, Israel claimed to have hit scores of launchers.

But much to Israel's frustration, Hezbollah was still fully capable of firing salvo after salvo of Katyushas at will, thereby paralyzing northern Israel and inflicting untold damage – $4 billion (US) and counting – on its economy, especially the tourist sector. Israelis who sought refuge in bomb shelters – mainly the poor and the elderly, who lacked the means to flee southward to safety – were disconcerted by the bombardments, but they remained resilient, thus confounding Nasrallah's fantastical analogy that Israel is like a delicate spider web, ripe for the plucking.

Until the final hours of the war, which was stopped by a United Nations ceasefire co-sponsored by the United States and France, Israel dithered when it came to launching an all-out ground offensive to complement the air campaign.

During the early phases of the war, Israel carried out limited raids close to the border, but the pace was sluggish and the going was tough. Hezbollah fighters fought back hard and fanatically, picking off Israeli troops and blowing up Merkava tanks. Towns that Israel claimed to have captured were not actually pacified. Grimly watching these setbacks unfold, Halutz dispatched his deputy, Gen. Moshe Kaplinski, to assist Udi Adam, the general in charge of the northern front. Not since the dark days of the Yom Kippur War had Israel resorted to such a drastic measure.

Having failed to crush Hezbollah in short order, as it had vowed, Israel mobilized some 30,000 reservists for a decisive push. But by then, the United States – which supported Israel's war aims of expelling Hezbollah from the border region and freeing its prisoners– called for a truce, having apparently reached the conclusion that Israel would not achieve a clear, outright victory.

**Israeli soldiers return from battles in Lebanon.**

In a last-ditch attempt to solidify its position in advance of a truce and the entry of international peacekeepers and the Lebanese army into southern Lebanon, Israel advanced as far north as the Litani River, in a reprise of the 1978 campaign.

On the last day of the war, Hezbollah, in keeping with Nasrallah's promise to unnerve Israel, whipped out yet more "surprises," sending two Iranian-made, explosive-laden drones, as well as a truck filled with dynamite, toward Israel. The drones were shot out of the sky, and the vehicle was blown up en route to Metulla.

By war's end, Israel had not accomplished its major objective, having failed to eradicate Hezbollah, let alone disarm it. Nor did Israel win the release of its two prisoners of war, who will probably be freed fairly soon.

But Israel – which lost 118 soldiers in the fighting – appears to have killed several hundred Hezbollah fighters, destroyed its military infrastructure near the Israeli frontier, created what may be a Hezbollah-free zone in southern Lebanon, and put its enemies on notice that they can expect fierce retribution if they attack.

Olmert claimed that the "strategic balance" had been changed, but Nasrallah boasted that he had achieved a "strategic and historic victory" over Israel, a claim triumphantly reiterated by President Bashar Assad of Syria and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran. In fact, Israel and Hezbollah seem to have fought to a draw, and Hezbollah's refusal to disarm may touch off a fresh round of warfare in the future, as Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni suggested last week.

What is certain is that Hezbollah's survival will encourage Palestinian extremists, who are currently locked in a bitter struggle with Israel in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. A recent opinion poll shows that support for Hamas – and Hezbollah – among the Palestinians has increased, and that the number of Palestinians who believe in peace with Israel has dropped precipitously. On the Israeli side, support for Olmert's plan to unilaterally withdraw from the West Bank has declined. In light of Israel's unilateral pullout from Lebanon in May 2000, Israelis now wonder whether Palestinians will emulate Hezbollah by firing Qassam rockets into Israel after much of the West Bank is relinquished unilaterally.

Meanwhile, the low-intensity war in Gaza – which preceded the conflict in Lebanon by about two weeks – rages fitfully. But after almost two months of periodic Israeli ground incursions and missile and artillery strikes, which have killed more than 200 Palestinian combatants and civilians, Israel's settlements adjacent to Gaza are still being hit by showers of Qassams, and the abducted soldier, Gilad Shalit, still remains a prisoner, concealed somewhere in Gaza. But there may be hope. Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, claimed last week that Palestinian factions are ready to suspend attacks against Israel.


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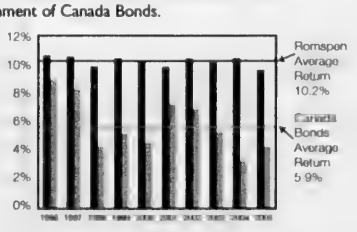


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ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2007

# Canadian youths leave home to join Israeli army

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Israel has been part of Aaron Draper's life since he took part in a birthright israel trip in 2002.

He has returned to the country since then, and he thought he would get it out of his system, "but I only became more interested," he said.

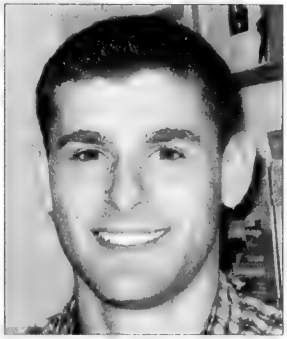
Several weeks ago, Draper, 25, a York University graduate and a trained teacher, joined a group of about 130 young Jewish adults from North America, the United Kingdom and New Zealand who are joining the Israeli army through the Tzofim Garin Tzabar program.

The program – supported by Israel Scouts, the Ministry of Absorption, the Jewish Agency and the Israel Defence Forces' Nachal Corps – involves the recruits living together on a kibbutz for three months and then serving individually in the army.

The kibbutz will become the group's home in Israel even after they join the army, and they can return there for Shabbat and holidays. "We'll be serving in the army as individuals, but we will continue to have group support," Draper said.

The process leading up to the move to Israel included five seminars throughout the year in which participants learned about their duties in the army and their rights as citizens of Israel, and created support relationships with peers.

Draper's flight, which was paid for by the Jewish Agency, marked the first time a group – about 30 are in the contingent, and half are from Canada – has left from Toronto, said Dina Gidron, outgoing regional director of Israel Aliyah Centre, which is affiliated with the Jewish Agency.



**Aaron Draper**

"Last year, seven or eight people [from Canada] joined the New York trip, but this is [a significant indicator] of the aliyah growth from Canada," she said.

Draper's grandparents were Holocaust survivors, he said, "and that was a motivator in my decision. I don't want Jews to experience another Holocaust event. Israel provides a safe place for world Jewry. I feel that they look out for us."

He made his plans well before the current situation in Israel, but he said that it "reaffirms that it is the right thing for me to do. It is a difficult time now, but [Israel] is always a difficult place to live."

With a background in competitive sports – he played AAA hockey in Richmond Hill and was a referee for six years – Draper said he is well suited to be a combat soldier, because "I enjoy physical and mental challenges."

Speaking several hours before his flight was set to leave, Draper said he anticipates that his biggest challenge will be learning conversational Hebrew and increasing his vocabulary.

"I've had my last pizza dinner at home, and I'm ready to go. I'll miss my parents, my two sisters and my dog, but because I'll be a lone soldier, I'll be able to return to Canada for three weeks every year."

His mother Scarlett, a teacher with the Toronto District School Board, said she and her husband Tom are proud of Aaron, "but full of apprehension. I believe, though, that they will look after our kids."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# Tagar fosters Zionist pride on campus

By STACEY STEIN
*Special to The CJN*

Working to counter the anti-Israel propaganda that's all too common on university campuses these days is no simple task. But that's precisely what the Betar-Tagar student activist movement aims to do.

The Tagar Zionist student activist movement was founded in 1983 as an extension of the Betar Zionist Youth Movement, which itself was founded by right-wing Zionist pioneer Ze'ev Jabotinsky in 1923.

There are Betar-Tagar groups on campuses throughout Ontario, and the organization has branches worldwide in countries such as Uruguay, Argentina, France and Australia.

Betar-Tagar is committed to countering anti-Israel propaganda and fostering a positive image of Israel, something that's especially important in the current climate, says the past president of its University of Toronto chapter.

"Betar in World War II helped smuggle Jewish refugees out of Germany and Poland, and now in a different sort of war, a war of ideas, Betar is needed more than ever," said Josh Rosenblum, 22, who served as the president of the U of T Betar-Tagar chapter last year and plans to start up a chapter at McGill University, where he is headed this fall for his master's degree.

Rosenblum said that thanks to Betar-Tagar's efforts at U of T, the atmosphere on campus for pro-Israel students has changed.

"I feel like we've made campus a safer place for Jews who believe in Zionism and for Zionists," he said.

These days it may not be fashionable for university students to strongly support Israel, but Betar-Tagar aims to teach Jewish youth that it's OK to be pro-Israel and that it's OK to be open about voicing your support for the Jewish state.

"What Betar teaches is that your convictions do not have to be apologized for," said Rosenblum. "We do not owe anyone apologies for the way we feel and for what we believe and that's my mission personally and that's Jabotinsky's as well – that we don't have to apologize for how we feel and that's the kind of leadership that Betar-Tagar can offer."

Betar-Tagar provides Jewish youth with an opportunity to cultivate leadership skills, according to Rosenblum.

"Leadership in the sense that one can go out and express one's convictions, one's personal attitudes without fear of censorship, without having to apologize for the actions of our adversaries," he said.

The organization is very clear about its focus and remains true to the guiding principles of its founder.

"This is not a social movement. This is a political agenda to develop and foster Zionist leaders, and that's what makes it different," said Rose Lax, chair of the advisory board for Betar-Tagar and president of Herut-Likud Canada.

"It's a group that is trying to develop on Canadian campuses future leaders with strong Zionist values. It is a loud, vociferous student voice for Zionist and Jewish activism."

The group's activities vary from campus to campus. Lax said each campus chapter determines what its needs are, and the advisory board provides it with support for its activities.

For example, the Betar-Tagar group at U of T organized "Know Radical-Islam Week" last February in response to "Israel Apartheid Week," which was spearheaded by the Arab Students' Collective at U of T.

Josh Rosenblum

Each day of Know Radical-Islam Week centred around a specific theme and the group brought in nine speakers during the week, of which five were Muslim.

Know Radical-Islam Week proved to be a success and was covered in the media, including the *Toronto Star* and the *National Post*.

These sort of events help educate students who may not know much about Middle East affairs, while also making campus a more comfortable place for students who are sympathetic toward Israel, Rosenblum said.

"The most important part of activism, I find, is that other students can see that people like them are supporting something for which they maybe have never thought of from another perspective," he said. "It's to put a human face on it."

Many students are afraid to speak out in support of Israel, Lax said, adding that a large part of this is because they haven't been given the knowledge or the support to speak out.

"This is not the fault of Jewish youth and this is not a lack of bravery or conviction in Jewish youth – they haven't been given the tools to do this," she said.

"They need to understand that they have backing, that they have adult backing and what they're thinking and what they're feeling is real. They need to be reinforced.

"We as a community need to send a very clear message to our kids that this is your world. You need to understand that what you're doing now sets the tone for what your world is going to look like in the next 10 or 20 years, and you have to have responsibility for the development of that world, but the rest of us have to help," she added.

With the anti-Israel voices on campus becoming increasingly louder, a group that isn't afraid to speak out in favour of Israel may invite some unwanted labels, she added.

"People tend to think that if you're willing to stand up for your rights, that you're radical," Lax said. "This is not radical – this is common sense. For a group to say 'We are Jews, we're proud of that fact, we support Israel as our homeland, we support Jerusalem as our capital, we want to be a free people without any of this kind of stuff'– to say that that's radical is to miss the point."

And with the situation in the Middle East more volatile than ever, it's vital that people take a stand, she added.

"It's very important that Jews understand that while at certain times it is important to blend in with the population and not to rock the boat, this is not one of those times. Now it's time to stand up and say 'Enough is enough' and we need to foster a very strong leadership," Lax said.

**Betar spokesperson Jon Jaffit, far left, shaliach Itay Gadot, top centre, and Josh Rosenblum, far right, pose with Betar members behind the group's flag.**

Jewish Life

# Stolen and found

Money Matters

*Rabbi Jay Kelman CA*

Included in the many tragedies of war are those in the economic sphere. While loss of money pales in comparison to loss of life, the economic hardships are nonetheless real and painful. Lost jobs, ruined businesses, broken contracts and an expected economic slowdown are sure to be some of the effects of the latest Middle East war.

This unfortunately is not a new phenomenon. Those lucky enough to survive the Holocaust were rendered largely penniless. As the remaining survivors age, many face the frightening prospect of poverty. The indignity of many aging Holocaust survivors forced to beg, with only limited success, for assets that were stolen from them just adds insult to injury. Above and beyond our obligation to help all those in need, there is a special obligation to ensure that survivors can live out their remaining years in relative comfort.

The effects of poverty are much harsher to those who have been previously blessed with material success. It's this psychological need that's the basis of the law that in giving tzedakah, one must restore the person to their previous lifestyle. With so many other pressing needs, this law has perhaps been relegated to our theoretical canon, yet the concept that lies behind it must always be kept in mind.

In recent years, attempts have been made to try to recover property looted from Jewish people during the Holocaust. While from a moral perspective, all such items should surely be returned to their original owners or their heirs (or in the many cases where families were completely wiped out, to the Jewish community at large), it's far from clear that a legal obligation to do so exists.

While a thief must return a lost object – and Judaism has no concept of a statute of limitations – those who acquire stolen goods from the thief, whether innocently or not, are not necessarily so obligated.

Interestingly, the fate of a stolen object itself is determined by the mindset of the victim. Jewish law maintains that a change in ownership, coupled with the victims' despair of ever recovering a stolen object (*yeush*), can convey legal title to the purchaser. This is so regardless of whether or not the purchaser knew, or should have known, that an object was stolen. While it's strictly prohibited to transact with a thief or his property, being an enabler of sin is first and foremost a moral wrong that may at times have few legal ramifications. The difference between the good-faith purchaser and the accomplice to the crime revolves around compensation to the victim. In the latter case, the purchaser must fully compensate the original owner, whereas the innocent purchaser faces no such financial penalty.

In such case where an owner does not despair of recovering a stolen item, upon discovery of such, the owner may take possession even from an innocent buyer. Nonetheless, to ensure that those who act in good faith suffer no monetary loss in their market dealings, the original owner must pay the purchase price to the innocent third party and then attempt to recover the money from the thief. The bad-faith purchaser would, of course, receive no compensation.

Unfortunately, it's fair to say that Jews who had their property looted by the Nazis most likely despaired of any potential recovery. There was no such thing as justice for Jews in Europe of the 1940s. Yet it's hard to imagine that many purchasers of looted material were unaware of the nature of their purchases. Jewish teachings demand that blissful naiveté give way to asking questions to ensure that our business dealings be conducted with the utmost integrity.

*Comments to info@torahinmotion.org.*

# Alternative Israeli voices

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at ways to keep up with events from the Middle East by checking out Israeli blogs. Beyond blogs, a virtually endless stream of photos, videos and podcasts will tell you how Israelis – and the rest of the world – view the Israeli/Hezbollah conflict. What makes these sites interesting are the raw emotions that are freely expressed. You are bound to come across ones that you disagree with.

Carol Warady is angry at her government. She makes that clear when you listen to her Israelisms podcast. She feels that Israel was wrong to allow Hezbollah make it fight "a guerilla war on their terms." Her husband Charley's tone is a bit more moderate, but he is clearly upset that "they sucked us in to having to take civilian life… And they're responsible for it, but they knew we'd get blamed for it… And we fell for it hook, line and sinker." **[www.israelisms.com/]**

That theme continues with Yoram Getzler and Steve Ornstein at the IsraelSeen.com podcast in which Getzler predicts an Israeli soul-searching similar to the one that followed the Yom Kippur War. Other IsraelSeen podcasts since the beginning of the war have included interviews with author Yossi Klein Halevy and with Joe Hyams of Honest Reporting. **[www.israelseen.com]** And for the view from Beth Shemesh, check out what Dave and Erika have to say at the Israellycool podcast. **[http://israellycool.libsyn.org]**

When you visit Flickr, you feel like you are dipping into thousands of photo albums from around the world. The key to this massive photo-sharing site are "tags" or keywords that are assigned to the photos and allow for easy searching. For example, almost 150,000 photos are tagged with the word "Israel," when I narrowed the search terms to "Israel Lebanon," I got about 6,000 photos ranging from anti-Israel demonstrations to panoramas of northern Israel. When I tried "tzahal," I got shots of soldiers on duty as well as quite a few of them praying in tallits and tfillin. The best way to explore the site is to plug your own keywords into the search engine and see where they take you. **[www.flickr.com]**

What Flickr is to photos, YouTube is to video. But for the most part, the video you find there isn't homemade but is culled from news reports, TV shows or other websites. Not surprisingly, many of the recent videos tagged "Israel" either support or condemn either side in the war with clips of protests, raw military footage and late-night talk-show monologues. **[http://tinyurl.com/zc4gh]** Beyond recent events, you'll find a huge range of material in the Israel section of YouTube including:

- A homemade (bootleg) video of David Broza performing at Masada **[http://tinyurl.com/f6rvk]**
- A 45-minute History Channel documentary on the Six Day War **[http://tinyurl.com/zs6rk]**
- Senior Israel Defence Force officers singing a tribute to a former commander **[http://tinyurl.com/rvwr5]**
- A two-minute film titled *Passover Noir*. Shot in the Old City of Jerusalem in the style of a Humphrey Bogart film, it tells of a Pesach-time nemesis who's gonna burn. **[http://tinyurl.com/zhg97]**

The videos you find at the next site are bound to elicit a different reaction. MEMRI TV, the Middle East Media Research Institute TV Monitor Project, is a Washington-based organization that monitors and translates Arabic and Farsi broadcasts. The MEMRI page on Lebanon war has lengthy clips of Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah as well as a recent clip in which Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proclaims, "Death to Israel." Although you may have seen some of these clips as news bites, it is particularly interesting to watch them run for several minutes. **[http://tinyurl.com/hp5b9]**

The Wikipedia entry on MEMRI TV says the site is praised for being a unique resource and criticized for taking a selectively negative view of Arabic-language media. **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MEMRI]**

If after all these alternative sources of Middle East news you are still hungering for mainstream Israeli media, then I recommend Hebrew and English offerings from the Israel Broadcasting Authority **[http://tinyurl.com/zznnh]** and Hebrew-only newscasts from Israel's Channel 2. **[www.reshet-tv.co.il/]** (Note to Mac users: you may need to download the latest version of the free Flip4Mac program in order to view these broadcasts. **[http://tinyurl.com/jxwnp]**)

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.*


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Greater Toronto Area

# Canadian student works to improve Israel's image

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Richmond Hill native Robert Walker didn't spend his summer the way most 20-year-old students do: Walker made a commitment to improve Israel's image in the media by becoming involved with The Israel Project (TIP).

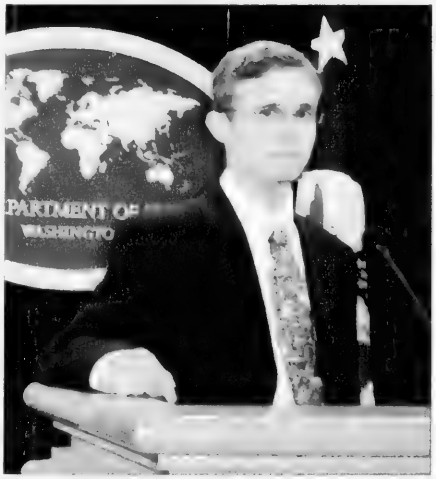
Walker was selected as one of 30 media fellows of TIP, "a non-profit organization devoted to educating the press and the public about Israel while promoting security, freedom and peace."

Walker said that Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, who founded The Israel Project in 2002, felt the press coverage regarding Israel was unfair and wanted to do something about it.

"We are the only organization working to improve Israel's image in the media," said Walker, who is a student in a joint journalism program at the University of Ottawa and the Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology.

"We exist as a resource for journalists to provide them information about Israel to allow them to better do their job."

Walker said that he believes that the reason Israel gets press "that does not demonstrate the full complexity of the conflict," is because journalists don't have the information they need to write fair and balanced articles.



**Robert Walker poses at the podium before the U.S. State Department daily media briefing in Washington D.C. began.**

"I don't believe there is a vast conspiracy to discredit Israel. I'm sure there are some journalists… with that agenda. But this is a complex conflict, and it can be very difficult for journalists to connect with the information they need. With [a number of sources] telling them something different, with facts and numbers that can easily be confused, I think it makes our job all the more important."

He said that TIP differs from other organizations such as Honest Reporting, which he said does good work as a media watchdog.

But rather than respond to the coverage in newspapers and on television, TIP provides journalists with the information beforehand.

"We like to think we're proactive. We have very different mandates… We're not making arguments – we're presenting the information… At the end of the day, this improves Israel's image, because people have accurate information and they are not basing it on a press release from Hezbollah," Walker said.

Walker, who did research, organized media tours, press conferences, and more, was stationed at the Washington D.C. office with nine other interns, while 10 more were placed in Jerusalem and another 10 in New York City, where Yossi Olmert, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's brother, is the New York office coordinator.

He said that the first week of his 2½-month internship included a seminar where they met with media figures such as *Washington Post* ombudsperson Deborah Howell, Al Jazeera's David Marash, as well as CNN's Wolf Blitzer.

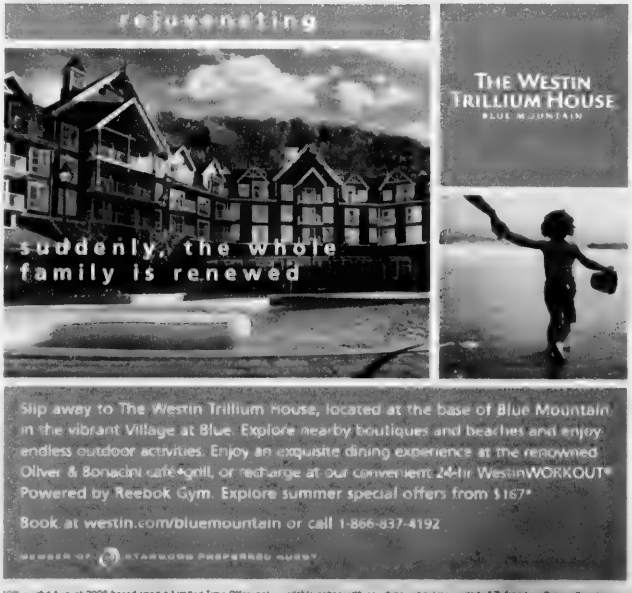
During his summer internship, which ended earlier this month, TIP organized press events with political figures such as the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Dani Ayalon, and the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman.

Walker said that this kind of work is important to change general misconceptions about Israel.

"People should understand that Israelis are much like Canadians, that we share values, that we have a common understanding. We are more similar than one might think," he said.

"Israel is a democracy. In Canada we hold our multiculturalism so closely, and Israel is a multicultural, multiethnic society where women, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians all have the same rights in parliament… A lot of people don't know that and I think it is very important people understand."

For more information, visit www.theisraelproject.org.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Jewish Life

# *The best back-to-school gift*

This time of year makes me nostalgic. When I was a kid, getting ready for school meant new patent-leather shoes and a haircut, not a new iPod and thousands of dollars in designer clothes.

I grew up in the world of the 1950s: we worked a 40-hour week, and the top disciplinary problems in schools were gum, noise, dress code violations, littering, and running in the halls. Family rituals included family dinner, family gatherings and drives in the country. There were 16.1 incidents of juvenile violent crime per 100,000 teenagers.

IDEAS ON IDENTITY

*By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN*

Fast forward. Today the work week is 45 to 50 hours. The top disciplinary problems in schools are drugs, alcohol, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery and assault. Family rituals are TV and vacations at Disney World. The rate of juvenile violent crime is 75.8 incidents per 100,000 kids.

In 2003, Richard Tremblay authored a startling study that argued children are born naturally aggressive and must be led away from a propensity toward evil. Human nature is to be aggressive from the womb, and our job as parents is to teach children how to curb this aggression, he argued. The Torah suggested that centuries ago. In Genesis 8:21, we read: "The inclination of the human heart is toward evil, from very youth." The two inclinations – *yetzer hara*, the innate desire to do the wrong thing and *yetzer hatov*, the innate desire to do the right thing – fight each other from our earliest age.

I still don't know if the issue is nature or nurture, but I do believe Jewish parents and grandparents should be rededicating ourselves to teaching children lasting spiritual values.

Everyone is a teacher in some way. It doesn't matter if you are a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle. You may be a doctor, dentist or store cashier, but you're also a teacher of children, because children are watching everything you do and how you do it, from seeing how you react to traffic to hearing you yell at a clerk. In Hebrew, the word for parents, *horim*, comes from the same root as teacher (*moreh*) and teaching (Torah.)

Here are some bits of Torah-inspired wisdom that we can impart to our children:

- Serve the community – not for the hours that you receive "school credits" for, but for the doing of mitzvot.
- Teach them to say "I have enough" and the difference between "I need" and "I want."
- Have evening meals together without the TV or phone.
- Be a support system to other parents around you who say no to their kids and set strong limits.
- Don't accept bullying in any form.
- Don't expect or reward overachievement. (This is perhaps the first generation of kids to use the word "stress" to describe their lives as children.)
- Don't accept the "boys will be boys" mythology and wipe the word "wimp" and "sissy" from the vocabulary of boys.

I know that the 1950s were far from perfect. Those years had tremendous societal and economic problems. I also know that you can't go backward, but for our generation, maybe going forward means going backward just a little bit. That's the back-to-school gift I'd like more kids to get this year, especially the ones going off to Jewish schools, which should espouse these values as part and parcel of a "Jewish" education.

# Israeli reservist feels for buddies in combat

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

At the height of Israel's war with Hezbollah, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) would send small groups of commandos to engage the Lebanese terrorist group on its home turf. Fighting at close range in villages, towns and farms, the IDF units were often ambushed and suffered high casualties. Critics wondered why Israel, with all the firepower at its disposal, would not simply level the building, village or town being used by Hezbollah instead of risking the lives of its soldiers.

Shalev Nemenov, 22, understands where the criticism is coming from, but he also understands the mindset and values of Israeli fighters. He was discharged from military service last March after completing a mandatory three-year stint and after turning down an offer to continue his career in officers' school.

Israeli soldiers are prepared to go house to house to root out Hezbollah fighters, Nemenov said. "Our soldiers appreciate lives, including civilians.

"No one wants to see civilians dead. You can't just bomb every house and cause civilian deaths," he said.

Nemenov, who is in Toronto visiting friends, said Israeli soldiers are trained to restrain their fire even though their foes, whether Palestinians on the West Bank or Gaza or Hezbollah in Lebanon, use civilians as shields.

A reservist with an elite combat unit, Nemenov said that while in active service his unit was assigned to Jenin, a hotbed of Palestinian terrorism. He said soldiers were under strict orders: "You cannot shoot them even if they hold a gun.

"Only if they shoot at you can you shoot back and only then, try not to kill them. You shoot at their legs."

While patrolling Jenin, his unit saw refrigerators thrown at them from roof tops, Molotov cocktails laced with glue – "so the fire sticks to the car" – thrown at them, and even worse.

Nemenov said he witnessed a surveillance tape in which an armed Palestinian fleeing Israelis troops grabbed a terrified, unwilling child of under six and held him with one hand while he used his free hand to shoot at his pursuers.

"They use kids as shields," he said. "They know we're not going to respond if kids are around."

Likewise, he said, Hezbollah "shoot from among civilians and go back to civilian houses."

Nemenov gets upset when he hears world leaders and pundits accuse Israel of going too far in responding to the initial Hezbollah provocation.

"It makes me so angry to hear that," he said. "It is so easy to point a finger and blame without actually looking at what's happening. I'd tell the leaders of the world that those who blame Israel should look at history. The Allies in World War II bombed civilians. In Kosovo, 10,000 civilians were killed, and countries killed so many and their country was never attacked."

Furthermore, he said, Israel was the innocent party in the conflict. It was at peace with Lebanon when two of its soldiers were kidnapped, eight killed and missiles rained down on civilian targets. "What would you expect a country to do except stop the attack?" he asked.

Nemenov has been in touch with friends from his old unit and other reservists who had been called up to active duty. Three of his buddies were wounded, though none seriously.

"Most of the time they are depressed, tired. You see a lot of motivation in the army reserves because everyone believes in this war."

But when he saw soldiers returning from the front, "you see the sadness in their eyes. You see they experienced their friends getting hurt, they were up for 48 hours, they had little to eat.

"It is a bad feeling when you're seeing other soldiers getting hurt...It's emotionally draining on me and it's affecting me."

Still, he said, the war was extremely popular among the troops. Speaking before the ceasefire took effect, he said, "I've talked to guys and everyone thinks we should go in and finish it once and for all."

The kind of disruption and destruction meted out by Hezbollah rockets was making life in northern Israel intolerable, he said. A native of Karkom, a village 20 kilometres from the Lebanese border, Nemenov said life in the north was turned upside down by the war. Ninety per cent of the northern "yishuvim" (communities) were struck by katyusha rockets and only luck prevented Karkom from being hit. One rocked fell in an open area only 100 to 150 metres from his parents' home.

Even the ones that missed inhabited areas caused tremendous damage. Most of the north's forest have been burned and Nemenov said it will take years for the greenery to come back.

**Shalev Nemenov training on Mt. Chazon**

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# United Church rejects divestment from Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

A United Church of Canada resolution that rejects divestment and economic sanctions against Israel has been welcomed by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

At its 39th General Council meeting in Thunder Bay last week, the church – Canada's largest Protestant denomination – approved a "pro-investment" strategy that promotes "peaceful pursuits" in the Middle East.

The policy discourages investment in Canadian and foreign firms involved in Israel's occupation of the West Bank, but promotes investment in companies that contribute to the security and economic viability of Israel and a future Palestinian state.

In addition, the policy discourages members and congregations from investing in companies complicit in providing services and products to governments and organizations that refuse "to recognize the legitimate rights of the State of Israel, including its right to exist as a Jewish state."

The president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ed Morgan, said the church's new position is indicative of its understanding that "the refusal to recognize [Israel] is one of the fundamental reasons" for the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Manuel Prutschi, Congress' vice-president, said that, with this decision, the church has effectively consigned divestment to the dustbin.

In June, the church's Toronto chapter endorsed a resolution adopted by the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Ontario branch that backed divestment and sanctions against Israel until it recognized the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, chair of Congress' inter-religious affairs committee, also expressed satisfaction at the new resolution.

"We are heartened by the constructive direction embraced by the United Church, to work together with those dedicated to peace and harmony, in a climate of mutual respect and recognition between Palestinians and Israelis, between Jews, Christians and Muslims."

He added: "It is through these kinds of efforts that we can contribute jointly and significantly towards ending the conflict."

***Decision welcomed by Congress***

Prior to the General Council meeting, 12 rabbis sent a letter to delegates condemning divestment as "unfair, wrong-headed and terribly unhelpful."

In rejecting divestment, the church took the concerns of the Jewish community into account, said Victor Goldbloom, chair of Congress' national executive.

Paul Dilworth, a member of the church, suggested that the Toronto chapter's endorsement of the CUPE Ontario resolution was unacceptable.

In an e-mail sent to *The CJN* before the latest policy was ratified, he wrote, "As a Christian, I believe this document is un-Christian, anti-Semitic, racist and supportive of terrorism."

## YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

## ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

### משה בּראָדערזאָן, צום 50סטן יאָרצייט

פֿון שמחה סימכאָוויטש

דעם 17טן אויגוסט הייַיאָר איז געווארן 50 יאָר נאָך דעם פריַיִיטיקן טויט פֿון אייגנארטיקן דיכטער, דראַמאַטורג און טעאַטראַל משה בראָדערזאָן. ער איז געבוירן געווארן דעם 23סטן נאָוועמבער 1890 אין מאָסקווע אוּן האָט דאָרטן דורכגעמאַכט די שטורמישע יאָרן פֿון נאָך־מלחמהדיקע רעוואָלוציעס. אין 1918 האָט ער זיך אַריבערגעקליבן קיין פֿילַי אוּן געווויינט אין לאָדזש בּיזן אויסברוּך פֿון דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה. דאָ האָט זיין אלוויטיקער מאַלאָנט זיך צעבליט, צעוואַקסן אוּן משפּיע געווען אויפֿן יידיש־קולטורלעבן אין פֿילַי בכלל אוּן אין לאָדזש בפרט.

בּראָדערזאָן איז פֿאַר אַלעם געווען אַ קרעפֿטיקער אוּן זייער פֿאַרדראָסן דיכטער; אַ מחבר פֿון אַ גאַנצער סעריע לידערביכער, דערשיינען פֿריער אין מאָסקווע (1913, 1919) אוּן זינט 1920 אין לאָדזש. זיינע לידער האָבן זיך אויסגעצייכנט מיט זייער פֿאַרשיידנ־ארטיקער טעמאַטיק אוּן שפֿאַרפֿ־עשירות. ער האָט באַרייכערט די יידישע דיכטונג מיט ניַיע גראַמען אוּן ווערטער־פֿאָרונגען. זיינע לידער האָבן אויסגענומען בּיים לייענער־עולם מיט זייער פּשטותדיקער קלאָרקייט אוּן מרוקאַלישקייט. צו אַ צאָל פֿון זיי האָבן די קאָמפּאַזיטאָרן הענעך קאָנן אוּן יעקבֿ שייפּער פֿאַראַמסט מרוק. אין דער דעלבער צייט איז בראָדערזאָן געווען פֿאַרנומען מיט זשורנאַליסטישער אַרבעט, ווי אַ מיטאַרבעטער, אוּן שפּעטער מיטרעדאַקטאָר פֿון „נייַער פֿאָלקסבלאַט" אין לאָדזש, ווו עס זיינען טאַג־טעגלעך בעדרוקט געווארן זיינע פּובליציסטישע אוּן ליטעראַרישע אַר־טיקלען, פֿעליעטאָנען אוּן הומאָריסטישע לידלער.

נאָר גרויס זיינען געווען בראָדערזאָנס אויפֿטרען אויפֿ נעביט פֿון יידישן קליינקונסט־טעאַטער. ער איז געווען איינער פֿון די גרינדער פֿון לאָדזשער „חד־גדיא", אַ יידישער מאַריאָנעטן־טעאַטער, וואָס האָט נעגעבן פֿאַרשטעלונגען אויך אין וואַרשע אוּן ווין. אין 1926 האָט בראָדערזאָן נעגרינדעט דעם באַרימטן לאָדזשער קליינקונסט־טעאַטער „אַרַרַט", ווו ס'האָבן זיך אויסגעוואַרעמט די באַקאַנטע קאָמיקער דזשיגאַן אוּן שומאַכער. בראָדערזאָן האָט אָפט מאָל געשריבן די טעקסטן פֿאַר די הומאָריסטן, ווי אויך איינאַקטערס אוּן סקיצעס פֿאַרן „אַרַרַט"־טעאַטער. ער האָט אויך אי־בערגעזעצט אוּן צוגעגרייט פֿאַרן טעאַטער איניקע אייראָפּעישע אָפּערעטעס אוּן געשריבן ליבּרעטאָס צו דער ביבלישער אָפּערע „דוד אוּן בת־שבע" אוּן צו „אַן אָפּערע באַזירט אויף פּרצעס „מאַניש".

די ליטעראַרישע אַרבעט־טעטיקייטן פֿון משה בראָדערזאָן זיינען אינגעוויקלט געווארן אין סעפּ־טעמבער 1939 מיטן אָנפֿאַל פֿון נאַצי־דייטשלאַנד אויף פּוילן. צוזאַמען מיט טויזנטער פּוילישע יידן איז בראָ־דערזאָן געלאָפֿן אויף מזרח אין די פֿאַרנומענע דורך רעד רויטער אַרמיי געביטן פֿון פּוילן. אין מאָסקווע האָט מען אים אוּן די אַנדערע יידישע שרייַבער־פֿליטים פֿון פּוילן אויפֿגענומען פֿון אָבניַיבער גאַנץ פֿריַינדלעך. אין יאָר 1947 איז בראָדערזאָנס א פּיעסע אויפֿגעפֿירט געוו־ואָרן דורכן מאָסקווער יידיש־מלוכהשן טעאַטער.

אין גיכן אָבער האָבן זיך אָנגעהויבן די פֿאַרפֿאָלגונ־גען אוּן מאָרדן פֿון די יידישע שרייַבער, נעלערנטע אוּן קולטור־טויער אין ראָטך־פֿאַרבאַנד. בראָדערזאָנען האָט אָפּגענליקט: ער איז אָפּגענומען בלויז מיט זיבן יאָר קאָטאָרגע אין א סיבירער לאָגער. נאָך דער באַפֿרייַונג אין 1955 האָט ער זיך אומגעקערט קיין פּוילן, מיט דער האָפּענונג דאָ צו באַניַיען זיין אינטערעסענע ליטעראַ־רישע קאַריַערע. עס איז אים אָבער נישט באַשערט גע־ווען. אין 1956, עטלעכע חדשים נאָך זיין אָנקומען קיין וואַרשע, איז ער, אַן אויסגעמאַטערטער אוּן פֿידש־צע־בראָכענער, געשטאָרבן אין עלטער פֿון קנאַפּע 66 יאָר.

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# Beth Radom cantor wants to involve congregants

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Cantor David Rosen truly feels like he has returned home since he took on the role of cantor and director of education at Beth Radom Congregation at the beginning of August.

A native of Toronto who graduated in 2003 from the School of Sacred Music of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, the 29-year-old tenor, an alumnus of York Mills Collegiate Institute, now shares the bimah with Rabbi Steven Schonblum, his one-time bar mitzvah teacher.

Rabbi Schonblum, the former ritual director at the Pride of Israel Synagogue, was also a mentor who gave Rosen the opportunity to read Torah regularly and to teach bar mitzvah students himself.

A friend of Rosen's father's thought he had potential and put him in touch with Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple. Rosen, then 18, began studying with Maissner every week, but initially didn't see himself pursuing chazzanut as a career.

A psychology student at York University at the time (he also has an advanced certificate in Hebrew and Judaic studies), Rosen had been considering a career in law. He even thought about becoming a rabbi at one point, but his love of music led him in a different direction.

After York – where he met his wife, Ilyse Glickman, now a rabbi, in a Hebrew class – Rosen spent four years in the HUC cantorial program, the first year in Jerusalem and the last three in New York.

Rosen – who enjoys opera and musical theatre, and has performed in *The Merry Widow*, *Yentl*, *Camelot* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at Leah Posluns Theatre – completed his senior thesis and master's recital on contemporary Canadian composers including Ben Steinberg, Cantor Benjamin Maissner, and the late Srul Glick.

Both Rosen and Rabbi Glickman, who also attended Hebrew Union College, did student internships at Temple Sinai shortly after their marriage four years ago. Before returning to Toronto this summer, Rosen served as cantor and music director of Temple Emanu-El in Livingston, N.J., and Rabbi Glickman was director of education at a Manhattan synagogue.

On "the very rare occasion" the pair has led services together, it was "a real treat," said Rosen, who replaces part-time cantor Rudy Bromberg.

Rosen said Beth Radom, with its approximately 360 families, is "a wonderful community." The congregation, which is unaffiliated but Conservative in practice, has become "very progressive" in recent years, said Rosen, referring to its "woman-friendly" ritual practices, which now include counting women in the minyan.

Among Rosen's projects at the synagogue, he is organizing a youth choir for the High Holy Days, and would like to form an adult choir as well.

Cantor David Rosen

Although he enjoys performing the occasional recitative, he says that, as a cantor, he's "not a performer. I'm the messenger of the people's prayer... My biggest passion here is to get people involved."

As director of education, Rosen is inaugurating a religious school program this fall. "Jumpin' for Judaism" consists of small weekly group tutorials held either in the synagogue or in private homes; the arts-based "Jewish Living" program runs every other Sunday for 15 sessions, and includes some parent/child sessions. Both are geared for children from grades 1 to 6.

Although Rosen said people are "starting to realize the traditional models of Hebrew schools are not working very well," he said he himself had a positive experience at Adath Israel Congregation's congregational school.

Now he wants to help other Jews feel connected to their roots and be a resource so that others can "make Judaism part of their everyday life."

**PAPER CLIP FUNDS: Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center presented Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance with a plaque in appreciation of the group's fundraising efforts. Funds were raised through the Paper Clip Ride in support of Moriah Films production of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Funds will be used to produce feature documentaries that educate about anti-Semitism, hate and world issues of concern. Seen from left, is Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center receiving $20,000 (US) from Sid Rochwerg and Steve Stein, co-chairs of the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance.**

# Jewish school leaders welcome education fund

**Continued from page 6**

Having "the leadership of the federation and the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools [helping to get] government funding for day schools in Ontario would be an unbelievable way to reduce tuition pressures," Smiley said. "But I'm also hoping that monies from whatever superfunds created are going to be used to assist the accessibility of the day schools for the community."

Smiley said that one of Toronto's "unique blessings" is that a much higher percentage of Jewish kids attend day schools here than in most U.S. cities. "We have 33 per cent of our kids using the day school system, and in the U.S., the average barely hits 15 or 17 per cent," he said.

Jewish leaders should see part of their role as "ensuring the continued accessibility of the day school system for parents who want it for their kids, as well as investing in other forms of Jewish education for families who want other modes for Jewish education," he said.

Smiley hopes that part of the endowment money can be used "not only to ensure the integrity of the financial assistance program, but to follow other communities that are trying to go after the problem of middle income families."


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Special Report

# The emotional journey to a new life in Israel

## *Toronto aliyah flight lifts off with 150 on board*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

***Last week, an historic flight carrying Canadian olim left Toronto's Pearson Airport for the long trip to a new home. UJA Federation's Dan Horowitz was aboard the flight and provides this special report to* Jewish Toronto.**

**TEL AVIV**- It's been suggested there's strength in numbers. If that old refrain is, in fact, true, then Israel's fortunes are clearly on the upswing following a devastating month of terror at the hands of Hezbollah.

Three specially chartered flights departing from Toronto, the U.S. and the U.K. with close to 600 North American and British Jews making aliyah landed concurrently in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, August 16th, resulting in a record-setting week for Western immigration to Israel.

The global aliyah campaign is a project of Nefesh B'Nefesh, which works in close cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, and in Toronto with the Israel Aliyah Centre.

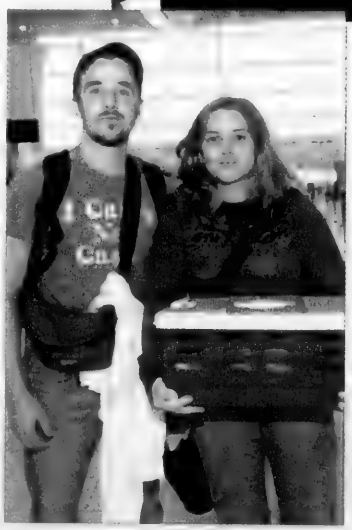
According to Nefesh B'Nefesh, only 80 Canadians made aliyah in 2002, while over 400 will do so this year.

I was fortunate to be one of the 150 participants on the Toronto flight, although I was probably the only one on board with a return ticket to Toronto. Participants included new olim from all streams of Judaism and all ages, ranging from 2 months old to 66 years old - plus two dogs and one cat.

For Sam and Saisan Levkov, the decision to make aliyah was inevitable. Saisan was born and raised in Israel and met Toronto-born Sam there. They've lived in Toronto the past two years, but making it their home just wasn't in the cards.

"Israel is meant to be our home," said Saisan, and I told my husband, 'let's go home,' and that's what we're doing today."

Fortunately, Sam shares his wife's passion for Israel. "I've been there a few times, originally on *birthright israel*," said Sam. "While the last month has made our decision a bit harder on my family, it did nothing to deter us. Sadly, political unrest has been a part of Israel's history, and I think it will always be so. That's just the way life is there. You learn to live with it."



*Sam & Saisan Levkov*

The sentiments expressed by Sam were echoed by Dina Gidron, the Director of Toronto's Aliyah Centre at a send-off celebration prior to the departure.

"Perhaps, because of the situation in Israel over the last month, your friends and family asked you to reconsider or at least postpone your aliyah, but here you are, ready to make Israel home, and I am so proud of you," she said.

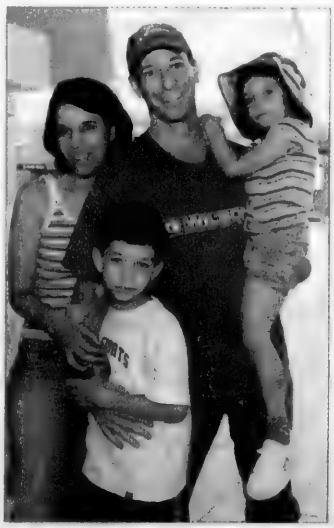
*Israel's Consul General Cobie Brosh*

"After such a hard month for Israel, to see all of you going home to Israel is such a proud moment for me," said Israel's Consul General, Cobie Brosh. "Canada and Israel have always had much in common in terms of our shared values, and now we have this in common. I salute you all."

"I so admire all of you and your remarkable strength, courage, conviction, and unrelenting commitment to Israel," added UJA Federation President Ted Sokolsky. "The sacrifice you are about to make for our beloved Israel is truly awe inspiring."

For Phil Maerov and his wife Elana, the decision to make aliyah was never a question of if, only when. "The decision was many years in the making," said Phil, who met Elana eighteen years ago while both were at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"Ever since then we always wondered how we could come back and live there. It just took time to get everything in order, and although we both have great lives in Toronto, we knew it was time to make the move."



*Phil & Elana Maerov with their children*

*Karen and Dr. Robert Goldberger & family*

Toronto's Dr. Robert Goldberger who, along with his wife Karen and their four children, is making aliyah, downplayed his family's decision.

"It's been a gradual process. It's probably taken us ten years to get to this point. It just seems like a very natural thing to do. Our furniture is currently somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean, with the port of Haifa closed, but what can you do? When it gets there, it gets there."

Perhaps one of the happiest and proudest faces aboard my flight belonged to Ora Zahavi, 25, an El Al flight attendant who was working her first aliyah flight.

"I look at the people on this flight and I see in their faces so much happiness and excitement and so many other emotions," said the Haifa-born and raised Zahavi. "I saw one woman crying and I asked her if I could help her, but she said no, I'm crying tears of joy about making aliyah. As an Israeli, I am so proud that these people want to live in Israel, the land I love so much. I'm especially happy to see so many young children on this flight because they will grow to become Israel's future."

When the three planes landed in Tel Aviv, there was a huge airport celebration featuring Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. "The last month has not been easy on us. Thankfully, a large part of the international community, including America, Canada and Great Britain, supported us. But there is still no greater support than the support you've shown us by deciding to make aliyah," he said. "When you come here as new olim, you are telling the world that we are afraid of no one and that we trust in Israel."

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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# UJA Federation emergency campaign funds at work in Israel

## *Campaign receives donations from wide spectrum of community*

By HOWARD ENGLISH
UJA Federation

With more than $12 million pledged toward relief efforts through UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign – chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks - the money is already working on behalf of Israeli residents who are struggling to restore homes, jobs and peace of mind. Over 3,500 rockets fired by Hezbollah caused death and destruction throughout northern Israel.

The goal of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign is $20 million above the regular campaign total. Campaign funds already transferred to Israel provided significant relief for war-weary northern Israeli residents through initiatives undertaken by UIA Federations Canada, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Sacta Rashi Foundation. Among them were:

- Safe summer camps for children from the north, benefiting 30,000 young people
- Bomb shelter kits containing emergency lighting, first-aid equipment, sanitary items, fans, electric kettles and cleaning items
- Care for vulnerable immigrants who were relocated to absorption centres in central and southern Israel
- Respite retreats for 8,000 families who were given a four day break in southern and central Israel
- Day-trips for families who were treated to a day away at water parks and fairgrounds
- More than 200,000 hot meals provided to people living in shelters and community centres

Now the Israel Emergency Campaign focus has turned to reconstruction and recovery, with funding committed to, among other initiatives: trauma care and counselling; temporary housing for the uprooted; vocational counselling for the newly unemployed; specialized assistance for new immigrants, the elderly and those with special needs; and re-equipping community facilities.

The campaign's outpouring of generosity has extended to many non-Jewish community members as well.

According to Floy Doull, Israel is doing something that is very important for the entire Western world.

"Israelis are taking the brunt of the terrorist threat and really doing something concrete about it at a great cost to themselves," said Doull.

The same sentiments were echoed by Ted Nikolau. "What's happening there is a fight for all of us, not just the Jews, and I thought that this was the best way to help," he observed.

Elizabeth Domik's motivation for donating is even more personal. "I made a donation because I love the Jewish people," she said. "I'm a Roman Catholic, raised in a Jewish area, and I have always loved them, they have been good to me and to my parents."

One of the more inspiring stories of cooperation during the war took place at a summer camp for children from northern Israel near the Arab-Israeli village of Abu Ghosh, close to Jerusalem. There, Israeli-Arab teens joined their Jewish counterparts as counselors for the northern kids.

"This is the first time that we have been with Jewish kids," said 16-year-old Sammar Jaber. "It was lots of fun."

UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign is part of a massive North American emergency fundraising drive, conducted by Jewish Federations on Israel's behalf.

"The words elude me to describe the love, devotion, involvement, caring, generosity and openheartedness we received from you," said Jewish Agency for Israel Chair, Ze'ev Bielski.

*This damage to an apartment building in Haifa is typical of the destruction caused by Hezbollah rockets. (Photo credit: Nancy Kaufman, Boston.)*

# Toronto teachers meet beleaguered northern Israel children

By ERIC GOLOMBEK
Principal at Associated Hebrew Schools

***Recently, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) led a delegation of Toronto Jewish school teachers on a mission to Eilat, UJA Federation's partnership region. There they worked at a summer camp with children from northern Israel who, thanks to Israel Emergency Campaign funds, had been relocated from Israel's north, which was under constant terrorist rocket attack. In this article, written before the ceasefire, principal Eric Golombek describes the camp experience of the Toronto delegation.***

At most camps, when the number of kids goes down, people start to worry. But for all of us, delegates to Eilat from Toronto, a reduction in numbers was only good news. This is because the camp we are helping to run is for children from Israel's north, children who fled the barrage of *katyusha* rockets which destroyed many of their homes and shattered their lives. With the ceasefire more or less holding, many families from the north have returned to begin the process of rebuilding.

The community centre camp is one of a number of projects that we have been involved with. Our group, under the leadership of USDS teacher Adi Sugarman-Maidany, has come on a mission to work with the children of the north, providing them with programming to distract them from the trauma they are going through. At the camp, we are running a range of activities, providing much needed relief to the overworked staff who remain at camp, despite August being their vacation month.

In addition to our daily work at the camp, we are involved in leading a variety of programs for displaced families who are staying at the Goldwater High School.

*Circle time at a camp in Eilat for children from northern Israel. Toronto educators assisted overworked camp staff.*

To see families living in such poor conditions is difficult, indeed shocking, for all of us. Typically, four families are crowded into one classroom. Mattresses have been spread on the floor for the adults, and children generally lie on the floor itself. The mood at the high school is depressing. Most of the adults sit in their rooms all day, or in communal areas, smoke cigarettes and watch the news of the destruction back home and the much anticipated ceasefire.

This situation has left many of the children undersupervised and with little to do. For these children, we have set up arts and crafts tables. We have run evening programs such as airplane, golf and casino. Ora Goldin, a percussion instructor and teacher at Beth Torah, is running rhythm workshops for a variety of groups, and CHAT teacher, Zev Steinfeld, is leading groups in song with his guitar.

"Never have I worked so hard," said Zev. "But, it's totally worth it. These kids so desperately needed us. I am so grateful that I had a chance to really make a difference."

This sentiment is shared by all the participants of our group. Each evening, the group debriefs and plans the next day's activities, a process which often lasts into the early hours of the morning.

"You watch the news on TV in Toronto and you feel helpless," said Associated kindergarten teacher, Lisa Hemi, at one of these meetings. "That's why being here is so important to me. It has given me a chance to do something, however small, to help."

The group is unanimous in its gratitude to BJE and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto for creating the opportunity to help Israel in its time of need.

JEWISH TORONTO IS PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

# *Visually impaired student heads to Grade 2 at USDS*

**By FRANCES KRAFT**
*Staff Reporter*

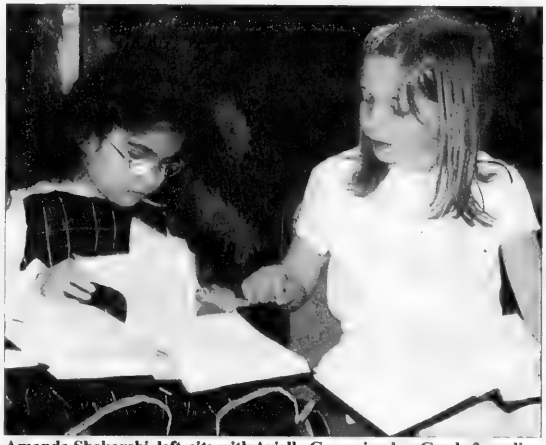
Amanda Shekarchi is looking forward to returning to United Synagogue Day School in September to enter Grade 2.

The seven-year-old girl, a good student who enjoys drama, math and Jewish studies, won an award this year for exemplary citizenship and growth. She has an affinity for music that was evident at her Grade 1 siddur ceremony, when she played *Oseh Shalom* on the keyboard at the grade-wide event.

But there is one aspect of her educational experience that is a first for a USDS student: Amanda is visually impaired because of a congenital eye condition.

She uses a Perkins Brailler – a sort of Braille typewriter – to write, and a cane to help her negotiate her way around the school.

Although Amanda has been at USDS' Beth Tzedec branch since junior kindergarten, Grade 1 brought new challenges because she was no longer in a "contained" space, said school head Lucy Cohen, referring in part to the need for older children to negotiate stairs. But with the help of teachers and fellow students when she is not using her cane, Amanda gets around the school without undue difficulty.



**Amanda Shekarchi, left, sits with Ariella Garmaise, her Grade 3 reading buddy at a Friday morning Shabbat service at USDS earlier this year. [Frances Kraft photo]**

Her Grade 1 Jewish studies teacher, Ora Senior, said she was excited to have Amanda as a student last year. The veteran educator, who has been at the school for 30 years, said she found it "stimulating" to have Amanda in her class, and she believes it was good for all the students.

Last summer, Senior bought plastic and wooden aleph-bet letters so Amanda could learn to identify them by touch while her classmates were learning visually. Senior said she wanted to make learning easier, and fun, for Amanda. Senior said she is just part of a team. Michal Gill, campus principal, said Amanda's Grade 1 general studies teacher, Jennifer Berger, also took initiatives to make Amanda's learning "more experiential," and added that her young classmates have a sense of her needs, and help her "in a nice and welcoming way."

Amanda, for her part, has visited grades 7 and 8 classes to share some of her Braille experiences, and explained to a visiting reporter how she uses her Brailler to create dots that form letters.

The school emphasizes the importance of helping friends as part of tikkun olam, Gill added.

USDS is trying to help Amanda and her family in a different way, by raising funds to facilitate Amanda's continued education at the school.

Amanda's mother, Sigal, and her father, Jimmy, who also have a younger daughter, are committed to providing Amanda with a Jewish education.

Their costs for next year, above and beyond tuition, include a three-hour-a-day Braille teacher and a special computer system to scan and read Amanda's homework, then print it in Braille. Her parents anticipate similar costs in the years ahead, which could triple the cost of her tuition.

"We are by nature very private people," said Sigal, who works with her husband in his automotive-parts business. However, the costs for Amanda's educational needs are daunting.

In publicly funded schools in Ontario, students who use Braille are entitled to an itinerant vision teacher for one to 10 hours a week, depending on their situation, said Carol Farrenkopf, co-ordinator of the vision program at the Toronto District School Board.

Specialized equipment – such as a tactile globe or atlas, or a Braille printer – may be purchased by the public school. A manual Braille writer runs about $1,300, and an automated one between $4,000 and $6,000, Farrenkopf said. The local school board pays the first $800 of an equipment claim; the rest is paid by Ontario's Ministry of Education.

Government funds, through one of the province's Community Care Access Centres, have enabled a "shadow" to assist Amanda for part of the school day, but specialized equipment and itinerant vision teachers are not provided for children in private schools.

The UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Board of Jewish Education provides subsidies for tuition relief, but there are no subsidies that would provide ongoing support for specialized equipment or staff, said the Board of Jewish Education's Debbie Gladstone, who has also tried to provide support in terms of locating financing. "We have a very small contingency fund for exceptional needs. They're one-off needs… but it's not an ongoing thing."

"We all believe in Amanda," said Cohen, "and in a larger way [in providing the same opportunities] for any exceptional child."

USDS is accepting donations on behalf of Amanda through its Above and Beyond Excellence Fund. Call Sheila Miller at 416-224-8737, ext. 140, or e-mail her at sheilam@usds.ca.

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# Court rules against two Nazi suspects

**By PAUL LUNGEN**
*Staff Reporter*

A Federal Court judge has determined that Josef Furman and Jura Skomatchuk obtained Canadian citizenship by lying to authorities about their service in Nazi SS units during World War II.

The decision means they may lose their citizenship and be deported from Canada, though only two Nazi suspects who have lost in court have ever actually been removed.

In a judgement released late last week, Judge Judith Snider rule that Furman, 87, "was an SS guardsman of the Third Reich, during which time he was engaged in the elimination of the Warsaw and Bialystok ghettos and as a concentration camp guard. He failed to disclose that information to immigration officials at the time he came to Canada. In other words, Mr. Furman obtained his Canadian citizenship by false representation or fraud or by knowingly concealing material information."

In a separate judgement, Snider found that Skomatchuk, 85, "was an SS guardsman of the Third Reich and as such, was engaged as a concentration camp guard." Skomatchuk, too, failed to disclose that information to Canadian authorities. Furman was born in Ukraine and immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1949, where he had lived since 1942. He became a Canadian citizen in 1957. He currently resides in Edmonton in a long-term care facility and suffers from dementia.

Skomatchuk was born in Zabje, a town that is now part of Ukraine but was Polish territory at the time of his birth. He arrived in Canada in 1952 and became a citizen in 1957. Long retired, he worked in the mining industry. Neither suspect attended court during their trials.

With the court's decision against them, their files will now be turned over to Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg. Under Canadian immigration rules, the minister makes a recommendation regarding revocation of citizenship, which is then considered by the federal cabinet. During that time, Furman and Skomatchuk can make submissions arguing why they should not lose their citizenship. Since 1995, 21 Nazi-era suspects have been brought before the justice system.

David Matas, senior legal counsel for B'nai Brith Canada, noted that "to date, there are four cases that are currently awaiting a decision of cabinet regarding revocation of citizenship where Federal Court rulings found the individuals entered Canada by deception. They are Wasyl Odynsky, Vladimir Katriuk, Jacob Fast and Helmut Oberlander. Eight others have died at various stages of the proceedings. We hope these decisions will pave the way for the immediate revocation of citizenship of these two individuals, leading to their swift deportation," Matas said. "Unfortunately, we have observed all too often in the past foot-dragging and lack of resolve to bring to justice Nazi criminals who have lied their way into Canada and have received safe haven in this country."

Matas suggested that "Canada's dysfunctional system for dealing with Nazi-era cases has made it a magnet for modern day war criminals."

On Campus

# *Fraternity, sorority help students connect with heritage*

By STACEY STEIN
*Special to The CJN*

**AEPi members pose with their flag at a fundraising effort called a Steak-a-thon.**

Jewish youth who want a new way to maintain a connection to their cultural background may want to look into the fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) and its sorority counterpart Delta Pi.

"We provide something that has a strong cultural background and strong Jewish values, but is not overly religious or in-your-face Judaism," says Paul Hertz, 21, the outgoing president of AEPi and a biology major at York University.

"It's giving the middle ground that I don't think exists anywhere else."

Melissa Krackovitch, a York student and outgoing president of Delta Pi, says that while the sorority has both religious and secular members, it manages to meet somewhere in the middle.

"Everybody is really interested in getting to know about religion, but some people are more comfortable getting further into it than others," says Krackovitch, 23.

"There's not too much in the middle, but Delta Pi and AEPi offer that."

Delta Pi and AEPi's activities go well beyond typical frat and sorority fare such as all-night keg parties and mixers.

Members are more interested in learning about Judaism while putting into practice the Jewish principle of tikkun olam through extensive charity work, she says.

"Students join AEPi and Delta Pi because they're interested in connecting with their heritage."

Hertz says he lost a bit of his connection to Judaism after his bar mitzvah, and feels that's the case for a lot of the guys who join AEPi.

"When they get to university, they're a bit older, so they can decide for themselves what exactly they want, and I think what we have appeals to a lot of people.

"It's not overly religious, but you do get the cultural connection and you do meet a lot of people with the same kinds of interests, philosophies and ideas that you have," he says.

While there are a few Orthodox members of AEPi, most members are not extremely devout or observant.

"It's more of a cultural kind of connection that we have as opposed to a religious connection," says Hertz.

At Delta Pi, there is also a strong emphasis on connecting with Judaism on a cultural level and on learning about the religion in an open environment.

Krackovitch says that she joined the sorority because she was looking for a way to access her religion and culture while meeting new people and making York University "a little bit smaller."

She says Delta Pi appeals to young women "looking for a comfortable and fun way to access Judaism with people who are relaxed and want to do things on their own terms."

Krackovitch says that Jewish youth are interested in learning about their roots, but it can be difficult to find outlets that enable them to access their religion and culture in a comfortable environment.

"I think it's hard to find places that are comfortable if you haven't had a strong background in Jewish education," she says.

"It's not something where you have to know everything about Judaism or you have to know a certain amount and we just throw you in – it's something that we all do together," she says.

Both AEPi and Delta Pi bring in guest speakers for their members, and offer Jewish activities like Chanukah and Purim parties.

"We have a lot of Jewish events and we still kind of fine tune our events towards Judaism, but we don't go to synagogue and we don't have a Passover seder," says Hertz.

"We keep the traditional Jewish values and the cultural and those aspects of it without so much the religion."

Unlike AEPi, the girls of Delta Pi hold a seder every year, although it's a seder with a bit of a twist.

"Our favourite is the chocolate seder we have every year – we set it up like a seder and everything is chocolate," says Krackovitch.

The members of AEPi and Delta Pi are involved in charity work and contribute to both Jewish and non-Jewish charities.

Hertz says AEPi raises money on both a local and international level. A while back, the fraternity held a steak-eating contest to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

They've also raised money for Magen David Adom and recently they were a benefactor to two Ethiopian Jewish community centres in Israel.

At the local level, AEPi works with Baycrest, Ve'ahavta, UJA Federation, the United Way and the Canadian Breast Cancer Society. The fraternity also does a lot of work with Hillel.

"We try to keep our hands in philanthropy because we realize we're a large group of guys – we're Jewish men trying to be responsible for ourselves and trying to make a difference so we try to act on that as much as possible," says Hertz.

Delta Pi is also involved in charity work. The sorority raises money for Jewish organizations such as Ve'ahavta and non-Jewish organizations too. They hold an annual charity auction and all the proceeds are donated to Princess Margaret Hospital's breast cancer division. The sorority girls also participate in the Walk for Breast Cancer every year.

Although both AEPi and Delta Pi define themselves as a Jewish fraternity and Jewish sorority respectively, they are open to non-Jewish members.

The York University chapter of AEPi is 100 per cent Jewish, but overall the membership of the fraternity – which has about 130 chapters across North America – is about 95 per cent Jewish, according to Hertz. The York University chapter has about 50 members.

Delta Pi, which only has a chapter at York University, has about 30 members, of which four are non-Jewish. Membership is also open to non-York university students who are looking to join a Jewish sorority.

What links all the members is a shared desire to connect to Judaism in a way that's fun and relaxed, says Hertz.

"I think the traditional kind of Judaism doesn't have the same kind of attraction that it used to have," he says.

"People just don't see it as being necessarily that relevant - I just don't think people can relate to it as much."

He also sees young Jews as being somewhat polarized.

"Most of the people I know are either very religious or very non-religious. They're very observant or don't practice at all," says Hertz.

Krackovitch agrees there's not much in the middle. She sees Delta Pi and AEPi as filling that gap for young people in the community.

"We offer a comfortable atmosphere to learn more but at your own pace and at your own comfort level," she says.

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Special Report

# *Interpretations of Halachah becoming more stringent*

**Continued from page 1**

Especially troubling to them are Rabbi Slifkin's assertions in *The Science of Torah* that the world was created not in six days, but over millions of years.

However, the young rabbi's profile remained relatively low in Toronto until his recent visit.

At that time, Rabbi Shlomo Miller, rosh kollel and av beis din (head of the institution and its rabbinical court) of Kollel Avreichim, issued "a letter of admonishment" stating that Rabbi Slifkin's opinions on the six days of creation were "definitely heretical," even "boorish."

Located on Coldstream Avenue in the heart of the haredi community near Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue, "the Kollel," as it's commonly known, is the leading haredi post-yeshiva educational institution in Toronto, and its rulings have come to exert significant influence in the Orthodox community.

(Rabbi Miller declined to speak directly to *The CJN*, saying that the media has misquoted and misunderstood him. However, he authorized Jonathan Ostroff, a computer science professor at York University, to speak on his behalf.)

Against the view of the Kollel and other haredi voices, Rabbi Slifkin and his supporters argue – to little avail – that rabbinic scholars from many years ago, including the Rambam, were the first to posit these ideas.

In Toronto, the controversial trend toward more stringent interpretations of halachah has been ongoing, with a decision this summer by the Toronto Vaad Hatzdokah, an independent board that certifies Jewish charity collectors, not to endorse any future female applicants, despite having done so before. The Vaad said the collection of tzadakah by women is halachically problematic for reasons having to do with modesty. In addition, moves by the Vaad Harabonim, Toronto's Orthodox rabbinic umbrella organization – such as challenging the city's longstanding eruv, a physically demarcated boundary around the city that allows Jews to carry things in public on Shabbat and Yom Tov – are being seen as an attempt to bring the community more in line with haredi ideals.

**Jonathan Ostroff**

Making the situation more volatile, many people in the Orthodox community are troubled by what appears to be a refusal of non-haredi rabbis and other Orthodox leaders to speak out against the situation.

Several people interviewed for this series expressed the view that many Orthodox rabbis and leaders are afraid of being censured by Rabbi Miller and the haredi community, and these sources contend this fear is behind the silence of Orthodox leaders.

It is this context – and our belief that issues that generate such vehemence should be discussed openly – that has led *The CJN* to investigate the situation.

• • •

Joseph Fried used to give charity "across the board" to all types of Orthodox institutions. But the 57-year-old Toronto lawyer no longer finds common language with much of the haredi community. An alumnus of Ner Israel Yeshiva, he says, "my mind is firmly in the Modern Orthodox camp, but alas, my soul is still tugged by the haredi world."

Fried likes to say that he is "intolerant of those that are intolerant." In January, he notified principals of two religiously right-wing Jewish schools that he was not prepared to continue providing them with pro bono legal services without "an unequivocal letter" indicating their support for Rabbi Slifkin.

In the preceding year, Fried did "a significant amount" of free legal work for the institutions, he said.

One school offered to pay him for his efforts, but he said he refused. "It's not about money," he insists.

"There is a distinct undercurrent of discontent and frustration among certain segments of the Orthodox community," said Fried, who maintains an active e-mail correspondence with several hundred people about issues in today's Orthodox world.

In Fried's view, the Slifkin affair is just one symptom of a larger, troubling move to the right in the Orthodox world, characterized by a haredi "delegitimization and intolerance of those – even if from their own community, like Rabbi Slifkin – who subscribe to views grounded in traditional rabbinic sources but not in consonance with current haredi ideology."

Although Fried is disheartened by the direction Orthodoxy has taken in recent years, he is not turning his back on observance. He is selective, however, about which Orthodox synagogues he will attend. But, he said, he has learned "not to confuse Judaism with certain haredi rabbinic authorities."

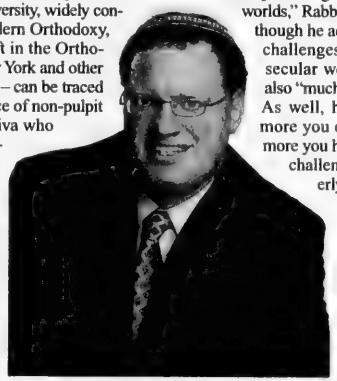
Fried believes that the current situation would not have been possible when Rabbi Gedalia Felder was alive, an opinion echoed by others interviewed for this article. The late Rabbi Felder – the former spiritual leader of Shomrai Shabbos Chevrah Mishnayos Congregation and the former rabbinic chair of the COR kashrut agency – had an "authoritative and tolerant voice" and "engaged the whole community," Fried said.

He added that he fears that the current trend toward conformity and stifling of centrist Orthodox opinions limits the possibility that haredi yeshivas will produce great thinkers or great religious leaders.

• • •

Rabbi Joseph Kelman, father of Rabbi Jay Kelman (who co-founded Torah in Motion) and rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, a traditional Conservative congregation in North York, remembers when Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis sat together on a joint board in Toronto and discussed issues of mutual concern, including Israel, Russian Jewry and Jewish education. "Every pulpit rabbi in town was a member. We took turns serving as president. There was a feeling that we were part of the community, and that doesn't exist any more."

The elder Rabbi Kelman, a graduate of New York's Yeshiva University, widely considered the seat of Modern Orthodoxy, says the rightward shift in the Orthodox movement – in New York and other cities including Toronto – can be traced to the increased influence of non-pulpit rabbis and roshei yeshiva who have come to be regarded as "teachers and guides" to many Orthodox rabbis.



**Rabbi Jay Kelman**

In a 1994 article in *Tradition* magazine, which is now available online, Jewish history professor Haym Soloveitchik traced the origin of the "swing to the Right." He noted that during the course of the 20th century in North America, the lessening of "otherness" felt by Orthodox Jews, whose lifestyles and values increasingly came to mirror those of their non-Orthodox neighbours, resulted in a perceived need for greater observance in order to maintain distinctiveness.

In the process, traditional home practice, which was previously the main authority for religious observance, came to be re-evaluated through closer scrutiny of Jewish texts, which in turn led to more and more previously haredi stringencies being adopted by mainstream Orthodox Jews.

Some Orthodox rabbis are troubled by the current situation and would be interested in opening a dialogue on the issues.

> ***'Modern Orthodoxy is 100 per cent committed to halachah but accepts the validity of both [the religious and the secular] worlds'***

"I would have loved for Rabbi Miller or one of his supporters to have come and spoken in a respectful way on why he feels Rabbi Slifkin is wrong," said Rabbi Jay Kelman, referring to the program this past winter at Torah in Motion. "Our philosophy is to explore the issues that need exploring."

The Jewish people cannot afford to be divided, he said. "The pressure being borne is ultimately hurting our community. It's not allowing issues to be talked about. It's creating ill will."

His goal in addressing the issue publicly is "to try to make the situation better, and have an awareness in the community," he said. "I want to do what I believe is right. Only God is the ultimate judge."

The younger Rabbi Kelman believes that Modern Orthodoxy provides an important alternative to the haredi approach. "What I vehemently object to is saying that [haredi Judaism] is the only acceptable approach. For those who can't or don't want to live by that approach, we have to have a Modern Orthodox approach."

He says he understands but doesn't share the haredi approach of "ghettoizing" the Orthodox community.

Modern Orthodoxy is "100 per cent committed to halachah but accepts the validity of both [the religious and the secular] worlds," Rabbi Kelman said. And although he acknowledges the "real challenges" that exist in the secular world, he said there is also "much to be gained" from it. As well, he believes that "the more you engage with that, the more you have to be aware of the challenges, so you can properly deal with them."

Rabbi Kelman said he recalls a face-to-face meeting he had with Rabbi Miller four years ago, when the haredi leader tried unsuccessfully to persuade him not to appear on a panel with non-Orthodox rabbis on the subject of Torah being given from heaven. Their meeting was conducted "in a respectful way," Rabbi Kelman said.

"There are disagreements in the Orthodox world as to whether Orthodox rabbis should engage in dialogue on these issues," said Rabbi Kelman.

"Many of us feel, especially in today's world, that it's very important to explain to people an Orthodox view… Obviously I disagree with [the other panelists'] views. That's why I'm there."

• • •

Jonathan Ostroff, Rabbi Miller's spokesperson, said that Rabbi Miller had no connection with the original ban on Rabbi Slifkin's books, and had only issued his own "letter of admonishment" as a result of requests for his opinion on the subject from his own community. The letter was intended only for his followers, and not for the general Jewish community, Ostroff said.

Rabbi Slifkin's "misrepresentation" of the six days of creation, as described in the book of Genesis, compromises the core beliefs of Judaism, Ostroff said. Rabbi Miller, therefore, objects particularly to his work in *kiruv* (outreach). "Would you want your children to be taught by someone who misrepresents a core belief of Torah?" Ostroff asked.

Rabbi Miller, Ostroff said, is a follower of the Vilna Gaon, the 18th-century Talmudist, and thus is not opposed to science, as some have said, but is very interested in it. Ostroff said the rabbi, however, distinguishes between "operational science" and "origin science." Operational science, which Rabbi Miller accepts, examines how things work in the universe, while origin science looks at what caused things to begin. "It's the difference between building a bridge, and who came up with the original idea of a bridge," Ostroff said, adding that Rabbi Miller "objects to origin science, because it can't be studied empirically."

**Continued on page 27**

Special Report

# Stricter kashrut guidelines are part of the trend

**Continued from page 26**

He said that in the rabbi's, and the Torah's, view, the world was created by supernatural means, by God, in six days. By the seventh day, when He rested, everything, from light and darkness to land and the seas to plants and animals to man, was in place. That, Ostroff said, is when operational science came into play.

* * *

One member of an Orthodox synagogue, who declined to be named, says he has never felt more alienated from the Orthodox community.

"The yeshiva world has taken over Orthodoxy," he said. "There is a drive within the yeshiva-oriented haredi establishment toward total self-isolation – socially, religiously and culturally – and the effect of this is to try and re-engineer the Orthodox community so that it is split between 'true Orthodoxy,' and 'go hang everyone else.'"

Evidence, he said, can be seen in the "overwhelming value" placed on conformity when it comes to attitude, belief, dress and behaviour. "Anyone in the Orthodox community who does not conform is clearly and increasingly an outsider."

He sees the controversy over Rabbi Slifkin as an example, suggesting that "to be an accepted member of the Orthodox community involve[s] a total rejection of contemporary science and the adoption of… a total suspension of reason… actually a hostility toward modern knowledge.

"The Orthodox community has a sort of atavistic tendency which seems to make the rejection of modernity an article of faith and a test of membership."

Haredi Judaism also rejects other aspects of contemporary life, including literature, openness and tolerance, he said.

"It's not a respectful refusal to engage. It is [that] the outside world is false and liars."

He added that he finds the recent emphasis on the kashrut of certain vegetables "scary."

Last year, 30 rabbis, mostly from North America and including Toronto's Rabbi Miller, issued a notice that even sealed packages of certain types of prewashed lettuce and salad mixes with rabbinic certification are "forbidden" unless they are thoroughly checked by "an expert in the specific types of bugs that infest these vegetables," because "insect infestation" has been found in these products.

***'Anyone in the Orthodox community who does not conform is clearly and increasingly an outsider'***

"[COR is] promoting the idea that this is the new and only acceptable standard of kashrut," said the Orthodox shul member, who wonders why this was not an issue for Jews before pesticides were developed.

**Rabbi Mordechai Levin**

But Rabbi Mordechai Levin, the executive director of the Kashruth Council of Canada, which issues the COR hechsher, said that changing times, changing technologies and changing public attitudes are responsible for what appears to be a more stringent approach to kashrut in Toronto.

He added that these stringencies on vegetables only apply to restaurants and caterers. "There are different issues at home [because of the smaller quantities of food involved]. At home, you can do what you want to."

The main reason that insects have emerged as a key problem, he said, is the drastic reduction in the use of pesticides in the past few years, resulting in many more bugs being found in raw fruits and vegetables. Some smooth-skinned fruits, such as apples, can be dealt with by careful washing, but many vegetables, including broccoli and romaine lettuce, are seen as problematic because bugs can become lodged in crevices.

Also, since there are many more kosher products available than there used to be, "we don't have to rely on leniencies, like we used to be able to," Rabbi Levin said. Also, he noted, Jews are more educated Jewishly and demand more strictness.

On the general subject of stringencies, Ostroff said that 80 years ago, Orthodoxy was moving to the left. Today, it's moving to the right. As an example, he noted that religious Zionists, including some in the Modern Orthodox camp, are questioning whether they should say Hallel, the psalms of praise said on Jewish holy days, on Yom Ha'atzmaut. "They are moving closer to the opinion of the haredim. It's all part of God's plan."

Stricter kashrut guidelines are part of this trend. Kashrut standards in the wider Orthodox community are moving closer to haredi views on questions such as the dangers of insect infestation in fruits and vegetables, Ostroff said. "This may appear to some to being a stringency. In fact, it is exactly what the *Shulchan Aruch* demands."

*Part 2 of this series will appear next week in The CJN.*

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Monday, Aug. 28, is the deadline for the Sept. 7 issue and Thursday, Aug. 31, is the deadline for the Sept. 14 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Thursday, Aug. 24

**EMUNAH BAZAAR**

Haifa chapter of Emunah Women holds a sale of crafts and new and gently used objects at Baycrest from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds will support children in need in Israel.

## Saturday, Aug. 26

**PARSHAH TALK**

**Abe Birenbaum** talks about the weekly portion Shoftim at 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

## Sunday, Aug. 27

**ISRAEL FUNDRAISER**

Come out to the Cadillac Lounge patio, 1296 Queen St. W., and join people 27-39 for shmoozing, drinks and playing pool in support of Yad Sarah. 7:30 p.m.-12 a.m. PWYC, suggested minimum donation $10. www.cadillaclounge.com

## Tuesday, Aug. 29

**ASHKENAZ PRESENTS...**

Toronto Parks and Recreation presents the concert Ashkenaz Festival Presents at the Barry Zukerman Theatre in Earl Bales Park. Free. 7:30 p.m. 416-395-7873

**SAR-EL INFO MEETING**

Find out about the Sar-El program in which civilian volunteers work on Israeli army supply/maintenance bases. 7:30 p.m. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-781-6089 or www.sarelcanada.org

## Other News

**FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

Toronto Parks and Recreation presents "Family Fun Summer Festival," Thursday, Aug. 31, 5:30-7 p.m. Activities include jumping castle, games, parachutes, hockey activities and crafts followed by a performance by the Kanata Native Dance Theatre. Free. 416-395-7873

**NEW GROUPS FORMING**

National Council of Jewish Women is organizing new groups for women of all ages and backgrounds to be held in the afternoon and evening. For information, call Council House, 416-633-5100, and speak to **Rita** or **Flo**.

**STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Mekorot Institute of Torah Studies for Women** full-year courses begin the week of Sept. 10. Talmud: Kiddushin with **Rabbi Shlomo Gemara**, Sundays, 8-9:30 p.m. at Or Chaim Yeshiva; Jacob and Esau: The Blessings with **Dr. Shoshana Zolty**, Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Or Chaim Yeshiva and Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation; Samson: Holy Man or Thug with **Rabbi Moshe Shulman**, Wednesdays, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Sephardic Kehila Centre. Other 4-, 5- and 6-week courses begin in October. For info and registration, visit www.mekorot.ca or call 416-877-2050.

**KADIMA OPEN HOUSE**

Kadima Centre, the social-recreational program for developmentally handicapped adults, meets at Beth Emeth Synagogue on Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m., and on Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Kadima hosts an open house, dance and registration on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. To volunteer for Kadima or for information about their programs, call **Suzanne Agasee**, 416-635-6800.

**TOTS' PROGRAMS**

Adath Israel Congregation offers a variety of tots' programs including Mommy and Baby Yoga, SNAP, Music and Movement. Register now. For a full listing of programs, visit www.adathisrael.com and click on "tots" or call 416-635-5340.

**Continued on page 29**

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**Continued from page 28**

**BOOK AND FILM CLUB**

Beth Tzedec Library offers its Contemporary Jewish Book and Film Club Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 25, **Ruby Newman** reviews *Intuition* by **Allegra Goodman**; Oct. 30, **Cathy Tile** on *History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss**; Dec. 4, **Cynthia Good** on *The Magician's Assistant* by **Ann Patchett**; March19, **Harriet Morris** on *Suite Française* by **Irene Nemirovsky**; April 30, **Philip Marchand** on *Everyman* by **Philip Roth**; and May 7, **Heather Kassel** talks about *The Syrian Bride* after a screening of the film. $55 in advance for the full series of 6 lectures, $14 per session at the door. Dessert will be served. For information and registration, call 416-781-3514, ext. 25, or e-mail library@beth-tzedec.org.

**BOWLERS WANTED**

Join **Maven Bowling**, a fun social league made up of men and women in their 30s and 40s who bowl at Wilson Pro Bowl, 877 Wilson Ave. Season starts Thursday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. and runs through the spring. 905-889-8333

**The Sunday Nighters Bowling and Social Group** is reorganizing for the 2006-07 season. The group offers theatre nights and other social activities. First bowling night Sunday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Call **Al**, 416-635-0563, or **Barbara**, 905-737-4531.

**Seniors Weekly 5-Pin Bowling** meets Sunday evenings at Bathurst and Glencairn. First-time bowlers welcome. Call **Ben**, 416-633-2428.

**Ladies Wednesday Night League** at Playtime Bowl is looking for bowlers. Call **Charlene**, 416-221-9328.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Limmud Festival of Jewish Learning, an intense, exciting learning experience for Jews from every denomination, is looking for volunteers to organize the festival that takes place in November 2006. To volunteer, call 416-787-8819 or e-mail to margles@ican.net For information, visit www.limmud.ca.

**AMPUTEE SUPPORT**

Chazak V'Ematz, outreach support for amputees to help them adjust to life, meets to discuss new products and prosthetic devices. For information and confidential support, call **Ruth**, 416-783-3717

**VETERAN WEBSITE**

Canadian Jewish Congress national archives has added a feature to its website that provides death-and-burial-site information for Canadian Jewish servicemen of World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Located at www.cjc.ca/archives/casualties.php, the site provides a multi-faceted searchable list of death and burial information. Useful for genealogists and family-history researchers, as well as by those interested in documenting the history of specific battles and military units.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service, 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800, or www.jfandcs.com.

Successful Parenting of Children with ADHD: A 6-session program for parents. Thursdays, Sept. 14-Oct 19, 6:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St. Space is limited. Please register early. Contact **Diane** at ext. 246.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in 2 locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext. 28.

Family To Family Project is looking for Canadian families who are interested in hosting new immigrant families as they begin their new lives in Canada.

## FOR SENIORS

**Chai Shalom** presents a multicultural concert with violinist **Michael Ziskind**, Monday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Reserve by Aug. 24. Members $6, non-members $8. Yearly membership $15. On Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m. Call 416-633-3838 for tickets.

**Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Casino Rama, Thursday, Sept. 14; Mah-jong, Mondays, 12:30-3:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Hebrew conversation, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Sunday dance, Sept. 3; Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre trip, Oct. 26. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

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Open computer lab with new equipment, Drop in. $1.50/hour or $10/10 hours. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Boost Your Memory, Thursdays at 11 a.m. Free.

Spend the day at Betel, Thursday, Aug. 31: Stories from the Heart at noon; Fun with Yiddish at 1 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. All welcome. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

Join the Bernard Betel Centre for High Holy Day services with **Cantor Ron Graner**. Tickets $75/$85, add $15 for reserved seating.

Home Respite Care, a program to provide relief for caregivers. For information, call **Sharon** at ext. 118.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Friday Afternoon at the Movies, Aug. 25, 1-3 p.m. in the volunteer lounge. Call **Melissa**, ext. 2297.

Book and Munch Club meets Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m.; in the volunteer lounge. Short stories are read aloud by group members followed by a discussion. Bring a lunch. Call **Monica**, ext. 2273.

Visit the Terrace/Wagman library for a great selection of large-print and talking books. The library is open Monday to Thursday, 1:30-3-p.m., and is located on the lower level. For information, contact **Rivka**, ext. 2272.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

"Fray" is an exhibit at the Koffler Gallery through Oct.13.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts is offering Printmaking, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 1-4 p.m., and Life Drawing, Aug. 28-Sept.1, 1-4 p.m.

The BJCC computer lab specializes in computer and Internet classes for those 55+. Inquire about "Getting Started on Your Computer" and "Using the Internet and E-mail" courses. Each course is four weeks long, two classes per week, for a total of 16 hours. To register, call ext. 235.

The Koffler School of Music Rock Band, Broadway All-stars Vocal, Boogie Babies & Jammin' Tots with Deborah, Opera Is Cool for Kidz with Judy, brass ensembles, cello ensembles, band. For information, call ext. 228.

Arts Limited Theatre Group shows for the entire season are on sale now. Call ext. 235.

Tickets on sale now for the 55-plus annual variety show.

Mah-jong, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Starts Sept. 13.

Bridge, Tuesdays: beginner, 12:30-2:30 p.m., and intermediate, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Starts Sept.12.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

The Hebrew Marathon is for those who don't know their aleph from their bet, or once knew and have forgotten. This two-day marathon will teach you basic reading skills and help you practise reading Hebrew prayers. Sundays, Sept. 10 and 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Members $110 plus GST, non-members $140 plus GST. Call ext. 0 for information and registration.

**SHABBAT IN A SHELTER: Women and their daughters lit Shabbat candles in the Emunah Women's Shelter in Afula, Israel, where they have been living to escape the Katyusha rockets falling on their city.**

*SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24*

# Obituaries

## and Related Notices

**BENJAMIN'S** PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Laurence Hart | Aug 6/06 | 14 Evergreen Crescent |
| Anne Milgram | Aug 6/06 | 541 Finch Avenue, West |
| Eddie Abrams | Aug 6/06 | 240 Heath Street West |
| Freda Woznica | Aug 6/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street, Apotex |
| Sydney Loftus | Aug 7/06 | 79 Highland Crescent |
| Charlotte Gottlieb | Aug 8/06 | 15 Tangreen Court |
| Doris Lindsay | Aug 9/06 | 3560 Bathurst Street |
| Henry Ritchie | Aug 10/06 | 268 Ridley Blvd. |
| Max Walderman | Aug 10/06 | 2121 Bathurst Street |
| Thelma Stuchen | Aug 12/06 | C/O 45 Heathcote Ave. |
| Belle Birken | Aug 12/06 | 7620 Bathurst St |
| Doris Baker | Aug 12/06 | 31 Gibson Ave |
| Marion Medad | Aug 13/06 | 3 McAdpine St |

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ORNA SPIEGEL** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, August 27th, 11:30 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Clanton Park Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**JOEL JAY KERBEL** ז"ל
Beloved husband, father and brother
will take place
**Sunday, August 27th at 10:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Sholom Cemetery**
Petah Tikvah Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**BRIAN HENNICK** ז"ל
Beloved Husband, Father and Friend
will take place
**Sunday, August 27th at 11:00 a.m.**
**Beth Tzedec Memorial Park**
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**RUBIN BORTENSTEIN** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Aug. 27th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Sholom Cemetery**
Community Section DDDD
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**ADAM BERMANSKI** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 3rd, 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Plotzkov Tomashov Belchatov Society Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**PAULINE MUROFF** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Aug. 27th, 1:15 p.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Shaarei Shomayim Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**REUBEN CHERRY** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Aug. 27th, 1:00 p.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
Jewish Canadian War Veterans Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**NELLIE MILLER** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, August 27th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Mt. Sinai Memorial Park**
986 Wilson Ave.
Workmans Circle Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**JOSEPH (JOE) KIRSHEN** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 3rd, 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Stashiver Young Men's Society Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
**OTTILIE WILCHFORT** ז"ל
will take place
**Sunday, Aug. 27th, 9:45 a.m.**
**Beth Tzedec Memorial Park**
Section #8
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*


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Coast to Coast

# 'No one was hiding behind their nationalities'

**Continued from page 1**

"For example, Palestinian researchers in Bethlehem are now surveying students about their knowledge, attitudes and sexual practices, at four major Palestinian universities. In Israel, we're trying to link up to that, because we've never really studied the university population. We've never really developed the tools or the instruments."

When asked about the political context of what he called an "unprecedented and quite unusual" meeting, Schenker stated it simply.

"We had Iran, Israel and Egypt at the same table. No one was hiding behind their nationalities. We are not politicians, we are researchers," he said. "We live in our respective countries and put our politics aside. I have my own views about the conflict, but that is irrelevant. What is more relevant is the ability to maintain a researcher's point of view and take it as far as possible when there is a true reason for co-operation – and there is."

While the Middle East may dominate headlines, the existence and spread of HIV/AIDS is relatively understudied by academics and NGOs, Dr. Sandy Sufian of the University of Illinois at Chicago told a GNR-MENA press conference the day after the meeting. As a result, donors pay little attention to the region, and political and financial resources are generally very low for care, education and prevention.

The number of HIV infections documented by UNAIDS in the Middle East and North Africa has risen from 210,000 in 1998 to 510,000 in 2005, a jump that GNR-MENA calls "alarming".

As well, women comprise 55 per cent of the cases, and the likeliest modes of transmission are heterosexual sex and intravenous drug use.

Iranian-born Dr. Navid Madani, a biochemist at the Harvard Medical School's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, explained the importance of studying the epidemic in terms of the international community.

"Different types of HIV have been identified around the world, but we have not yet identified the type of HIV that exists in the Middle East and North Africa," Madani said.

"In order for us to have a comprehensive vaccine that can be used globally, we need to identify all types of HIV that are existent," she added. If all forms of HIV are not identified, then the global vaccine that scientists are trying to develop will not protect against HIV in the Middle East.

The scarcity of information about HIV in the region has to do with social realities in the Muslim world. "There is an enormous reluctance of governments to address sensitive issues, meaning looking at sexual behaviour of young people, whether they're married or unmarried," said Dr. Jocelyn DeJong of the American University of Beirut.

Dr. Ahmed Khamis, a recently graduated doctor from Egypt and director of reproductive health for the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, is trying to recruit medical and other students around the world who are interested in doing HIV/AIDS research in the region under the auspices of GNR-MENA's youth division.

"Youth involvement is quite essential," Khamis said. "Sexual health education is underdeveloped [in the Middle East and North Africa] and youth are not getting the proper information, or no information at all."

In Iran, activities for HIV/AIDS education and prevention "are considered to be one of the best in the region," said Dr. Amir Reza Morad, a member of the Iranian National AIDS Committee and managing director of the Iranian Positive Life NGO.

In Iran's larger cities, such as Tehran and Shiraz, "there are therapies for intravenous drug abusers, educational programs for street children – especially on HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health – and education of university students," Morad said. "But in rural areas, we don't have many NGOs working, due to a lack of human resources and funds."

Dr. Eisa Hamouda, director of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation for the Sudan National AIDS Control Program, said that about three per cent of the general population of Sudan lives with HIV. "We have to depend on external funding, because the [Sudanese government's] political commitment is not translated into funds," Hamouda said.

Schenker of Hebrew U told *The CJN* that Israel is unique in the Middle East when it comes to HIV/AIDS research.

"We know a lot more about HIV in Israel because a) we are a more open society, b) there is more in terms of research, and c) there is a surveillance system in place which is not in place in other countries," he said.

In fact, Israel was one of the first 12 countries to implement a comprehensive AIDS education program in its school system, in 1987, Schenker said.

"But the Israeli situation is very particular in another way. Israel is the only country in the world that actively brings a huge population from Africa into its borders [from Ethiopia], of which quite a large number are infected with HIV – and we know they are infected – and Israel gives them free treatment."

In the Palestinian territories, though, HIV is a big stigma, Schenker said. "Homosexuality is illegal in PA areas. With this conflict situation, then of course comprehensive treatment is not high on the agenda of the Palestinian Authority's ministry of health."

To learn more about GNR-MENA, visit www.uic.edu/orgs/gnr-mena.

# Vancouver hosts JCC Maccabi games

By LAUREN KRAMER
*Special to the CJN*

**VANCOUVER** — Last week's JCC Maccabi Games in Vancouver marked the first time that Western Canada was given the chance to host the annual event.

Some 1,600 teenage athletes converged on the city for the 24th games, coming from from as close as Los Angeles and as far away as Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom and Mexico for what is the largest annual gathering of Jewish teens in the world. (To add perspective, the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler are expected to host approximately 2,500 athletes.)

The Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver was one of three hosts for this year's games, sharing the honour with JCCs in Phoenix and Stamford, Conn. A fourth host, the JCC of New Orleans, was forced to cancel its participation after Hurricane Katrina.

"Seeing all these Jewish teens from around the world was fascinating," said Alex Fleshner, 14, a Beverly Hills teen who competed in basketball. "Everything about it was great… it was just a great experience"

Ranging in age from 13 to 16 years, the athletes took part in 13 sports – including basketball, soccer, golf, baseball and hockey – at the Aug. 13 to 18 games.

They also spent time away from sports to immerse themselves in activities aimed at promoting tikkun olam, a concept that is essential to the spirit of the games. The activities included visiting senior centres and a recycling facility, discussing ecology and weeding ivy with members of the Stanley Park Ecological Society.

Members of the Vancouver Jewish community supplied host housing for the athletes, while the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver created an efficient bus service that schlepped kids to and from the various events. Some 800 volunteers of all ages from Vancouver's Jewish community helped out with the games.

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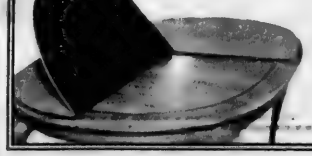
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# Colin Powell salutes Harper's pro-Israel stand

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The honoree was billionaire builder and philanthropist David J. Azrieli, but most of the accolades went to Stephen Harper at last week's Jewish National Fund of Montreal Negev Dinner.

Guest speaker, former U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell, praised the Canadian government for its support of Israel in its battle against Hezbollah, and Public Works Minister Michael Fortier received a standing ovation for reaffirming the prime minister's stand. Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker also thanked Harper for his support.

"As the former secretary of state, I am not authorized to speak for the government, but I will anyway. We have the deepest admiration for the courageous position [Harper] has taken by standing steadfast with Israel," Powell said.

He said that Israel had the right to respond with force against the "terrorist" Hezbollah's threat to Israel's sovereignty.

"The ceasefire agreement will only be meaningful if the Lebanese government takes hold of the country's south, the United Nations forces are effective and not like the failed UNIFIL mission, and Syria and Iran can be persuaded through all political pressure that it is not in their interests to be supporting terrorists."

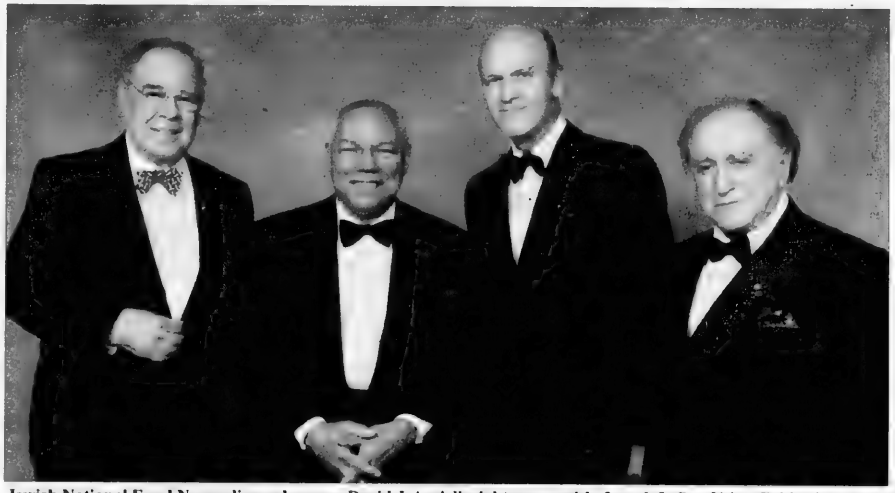
He thinks that Israel will continue to have strong support, not only from the U.S. government, but from the American people because of their "deep-seated" faith in the region's sole democracy.

"Let us pray that gifted statesmen can come together and push the peace process. No one's child, in Israel or Lebanon, should be fearful of a rocket or terrorist attack. All children should have a better future without war. Shalom."

Powell, who left the White House in January 2005, commented briefly on the approximately 200 demonstrators on the street outside the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, who angrily denounced him as a war criminal for allegedly misleading the United Nations on the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, which was a pretext for the American invasion, and for speaking at an event in support of Israel.

"The demonstrators should feel very privileged to be in a country where such demonstrations are permitted. That is what we are fighting for around the world," he said.

But he also stressed the importance of the United States remaining welcoming to Muslim immigrants because they will "learn our real value system" in that way.



Jewish National Fund Negev dinner honoree David J. Azrieli, right, poses with, from left, Sen. Yoine Goldstein, patron of honour, guest speaker Colin Powell and Public Works Minister Michael Fortier. [Howard Kay photo]

Powell, who underwent surgery on a torn Achilles tendon the day before, almost didn't make it to Montreal. "The doctors ordered me not to travel, but I said, 'No way; I'm going to Montreal." He was brought into the ballroom in a wheelchair and sat during his address.

He said his single greatest wish is to see a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He still hopes that "the responsiblity of governing" will moderate Hamas' violent ways.

On Iraq, Powell suggested the American public is "reaching the limit of its patience" in seeing its troops dying in what has become "sect-on-sect violence," but that the United States cannot withdraw until the Iraqi government is strong enough to contain it themselves.

On tensions with Iran, he surmised that the solution will "ultimately be diplomatic."

Appearing relaxed and exhibiting a sense of humour that contrasted with his stern public image while in office, Powell gave a wide-ranging talk on his encounters with world leaders, the adjustments he has made in returning to private life, and the challenges of aging.

Particularly pleasing to the audience of 700 were his reminiscences about the kindness and influence of his Jewish neighbours while growing up as the son of Jamaican immigrants, in New York's South Bronx. He demonstrated that he had not lost the Yiddish he picked up while working as a youth for a Russian-Jewish store owner for seven years, a man he credits with being the most influential in his life after his family.

In a brief encounter with reporters, Powell commented that he respected the demonstrators' right to protest but was concerned by the presence of Hezbollah flags among the crowd.

Over the course of the noisy but orderly two-hour demonstration, at least four Hezbollah flags were observed, along with the Lebanese, Palestinian and Iraqi flags. The protesters also called for JNF's charitable tax status to be removed because they charged that it has confiscated land from Palestinians and has been engaged in "ethnic cleansing" since the creation of the Jewish state.

Police presence was heavy, including officers in riot gear, but there were no incidents. The demonstration was organized by PAJU (Palestinian and Jewish Unity) the same group that has held weekly vigils outside the Israeli consulate for more than five years.

The only public figure present was Amir Khadir, a founder and spokesperson for the new provincial political party, Quebec Solidaire.

At the dinner, Fortier reiterated that Israel had every right to defend itself after Hezbollah's unprovoked aggression inside Israel's borders. "Those who choose to build will always win over terrorists who choose to destroy."

He ridiculed the opposition's response to the conflict as "obscure doctrines that, to put it generously, are absurd.

"Being friends with everybody regardless of the circumstances is not sound foreign policy. At best, it's a sound-bite."

He said the international community "cannot tolerate Hezbollah's acting as a state within a state" and that Canada "must always stand up for Israel's safety in secure borders."

The evening got off on a political note when, to enthusiastic applause, JNF Montreal president Joe Kislowicz said that "my traditional political allegiances that I grew up with were shaken when our new prime minister had the moral courage to look terrorism in the eye and call it what it is" and to maintain his pro-Israel position despite "unrelenting political pressure," as Liberal Senator Yoine Goldstein, a longtime JNF leader, looked on from the head table. Federal ethics commissioner Bernard Shapiro, the Negev honoree two years ago, was the master of ceremonies.

Proceeds from the evening will go toward the construction of a 2,000-seat outdoor amphitheatre in Be'er Sheva for the holding of concerts and other cultural events.

Azrieli said he chose a project in the Negev, where he has been a developer for some 20 years, because of its rapid growth due to immigration. It currently has no such facility. The amphitheatre will be the centrepiece of the new 11-km Be'er Sheva River Park.

Azrieli, 84, is credited with changing the skyline of Israeli cities over the past quarter-century, from the building of the country's first western-style shopping mall in Jerusalem to his crowning achievement, Tel Aviv's triple-towered Azrieli Centre, the tallest manmade structure in the Middle East.

"Israel's pioneering days are not over," Azrieli said, adding that the modern chalutz is not draining swamps and planting trees. Today's chalutz is anyone who is making Israel more competitive in global markets, whether by advancing technology, designing better products or selling Israeli goods abroad.

"Israel is often-described as threatened, besieged, isolated. But that is far from the truth. Israel is a modern society with a mind-boggling infrastructure. And Jews are a people of hope, and also hard work, and dedication," he said.

It was announced that next year's Negev Dinner honoree is Sylvain Abitbol, a past president of FEDERATION CJA

Coast to Coast

# Hezbollah is about hate, not resistance

**According to Reports**

**By PAUL MICHAELS**

In the immediate aftermath of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, as a fragile UN-brokered ceasefire moves into place, we are seeing a distinction between news reports that often describe Hezbollah as a social movement committed to helping Lebanese who have lost their homes and analytical pieces that delve deeper to identify the terrorist aims of an organization committed, with the backing of Iran, to the eradication of Israel and the murder of Jews.

Typical of the news coverage is an Aug. 15 report on the *National* by the CBC's Nahlah Ayed: "Last week, Hezbollah was shooting rockets into Israel. Today it was in the role of benefactor to the Lebanese. It chose its stronghold in shattered southern Beirut to begin its new campaign. To the thousands who lost so much in the conflict, the group has made a promise: their homes will be rebuilt and their rent paid until that happens."

Viewers are then shown a Hezbollah official, identified as a "council member," who promises that "we'll rebuild the good life that we seek."

Ayed adds: "It will be a huge job and it will take time. The tab will be in the billions and money won't fix some of the damage."

Yet Ayed avoids the harder questions: Where will the "billions" of dollars come from? And if Hezbollah sought a "good life" for the Lebanese, why did it provoke a war with Israel? For answers, we need to look elsewhere.

In "What Hezbollah wants" (*National Post*, Aug. 5), Robert Fulford writes: "The warriors of Hezbollah, Party of God, are serious men fighting a serious war, but what inspires them? Among guerilla gangs, they are top of the class: obedient, clever, efficient, secretive and of course, willing to sacrifice themselves and their families. They are not afraid of death, nor do they show pity for neighbours killed when they hide military operations among women and children. Clearly, the Hezbollah are driven by much more than salaries received from Iran."

As Fulford explains, the members of Hezbollah are driven by a religious fanaticism: "Hezbollah wants an Islamic world and believes such a world is worth killing and dying for."

Melanie Phillip's column "Hezbollah cells await Iran's orders" (the *Spectator*, Aug. 5) clearly describes Hezbollah as "a military force funded, trained by and answerable to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iran that is pledged – as it has been since the Khomeini revolution of 1979 – to the destruction of Israel and the genocide of the Jews, as a prelude to destroying the West and infidels everywhere."

Phillips takes to task those on the British left who call Hezbollah a "resistance movement."

This criticism should be extended to others, such as *Beirut Daily Star* editor-at-large Rami Khouri, whose Aug. 16 *Globe and Mail* opinion piece, "On a clear Mideast day, you can see the furies to come," describes Hezbollah as "an anti-occupation resistance group" in addition to being "a political party" and an "Islamist movement." Khouri's omission of Hezbollah's primary involvement in violence and terrorism is glaring.

In May 2000, Israel withdrew from Lebanon in accordance with United Nations resolutions. So what exactly is Hezbollah resisting? Phillips writes that Hezbollah's "principal targets… are Jews. This is in accordance with the core belief that drives the global jihad: that the West is a conspiracy to destroy Islam and that the puppet-masters of the West and the embodiment of cosmic evil who must therefore be obliterated are the Jews."

Some journalists may continue to romanticize Hezbollah as a benevolent liberation movement. But they should bear in mind the racist declaration by its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, that Phillips cites: "If we searched the entire world for a person more cowardly, despicable, weak and feeble in psyche, mind, ideology and religion, we would not find anyone like the Jew. Notice I do not say the Israeli."

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*

**BBYO CHARITY GOLF: A portion of the money raised at BBYO's 12th annual golf tournament, held recently at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club, will go to the National Colorectal Cancer Campaign in memory of alumnus Steve Glickman. Winners of the tournament, pictured from left to right: Jeff Wagman, BBYO chair; Roger Israel; Jeff Berg; Rony Israel; and Francois Viau.**

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*Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year*

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# Future of historic cottage under discussion

By BILL GLADSTONE
*Special to The CJN*

**BRONTE, Ont.** — The future of Glendella House, a historic cottage in Bronte, Ont. that once served as a summer rest home for Jewish mothers and children from Toronto, is under discussion as the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decides whether to allow a developer to move the 161-year-old heritage structure to accommodate two proposed high-rise towers.

Built in 1845 in what is now west Oakville, the large cottage is located directly opposite Bronte Heritage Park on the Lake Ontario waterfront. It served for generations as a hotel and stagecoach stop and in the 1920s and '30s as the Mothers and Babes Summer Rest Home for poor Jewish families from Toronto.

The town of Oakville designated Glendella as "a property of historic and architectural value and interest" in 1987. Even so, the OMB opened a hearing into the cottage's fate in July but postponed it until October to allow time for completion of a heritage report.

Mary Ann Joyce, the widow who once owned Glendella, rented it and two smaller cottages to the Hebrew Maternity Aid Society each summer, beginning in 1922.

The facility offered "a ray of hope" to the hundreds of mothers and children brought there from their "cramped quarters in the poorer districts of our city," according to a society report of the '20s.

The volunteer-run facility could accommodate about 60 mothers and children at a time; about 900 visited during its first five summers, most for a stay of 10 to 14 days. The hope was that they would receive enough "good food, scientific care, healthful air and pleasant surroundings" to tide them through the winter.

**Glendella Cottage**
**[Courtesy Milton Historical Society]**

The moms and babes enjoyed organized picnics, concerts, games with prizes, Yiddish folk-singing circles, story hours, health talks and other activities. By the end of their stays, they were "sent home improved in health and spirit to once more enable them to go through their trials in life."

The society worked hard to raise funds for the home, which also received support from the *Toronto Star* Fresh Air Fund. In 1926 president Dora Till raised about $5,000 and the *Star* donated another $2,000.

Ethel Raicus, a former principal of Holy Blossom Temple's Hebrew school, told the *Oakville Beaver* about her memories of the home in November 2005. Raicus, who died in April 2006, recalled that her mother was one of only two paid staff at the home and had been employed there as a cook from 1927 to 1939. She had taken the job "because she wanted me to have fresh air and this was her way of doing it," she recalled.

Many undernourished women would gain up to 10 pounds during meals in Glendella's three large dining rooms, Raicus said. "They were hungry the rest of the year. My mother used pure butter in her cooking and we would go out on the pier to get fresh fish."

The children also arrived hungry and ate heartily, she remembered. "The whole idea of this camp was to give these women an opportunity to gain a little strength. The kids were kept away from their mothers as much as possible so they could get some rest."

By 1940 the rest home's situation had become anything but restful, according to a letter from the Hebrew Maternity Aid Society to the United Jewish Welfare Fund, preserved in the Ontario Jewish Archives.

It wasn't just that the building had deteriorated. Far more troublesome was that the Jewish tenants had become "the target of growing anti-Semitic comment and action" during the '30s.

"The Mothers and Babes Rest Home is situated on the public highway in the very centre of the town, thereby attracting the constant attention of the townspeople," the society noted, adding that some people had attempted "to force the owners to refuse rental of the property to us."

Simultaneously, the society had evidently been barred from renting other sites: "With the advent of Hitlerism we were faced with growing land restrictions on sites which we considered desirable."

In 1941 the society terminated its relationship with Glendella in favour of another property on Lake Simcoe. Sixty-five years later, the cottage's significant period of service to the Jewish community still deserves to be remembered.

Some heritage-minded citizens assert that Glendella is too important to be moved from its present location on Ontario and Jones streets to another spot on the parcel of land known as the Bronte quadrangle.

"Until that [heritage] report comes in, no one knows what will happen, whether the house will stay in its present location or be moved elsewhere on the site," said Liz Behrens, executive director of the village's Business Improvement Area. "Either way, it's definitely staying. It's just a question of where."

# Argentine named head of Wpg. Bonds office

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Ariel Karabelnicoff, a native of Argentina who made aliyah in his teens and was once an aide to an Israeli cabinet minister, is the new director of State of Israel Bonds' Winnipeg office.

Karabelnicoff spent 14 years in Israel before coming to Winnipeg via Argentina in 2002. For the past couple of years, he has been working for an investment firm in the city.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to work for Israel Bonds," said Karabelnicoff who started his new position Aug. 1. "I consider myself an Israeli who is living here, and I welcome the chance to help Israel, particularly in this time of need."

Karabelnicoff made aliyah when he was 18 and later studied political science at Hebrew University. In 1993, he returned for a period to Argentina with his wife, Gabriella, to work in marketing.

The couple then spent a year in England, where Karabelnicoff studied English and business. They returned to Israel in 1996, and Karabelnicoff underwent army training and served in the reserves in the territories.

In the late 1990s, he worked as a political aide and researcher for Labor politician and cabinet minister Shlomo Ben Ami (who was later appointed Israel's ambassador to Spain). Karabelnicoff said he helped prepare legal drafts having to do with day care and was involved in foreign policy issues and election reform.

In 2000, he left government service to become the marketing director for a major international company. A year after taking on the job, the firm went through a reorganization that resulted in him being let go.

Karabelnicoff then set himself up as a management consultant, but his father-in-law invited him to come back to Argentina to join him in his auto parts business.

"We arrived back in Argentina on Sept. 4, 2001," Karabelnicoff said. "Then the twin towers were attacked and everything changed. My father-in-law put his expansion plans on hold."

With Argentina soon undergoing economic and social turmoil, the Karabelnicoffs looked to Canada for a fresh start.

"We had heard about the Winnipeg Jewish community's efforts to attract Argentinian immigrants," he said.

"Canada seemed like the kind of place where if you had the talent, you could make something from nothing. I like the challenge of starting new."

Karabelnicoff said he's looking forward to the challenge of increasing sales of Israel Bonds in Manitoba.

"Last year, we sold $1.5 million in bonds in Winnipeg," he said. "I would like to double that figure. I am working on some new marketing strategies."

Karabelnicoff views this period as a critical time in Israel's history, the most difficult time since 1948. "I feel that I have been entrusted with a mission coming to work for Israel Bonds," he said.

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Happy 60th wedding anniversary to Isaac & Minny Peters, our loving parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. We wish you continued health and happiness.

To Sherry & Jerry Rozencwajg on their 25th wedding anniversary. Love, Jordan and Sean, Mom & Dad, Willie & Marla, Morris & Rhonda, and the whole family.

Heartfelt congratulations from their families to Avivah Wargon and Elliott Chapin on their 21st anniversary.

Mazel tov Shirley & Kevin Freud on your May 28 wedding. With love from your families Jerry & Frances Freud, Adrian & Chaya Furman.

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# *Post* columnist accused of defaming all Quebecers

## *Alleges an independent Quebec would not designate Hezbollah as terrorist*

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste has lodged a complaint with the Quebec Press Council against the *National Post* because of an Aug. 9 column by Barbara Kay in which she speculates that an independent Quebec would not designate Hezbollah as terrorist in part because of the historic anti-Semitism of the province's intellectual class.

Jean Dorion, president of the ultra-nationalist, sovereigntist SSJB, said Kay has defamed all Quebecers.

Under the headline "The rise of Quebecistan," the Montreal-based Kay accused the Quebec politicians who took part in the large antiwar Aug. 6 rally in Montreal and who endorsed its prior statement condemning Israel of "stok[ing] fires of enthusiasm for Hezbollah" for political gain, especially among the growing number of Arab groups.

Her main targets were Parti Québécois leader Andre Boisclair and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, as well as the new left-wing sovereigntist party, Québec Solidaire. Federal Liberal MP Denis Coderre also participated in the rally, which Kay characterizes as "pro-terrorist," although only a small number of the flags and other images of Hezbollah were present in the rally of some 15,000 people.

She suggests that these politicians are following in the tradition of the left-wing Quebec intelligentsia. "Their cultural and historical sympathy for Arab countries from the Francophonie – Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon – joined with reflexive anti-Americanism and a fat streak of anti-Semitism has marbled the intellectual discourse of Quebec throughout its history, has made Quebec the most anti-Israel of the provinces, and therefore the most vulnerable to tolerance for Islamist terrorist sympathizers."

She accuses the Quebec politicians of being "not too morally fussing" and of selling their souls to get votes.

"This article is a a case of pure defamation against an entire people," Dorion said. "Its author seems to ignore that the legislature of Lower Canada (today's Quebec) was the first in the whole British Empire to recognize the civic equality of Jews, at the instigation of the nationalists led by Louis-Joseph Papineau.

"She also appears to equally forget that the anti-Semitism that soiled all Western societies between the two world wars was more virulent and violent in English Canada than in Quebec, as many authors have shown."

Dorion added that Kay did not take into account the participation of Jews in the rally, "many of whom were very identifiable, and whom the crowd roundly applauded."

Dorion was referring to the participation of a group of haredi Jews associated with the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta faction who marched prominently in the rally. One held aloft a prayer shawl with the words "defiled by Zionism's crimes" written on it.

According to Dorion, the "tiny" number of Hezbollah flags among a demonstration by 15,000 people, many of whom were mourning the bombardment of their country of origin, does not give Kay the right to denounce Boisclair, Duceppe and the others as "shameless Quebec politicians who led the pro-terrorist rally."

Dorion noted that the attempts by some in the rally to get others to join them in pro-Hezbollah chants fell flat.

Kay told *The CJN* that she received a large amount of e-mail, almost all of it from Quebecers, after the column appeared, and "90 per cent of its very angry, some of it you could call hate." One suggested Jews should not be permitted to own newspapers in Canada, an apparent reference to the Asper family's ownership of the *Post*.

Most accused her of disparaging Quebecers in general, but what disturbed her most is the "profound and depressing ignorance" many respondents showed about Israel and the nature of its conflict with Hezbollah.

"Most see Israel as responsible for mass killings on the flimsy pretext of two soldiers being captured. They don't have a clue about the wider issues, and not one mentioned Iran or Syria," she said.

Her column was the subject of a radio talk show and many of those who wrote to her apparently had not actually read what she wrote, she said.

Kay added that she did not receive a single communication from anyone who is identifiably Muslim or of Arab origin, nor did she hear from representatives of the BQ or PQ.

She remains critical of the politicians because "not one took the trouble to dissociate themselves" from the pro-Hezbollah presence in the rally. Particularly worrisome for Kay is the "silence" of the federal Liberal party on its endorsement of an anti-Israel statement issued by the organizers of the rally beforehand.

The *Post*'s comment pages editor Jonathan Kay, who is Kay's son, wrote in an e-mail that the SSJB's complaint "appears to be a rebuttal to the substance of the article in question. But the SSJB doesn't seem to be making a case that the contents of the article were actually racist or hateful, which is usually what is alleged in this sort of complaint."

The Quebec Press Council is a watchdog panel that can issue decisions based on complaints about member papers. Its rulings carry no legal weight.

In a related development, veteran Quebec actor Julien Poulin issued an apology for being photographed waving a Hezbollah flag in the rally. In a statement issued through his agent Marcel Hubert, Poulin said he had been waving a Quebec flag and was apparently photographed by the media after a Hezbollah sympathizer switched flags with him for "a brief instant."

Poulin, who has starred in the popular Elvis Gratton movies, said he supports neither Israel nor Hezbollah, and took part in the rally to show solidarity with the Montreal Al-Akhrass family, whose members were killed during Israel's bombardment, and other Montrealers who have lost relatives in the conflict, as well as to support a ceasefire.

# JNF to train aboriginals in greenhouse operation

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Under the leadership of Rami Kleinmann, Jewish National Fund's shaliach for the Prairie provinces, the organization has forged strong relationships with the Italian community, Christian groups and business leaders.

Along with local JNF leadership, Kleinmann, JNF's national shaliach for the past year, has also been involved in negotiating a research partnership agreement between JNF Canada and the governments of Alberta and Manitoba.

With the visit late last month of Dr. Avi Gafni the JNF Israel research consultant to four northern Manitoba aboriginal communities, the latter agreement is about to bear its first fruits.

Gafni is recommending that in northern communities the JNF assist in establishing greenhouses that would produce fresh vegetables for the local inhabitants.

By selling the produce outside the aboriginal villages they could also generate cash flow.

"We strongly believe that this technology can be adopted in many First Nations locales. It could build the market [and increase] awareness of the benefits of freshly produced, highly nutritious vegetables," he wrote in his report following the trip north.

Gafni was accompanied on his trip by Graham Dixon, JNF president for the Prairie provinces, and Gordon Wakeling, senior government official in charge of the First Nations affairs.

The three-man mission visited the communities of Fisher River, Grand Rapids, Norway House and Lynn Lake.

In his report on the trip, Gafni noted that their goals were: "to acquaint ourselves with the most urgent needs of the First Nations people in the domains of the environment, water, soil conservation, agriculture, forestry, fishery and social life; to obtain basic knowledge of the geographical, physical and environmental conditions of each of the four First Nations communities considered for a pilot project; to decide on the project with the greatest economic potential, social, health and other welfare benefits for the Aboriginal communities; and to create working relationships with the chiefs and counsellors of the First Nations."

Gafni commented on the hospitality the three visitors received as well as the depressed state of the economy in the communities.

Despite that, he wrote, "There is an inherent, yet dormant ambition to bolster the local economy, raise the standard of living, and build the people's trust in their own human resources and in the potential of the natural resources in their territory."

He said the community leaders were highly motivated people with a sincere drive to alleviate the social, economic, health and environmental conditions of the communities they represent.

He noted that "the deteriorating health situation is of great concern to health workers, parents and the leaders."

He also suggested that the first of the greenhouses be established as a pilot project at Grand Rapids because of its location and the proximity to a free energy supply compliments of a Manitoba Hydro hydroelectric plant nearby.

Both Gafni and Graham Dixon singled out Grand Rapids' Grand Chief Ovide Mercredi – the former Grand Chief for Canada – for his enthusiastic support of the greenhouse idea.

Dixon said Mercredi sent an e-mail "telling us how happy he is to have such friends. He is ready to go to Israel with some of his people for training as soon as we can arrange it. The only thing holding this project back is that the people who have to approve it are on summer holidays."

Dixon reported that a meeting with the provincial government is scheduled for later this month. Gafni sees the pilot project in Grand Rapids only as a start and as an ideal place to demonstrate the merits and the potential of the greenhouse technology.

"Once the first greenhouse project proved successful and working relationships are established between Israel and Manitoba, there is room to consider other collaborative projects for the benefits of both parties, he noted.

"The potential domains of co-operation are unlimited. Forestry, groundwater exploration, water treatment, fishery, ameliorating green technologies and soil conservation are just a sample."

# Kosher wine shortage hits Russia

By YASHA LEVINE
*JTA*

**MOSCOW — As a result of a bureaucratic blunder, new regulations are keeping imported wines and spirits off the Russia market this summer.**

While the shortage may only be a minor problem for the mostly vodka-drinking Russian population, it could turn into a real issue for religiously observant Russian Jews.

Until the ban on Georgian and Moldovan alcohol imports was implemented earlier this year, the Russian Jewish community relied on a steady source of inexpensive Moldovan-produced kosher wine.

Since the ban, Jews have had to switch to Israeli and French kosher wine because Russia doesn't produce any homegrown kosher wine.

The shelves at Moscow's Chabad-run kosher supermarket are now devoid of kosher wine. The extensive selection of kosher wines that once occupied a large portion of the store's shelf space is now taken up by bottles of kosher grape juice.

The store's importer promised a wine shipment by July 20, but the date came and went without any new wine.

But at recent Shabbat services at Marina Roscha, Moscow's largest synagogue and community centre, rituals proceeded as usual. Other synagogues across Moscow also have enough wine for their kiddush cups.

According to a source within Marina Roscha, the synagogue has enough old stock to keep going for some time, although technically, its use may not be entirely legal.

But no one seems to mind.

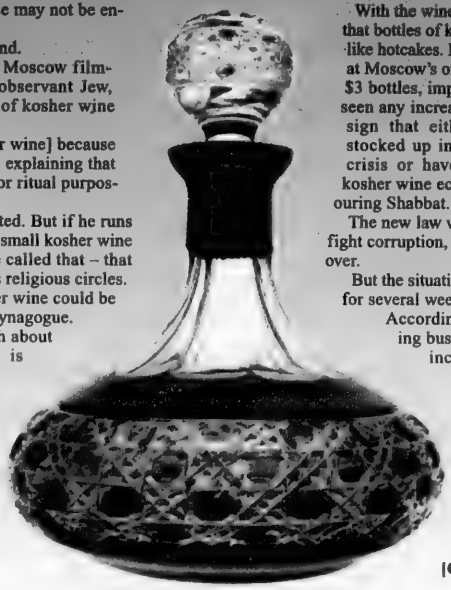
Artem Vitkin, a young Moscow filmmaker and a religiously observant Jew, doesn't consider the lack of kosher wine from Moldova a problem.

"We don't drink [kosher wine] because we love wine," Vitkin said, explaining that his family uses it mostly for ritual purposes.

So far, his stock has lasted. But if he runs out, he could call upon the small kosher wine black market – if it can be called that – that has sprung up in Moscow's religious circles.

Vitkin hinted that kosher wine could be obtained easily in a local synagogue.

But for those squeamish about breaking the law, there is nothing wrong with drinking kosher grape juice instead of wine to sanctify Shabbat or other Jewish holidays, says Aaron Gurevich, an Orthodox rabbi who heads two small Jewish communities on the outskirts of Moscow.



[Crystalalcarte.com photo]

With the wine shortage, that should mean that bottles of kosher grape juice are selling like hotcakes. But according to a salesclerk at Moscow's only kosher supermarket, the $3 bottles, imported from Israel, have not seen any increase in sales. This is likely a sign that either observant Jews have stocked up in preparation for the wine crisis or have sanctified the shadowy kosher wine economy for the sake of honouring Shabbat.

The new law was enacted in good faith to fight corruption, and the snag is sure to blow over.

But the situation isn't likely to be resolved for several weeks.

According to experts in the importing business, all imported alcohol, including kosher wine, is expected to start appearing on the market in September.

And when it does, it's expected to rise in price by 30 per cent.

# Barley is a whole grain wonder that tastes great

By EILEEN GOLTZ
*Special to The CJN*

Barley is an especially good grain to include in your diet because it's a great source of both soluble and insoluble dietary fibre. It's good for the digestive tract because it supplies roughage, and its soluble fibre helps lower blood cholesterol levels.

Barley provides a good source of energy since carbohydrates constitute 80 per cent of the barley kernel.

All this is a plus to the fact that barley just tastes great no matter how you make it. The following recipes should give you a head start on increasing your grain intake as well as giving you a tasty alternative to potatoes and rice.

### APPLE BARLEY KUGEL

8 oz. plain yogurt (low fat may be used)
1 cup lowfat cottage cheese
¾ cup egg substitute or 6 egg whites
¼ cup light corn syrup
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. cinnamon
3 cups cooked barley
1½ cups finely chopped apples
1 cup raisins
2 tbsp. sugar

In a large bowl combine yogurt, cottage cheese, egg substitute, corn syrup, vanilla and ½ tsp. cinnamon; mix well. Stir in barley, apples and raisins; mix well. Spread into greased 11-x-7 in. baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with combined sugar and remaining ½ tsp. cinnamon. Bake about 35 minutes at 350 or until edges are set and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 30 minutes. Serve warm or cold. Store covered in refrigerator. Serves 10 to 12

### BAKED BARLEY WITH ALMONDS

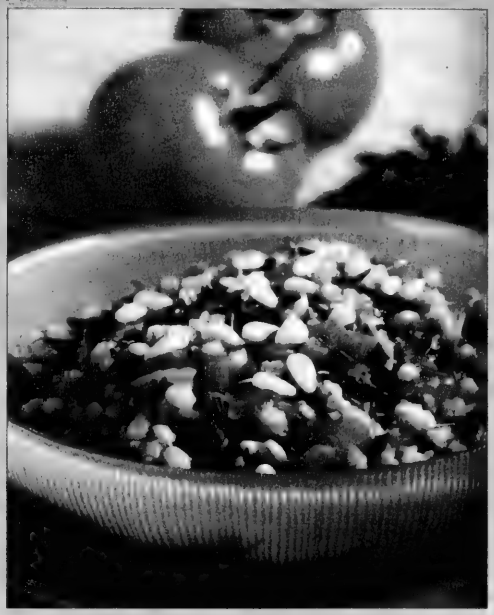
1 cup barley
2 cups chicken broth
vegetable cooking spray
1 cup chopped onion
2 cups mushrooms, sliced
1 cup celery, diced
½ cup green pepper, diced
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
3 tbsp. slivered almonds, toasted

Preheat oven to 350. Spread the barley on a non-greased baking sheet and bake at 350 for 8 min. until lightly browned. In a sauce pan combine the toasted barley and chicken broth and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, & simmer until barley is tender & broth is absorbed. Coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Add vegetables & saute until tender. Combine barley, vegetables and the salt and pepper in a 1½ qt. casserole coated with cooking spray. Cover and bake at 350 for 50 min. Let sit for 3 minutes, top with the toasted almonds and then serve. Serves 6 to 8

### BARLEY AND PINE NUT CASSEROLE

1 cup pearl barley
¼ cup + 2 tbsp. margarine – divided
⅓ cup pine nuts
1 medium onion – chopped
½ cup fresh parsley – minced
¼ cup fresh chives – minced
¼ tsp. each salt and pepper
3½ cups beef or chicken broth (or vegetable broth)
fresh parsley sprigs

Preheat oven 350. Rinse barley in cold water; drain well. Set aside. Melt 2 tbsp. margarine in a medium skillet over medium heat; add pine nuts and cook until lightly toasted, stirring constantly. Remove pine nuts with a slotted spoon; set aside. Heat remaining ¼ cup margarine in skillet until melted; add reserved barley and onion. Cook, stirring constantly, until barley is lightly toasted and onion is tender. Remove from heat; stir in toasted pine nuts, parsley, chives, salt and pepper. Spoon barley mixture into a 1½ qt. casserole.



**Barley and Wild Rice Pilaf as seen in *The Healthy Slow Cooker* by Judith Finlayson, Robert Rose publishers.**

Bring beef or chicken broth to a boil in a medium saucepan; pour broth over barley mixture in casserole and stir well. Bake, uncovered, at 375 for 1 hour and 10 minutes or until barley is tender and liquid is absorbed. Garnish casserole with fresh parsley sprigs, if desired. 6 to 8 servings.

### ASIAN BARLEY PILAF

2 tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion – chopped
1 tsp. garlic – minced
1½ cups pearl barley
½ tsp.sesame oil
2 cups vegetable broth or chicken broth
¼ cup soy sauce
¼ cup water
1 tbsp. margarine
8 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced
1tbsp. minced fresh thyme or 1 tsp. dried
1 tbsp. broth for deglazing pan – (1 to 2)
3 green onions – sliced, include half the dark green stalks
freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 350. In an oven proof casserole or Dutch oven, heat 1½ tbsp. of olive oil on medium heat. Add onions and garlic; cook until softened, about 4 minutes. Increase heat to medium-high and add barley. Cook, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. Increase heat to high; add sesame oil and 1½ cups of broth and all the water and soy sauce. Bring the mixture to a boil. Remove from heat, cover and place in preheated oven. Bake for 30 minutes, or until liquid is absorbed. Meanwhile, heat margarine and ½ tablespoon olive oil in a skillet on medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and saute until mushrooms are lightly browned, softened and any liquid has evaporated. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside. Remove pilaf from oven. Add remaining ½ cups broth and thyme. Cover and return to oven for 30 more minutes, or until all liquid is absorbed. Remove from oven. Add 1 to 2 tbsp. broth to pan and scrape bottom of pan to loosen rich brown bits that cling to the bottom of the pan. Toss pilaf with mushrooms and green onions. Taste and adjust seasoning. Note: If using as a side dish and you want a fancier presentation, pack cooked pilaf into custard cups or timbale molds. Invert on plate and, with luck, it will unmold and keep its shape. Garnish with fresh herbs. 8 servings. (note: if the pilaf seems really dry when you add the last ½ cup of broth and thyme you may add an additional ⅓ cup water or broth).

### BARLEY AND BLACK BEAN SALAD

3 cups cooked pearled barley
2 cups canned black beans drained
1¼ cups frozen corn kernels – thawed
1½ cups diced tomatoes
1cup frozen green peas – thawed
1 cup avocado – peeled and chopped
¼ cup fresh cilantro – chopped
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1¼ cups water
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1 tbsp.grated onions
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 tsp. garlic – minced
6 romaine lettuce leaves
1 cup avocado – 18 slices
1 medium tomato – cut into 18 wedges

Combine the barley, black beans, corn, 1½ cup diced tomatoes, peas, 1 cup chopped avocado, cilantro, salt and pepper in a large bowl and toss gently. Set it aside. Combine the water and the lemon juice, grated onions and vegetable oil in a jar with a lid that covers tightly, shake vigorously. Pour the dressing over the barley mixture and toss it gently. Serve with a slotted spoon on lettuce-lined plates. Garnish the salad with the additional avocado and tomato. Serve warm or at room temperature. Serves 8 to 10. This can be doubled or tripled.

### BARLEY BELL PEPPER AND CORN SALAD

1 cup barley
1 cup red bell pepper – chopped
1½ cups fresh corn – or frozen, thawed
½ cup fresh parsley – finely chopped
2 tbsp.white wine vinegar – (plus 1 tsp.)
⅓ cup olive oil

Rinse and drain barley. Sprinkle the barley into a large saucepan of boiling salted water, stirring, and boil it, skimming the froth, for 30 min, or until just tender. Drain the barley, rinse it under cold water, and let it drain until cool. Transfer barley to a large bowl; add bell pepper, corn, parsley, and salt and pepper to taste. In a bowl whisk together the vinegar and more salt and pepper to taste, add oil, whisking till dressing is emulsified. Toss the salad with the dressing until well combined. The salad may be made up to 8 hours in advance and kept covered and chilled but the parsley should not be added until just before serving. Serves 6

### FOUR GRAIN CASSEROLE

¼ cup uncooked millet
¼ cup uncooked wheat berries (available in natural foods stores)
¼ cup uncooked barley
½ cup uncooked brown rice
1½ cups water
1 tsp. olive oil
1 medium onion – coarsely chopped
2 cloves garlic – minced
1 rib celery – coarsely chopped
1 small red or green bell pepper seeded and coarsely chopped
1 carrot – coarsely chopped
2 cups canned tomatoes drained and chopped
¼ cup toasted pine nuts – optional
½ tsp. ground nutmeg
½ tsp. ground savory
1 tsp.curry powder
1 tsp.dried thyme
salt
ground black pepper
⅓ cup shredded cheddar cheese (optional)

Preheat oven to 350. Toast uncooked millet, wheat berries, barley and brown rice in heavy pan over medium heat about 5 minutes or until nutty aroma emerges. Stir frequently while toasting. Add water; cover and cook over low to medium heat 40 minutes or until tender. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, garlic, celery, bell pepper and carrot; saute until onion is soft but not browned, about 5 minutes, adding water as needed to prevent scorching. Remove from heat. Add tomatoes, pine nuts, nutmeg, savory, curry and thyme. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Combine with cooked grains, mixing well. Spoon into lightly oiled 9-by-13-inch casserole or baking dish. Top with cheese if desired. Cover and bake for 30 minutes. 4 to 6 servings

### 3 GRAIN VEGETABLE BARLEY SALAD WITH CILANTRO CREAM DRESSING

1 cup long-grain brown rice
⅓ cup pearl barley
¼ cup wild rice
2½ cups vegetable stock or water
1 tbsp. virgin olive oil
2 small yellow zucchini – diced
2 small green zucchini – diced
2 peeled seeded cucumbers -- diced
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice

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# Olmert rules out talks with Syria

*Jerusalem Post*

## *Shoots down his own minister's suggestion*

**JERUSALEM** — Syria is the "single most aggressive member of the axis of evil," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Monday, ruling out a resumption of negotiations with Damascus at this time.

"I am the last person who will say I want to negotiate with Syria," Olmert said in unusually harsh comments. In a visit to northern Israel, Olmert noted that rockets that hit the region in 34 days of Israel-Hezbollah fighting came from Syria.

According to Olmert, "When Syria stops supporting terrorism, when it stops giving missiles to terror organizations, then we will be happy to negotiate with them."

His comments were made hours after Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter said that he was in favour of withdrawing from the Golan Heights in return for true peace with Syria.

"We have paid similar territorial concessions in the past when we signed peace treaties with Jordan and Egypt," the former head of the Shin Bet told Army Radio.

"Any diplomatic initiative is preferred over war, whether in Syria or Lebanon," Dichter said. "With regard to Lebanon, conditions are even more welcoming than they are with Syria. Lebanon can today begin talks with Israel without the Syrians."

According to the minister, "Talks with Syria are legitimate. If there is someone to talk to on the other side, we should talk. Israel can initiate this or turn to a third party."

In response, Olmert said, "I recommend not to get carried away with any false hopes."

He added, referring to Syria: "We are not going into any adventure when terror is on their side. We're not going into any negotiations until basic steps are taken that can be the basis for any negotiations."

Syrian Information Minister Mohsen Bilal said there was "no significance" to talk of peace with Israel as long as Israel does not withdraw from all territory it conquered in 1967. He stressed that Syria would accept an Arab peace initiative proposed by Saudi Arabia along those lines only after an independent Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital.

Dichter's comments also elicited a flurry of responses from MKs – among them National Union-National Religious Party MK Effi Eitam, a Golan resident, who said that "withdrawing from the Golan Heights will only endanger the security of Israel.

"Syria associates itself with the evil axis of Hezbollah and Iran, and its goal is to destroy Israel," Eitam said, declaring that Syria "cannot be a partner for discussion."

Fellow NU/NRP MK Aryeh Eldad said that "by the same logic, Dichter will certainly suggest we give the Galilee to Iran if they would be so kind as to shoot 4,000 rockets at us. Whoever doesn't understand that the equation 'land for peace' never worked and has only brought about more bloodshed would do better not to give advice on security matters."

Meretz MK Ran Cohen, however, supported Dichter's calls for talks with Syria, demanding that the government "discuss immediately the initiation of negotiations with Syria and Lebanon for peace agreements."

He added, "We must not sit and wait for the next war. A [peace] agreement in exchange for giving back the Golan would disconnect Syria from Iran and disarm Hezbollah."

Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that the time is not right to resume talks with Syria, arguing that Israel is too busy dealing with Lebanon and the Palestinians.

Peres said he believes it's unlikely that Syrian President Bashar Assad is even contemplating a return to talks. "The Syrians, if they are serious [about peace talks], should come and say 'we are interested in holding negotiations,'" Peres said. "I don't see Assad doing this."

Last week, Assad warned Israel that peace is not the only way to achieve Syrian goals, referring to the Golan, which Israel captured from Syria during the Six Day War.

Defence Minister Amir Peretz suggested the possibility of talks last week when he said the conflict with Hezbollah may have created a new opportunity for renewed dialogue with Syria.

# Peacekeeper force hits a snag as Israel carries out raid

*By JTA Staff*

**NEW YORK** — A ceasefire might be in place between Israel and Hezbollah, but the conflict between the two sides is far from being resolved.

That fact was made clear over the weekend after Israeli troops carried out a raid on southern Lebanon.

During Saturday's raid, an Israeli officer from an elite commando unit was killed and two others injured. Israeli sources said the operation was aimed at preventing ammunition and rockets entering Lebanon.

A firefight ensued and four Hezbollah members were reportedly killed.

A statement from the office of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called the raid a violation of the UN-brokered ceasefire, which went into effect early last week.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora called the raid a "flagrant violation" of the ceasefire.

The Lebanese government has threatened to stop the deployment of Lebanese forces to the south of the country if it does not receive satisfactory explanations for the raid.

But an Israeli government official speaking on condition of anonymity told Israel Radio that neither UNIFIL nor the Lebanese army has shown any willingness to enforce the embargo on supplying arms to Hezbollah or any readiness to confront those who violate the embargo.

Also Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that Israel would not accept peacekeepers in southern Lebanon from countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Three Muslim countries that are in that category — Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh — are among the countries to have offered troops for the expanded force, considered key to reducing tensions in southern Lebanon.

Olmert reportedly spoke Sunday with Italy's president, Romano Prodi, about the possibility of Italian troops leading the force.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army's chief of staff declared an Israeli victory in the war with Hezbollah.

But cabinet members suggested the results were murky at best.

Lt.-Gen Dan Halutz told the cabinet on Sunday that Israel had won the war on "points" even if there had been no "knockout." Halutz pointed to Israel's damage to the Hezbollah infrastructure as evidence of victory. Cabinet ministers, however, pointed out that Hezbollah's prestige within the Arab world had soared and that Iran and Syria remained committed supporters of the group.

Also, Israel failed to win the release of two soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah, the ministers said.

## *UNIFIL, Lebanon unwilling to enforce arms embargo against Hezbollah*

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# Ceasefire brings little relief to missing soldier's family

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

**TORONTO** — With the ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel in effect, there is relative calm in northern Israel.

People have vacated the bomb shelters, and stores and restaurants have reopened.

Gilad Shalit

The routine of daily life is slowly resuming.

But the halt in hostilities has brought little relief to northern residents Noam and Aviva Shalit, and their children Yoel, 23, and Hadas, 16. They live in Mitzpa Hila, a village four miles south of the Lebanese border. Their life was turned upside down weeks before the Katyushas landed.

The Shalits are the family of Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier kidnapped by Palestinian militants in a cross border raid on June 25.

Noam Shalit's anguish is palpable as he speaks to The CJN in a telephone interview just days before his son's 20th birthday on Aug. 28. "It is very tough for us. We are living a nightmare."

To date there has been no official news about Gilad since his capture, says Shalit. "The Red Cross had no opportunity to see him. The kidnappers would not allow it."

However, he notes that the Arabic media are reporting that Gilad, who is being held captive in Gaza, is alive. "From all indications he is being treated well and according to Islamic law."

Last week, Shalit says he appeared on Channel 2 television with a spokesman for Hamas – a moderator did the Arabic-Hebrew translation – who said that Gilad could not be released without an exchange of prisoners. "The man was friendly but not helpful."

While he speaks to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert from time to time, Shalit says that two weeks ago, the government assigned a special person to work with the families of three Israeli POWs. Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser and Eldad Regev are the two soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah on July 12. Their capture triggered the war with Lebanon.

He says the situation for the family became more difficult when the war erupted and "the national agenda shifted to the north" eclipsing the plight of his son.

According to Shalit, discussions about freeing Palestinian prisoners in exchange for his son's freedom are ongoing. An international team includes mediators from Egypt and France because the Israeli government will not negotiate directly with Hamas.

He feels that France should take a stronger stand because Gilad has dual citizenship. "France is involved, but I feel they should be more productive because Gilad is French. I believe they have the power to be more helpful. After all France is one of the major world powers."

Shalit explains that he has French citizenship through his mother and he was able to pass it on to his children.

When asked what Canada can do to help, he urges the Canadian government to withhold funding to the PA until his son's situation is resolved.

Shalit describes Gilad as an "introverted" kid who loves sports, particularly basketball, and who was a very good student in high school. "He graduated with distinction. He was very interested in math and physics."

Shalit laments that his son, who has only been in the army for 11 months, did not have any time between completion of high school and his military service.

His commitment to the military has always been very strong, says Shalit. "Gilad liked the army. He chose to go into a combat unit."

He says that his son's health and fitness report – he has a slight, wiry build – was "borderline" vis a vis the streaming of army recruits according to physical prowess, and that he could have served in a less vulnerable unit.

But Shalit stresses that it was very important for Gilad to be in to be in a combat unit. "He wanted to go to the tank unit."

Shalit – he's employed by Iscar, a high precision metal working company in the north – says he continues to work and he even went in every day during the war despite the threat of rocket fire.

The family slept in a bomb shelter, but overall his village was not badly hit.

He says they have been getting support from family and friends. "Lots of people are calling us and coming for a visit."

For now the family must continue to live with the uncertainty of their son's fate, says Shalit. "We are trying to survive. We have some hope and that gives us strength to carry on."

*A concert dedicated to Gilad Shalit on his birthday will be held in Toronto at the Kiever Congregation 8:30 p.m. Aug. 27.*

# Hundreds of reservists protest war

*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — With public pressure mounting for the establishment of an independent committee of inquiry to look into the management of the Israeli-Hezbollah war, hundreds of reserve soldiers who served in Lebanon sent a letter of protest addressed to Defence Minister Amir Peretz and Israel Defence Forces Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz on Sunday, while two reservists led a protest march to the prime minister's office in Jerusalem.

In the letter, they described a severe breach of trust between the leadership and the soldiers. "The management of the war," they wrote, "caused us to feel that they were spitting in our face."

The letter expressed frustration with the "indecision" that, the soldiers say, characterized their assignment in Lebanon. It also stated that the lack of a clear mission for their brigade in the final days of the war needlessly endangered their lives, Army Radio reported.

In a private meeting between Halutz and the commanders of the reserve Alexandroni Brigade, which fought in the western sector, the officers of the brigade criticized the army's management over the last month.

Among other things, they described serious trust issues with the commanders, and told Halutz, "We need to rebuild the soldiers' trust in the system before it is too late." Many officers spoke about the inadequacy of the food and water supply in the battlefield.

On Sunday, Chief Infantry Officer Brig.-Gen. Yossi Hyman was the first senior IDF officer to admit the failure of the war in Lebanon. "I did not succeed in preparing the infantry well enough for war," he said, adding, "Sometimes we were guilty of the sin of vanity."

It appeared on Monday that a majority in the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee supported setting up a state commission to investigate the war.

With the exception of members from Kadima – such as Knesset member Otniel Schneller, who said that "the time is not right to devote our attention to an investigation committee, when the IDF and the state have to prepare for the next round" – the remaining committee members voiced their approval of setting up a state commission to probe the failures of the war.

***'I'm talking about [change in] the army and the government,' Tzvangenboim declared. 'The prime minister, the defence minister and the chief of general staff all have to go'***

Only the government has the power to appoint a state commission. However, the foreign affairs and defence committee's approbation would put another layer of pressure on the government to form such a commission.

As of this report, 11 foreign affairs and defence committee members were in favour of the commission, and only three were against it.

Meanwhile, reservist Roni Tzvangenboim and his friend Assaf Dovidov led a protest march from the Castel on the outskirts of Jerusalem to the prime minister's office on Monday morning.

"We're not leaders – we're just the ones shouting first," Tzvangenboim said in an interview with Army Radio. He added that he believed many others would join them in the march.

Tzvangenboim said that the problem with the war was on a much wider scope than the issue of the inadequate food and weapon supply that other protesters were raising.

"The problem," he said, "is that there's no leadership. There's a strong army, with all the best technology in the world, with the bravest soldiers in the world... but there's no one who knows how to operate it."

In 1973, Capt. Moti Ashkenazi launched a national protest movement after the Yom Kippur War, as prime minister Golda Meir and defence minister Moshe Dayan sought to place all the blame for Israel's refusal to prepare for Egypt's invasion on the IDF. Ashkenazi's demand for accountability forced Meir and Dayan to resign and set the conditions for the Likud's rise to power in 1977.

"I'm talking about [change in] the army and the government," Tzvangenboim declared. "The prime minister, the defence minister and the chief of general staff all have to go."

Tzvangenboim admitted that he still didn't know what he was going to do when he arrived at the prime minister's residence. His goal, he said, was to change the leadership, adding, "If the one that comes after it doesn't do what needs to be done, I'll walk again – that's what I can do."

Israel & the Jewish World

# Cotler slams UN over ceasefire resolution

By JENNY HAZAN
*CJN Israel Bureau*

**JERUSALEM** — Liberal MP Irwin Cotler said UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which put into effect a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel, is riddled with problems.

The former justice minister recently returned to Canada after a weeklong mission in Israel aimed at gaining a greater understanding of the region's conflicts.

One problem, he said, is that the resolution does not detail a mechanism for the return of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers Yair Goldwasser and Eldad Regev by the Lebanese government. "The return of these soldiers will be the first litmus test of the whole security council resolution."

Nor does Resolution 1701 mention the dissolution of Hezbollah as a terrorist militia, and there is no provision for the effective enforcement of Security Council Resolution 1559, which called for the disarming and disbanding of Hezbollah, and has never been implemented, Cotler said. "If Resolution 1559 would have been enforced, this war never would have happened in the first place," he said

Cotler was the first representative from the Canadian government to visit the area since the war between Hezbollah and Israel erupted on July 12. He met with senior academics, Israeli government officials, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and NGOs in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Cotler was not sure that the 1701 stipulation to mobilize a multinational protection force to secure the buffer zone between the Litany River and the Israeli border could be put into effect. "We have seen the UN fail to implement resolutions of this ilk before," he said.

Hezbollah's refusal to disarm is particularly worrisome to Cotler, given that Hezbollah is not just a terrorist militia. It's a terrorist militia with a genocidal and anti-Semitic ideology, he said.

"The fact that the Hezbollah, which supports a transnational totalitarian brand of radical Islam – the successor to Nazism and communism – has not been recognized for what it is by the UN is extremely problematic."

The UN, however, revealed its true colours when the Human Rights Council called for the establishment of an inquiry into Israeli war crimes, Cotler said. Although Canada voted against the UN's investigative inquiry against Israel for war crimes, he said, Canada's demonstration of non-support is not enough.

"We need to do more. We need to speak out in favour of the construction of an international assembly with integrity, one that promotes fairness rather than eroding the authority of international law and making a mockery of human rights."

Replying to those who said that Israel's response to the Hezbollah attack was "disproportionate," he said that the statement ignores the whole stretch of history since Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000. After that, Hezbollah attacked Israel several times, he continued, but Israel didn't respond, either because it was preoccupied with both internal issues and the disengagement in Gaza, or because it was demonstrating restraint.

"The abduction of the Israeli soldiers was only the proximate cause of the war with the Hezbollah," said Cotler. "Israel's reaction to the Hezbollah's kidnappings and rocket attacks represents a culmination. In context, Israel's reaction emerges as not disproportionate, but if anything, late."

The UN's obvious bias can also be seen in Resolution 1701's call for a massive postwar reconstruction of Lebanon's damaged areas, and not of Israel's, Cotler said.

But the most obviously absent item from Resolution 1701 is the Iranian factor, he said. "Iran is not just a principal actor, but the choreographer behind the Hezbollah's war against Israel. This war has revealed just how much Iran is involved in the training, financing and instigation of Hezbollah forces. Without Iran's involvement, Hezbollah could not have fought a war at all."

Until he arrived in Israel, Cotler said he didn't realize the degree to which Iran was involved with the Hezbollah. "I was shocked to learn of the extent of the weaponry, not only the number of rockets and missiles that Iran is supplying the Hezbollah, but the sophistication of those weapons, and the training of Hezbollah terrorists by Iran."

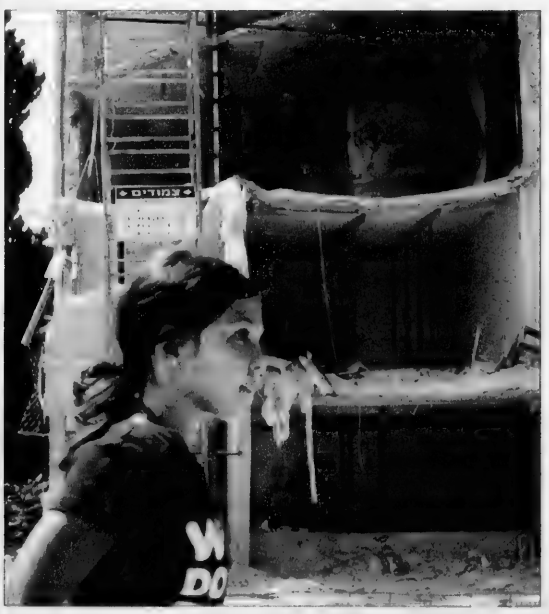
He noted that "Canada has made it a crime to facilitate the work of a terrorist organization. [It] has taken the right position. But in order to succeed we need the international community to act in concert. Canada's foreign policy should be international foreign policy."

He said it's Canada's special positioning that makes it a potentially strategic partner in solving current problems in the Middle East. "Canada is well respected by many different parties in the Middle East, including Israel, the Palestinians and Lebanon."

On this trip, Cotler visited Ramallah, where he met with Palestinians across the political, judicial and academic spectrum. "The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was not on the radar before I left [Canada], but it certainly is now," he said. "That front will assume its front-and-centre place shortly, and there is no ceasefire resolution for Gaza."

On the Palestinian-Israeli front, Cotler said Canada should reaffirm its support for a two-state solution, but only in the event that the Hamas government can provide demonstrable evidence that it has repealed its covenant to destroy Israel. "You can't support a two-state solution if one state doesn't recognize the other's right to exist," he said

"The Harper government has indicated that it wants to play a robust diplomatic role in the Middle East," he said, "and I am fully in support of that."



A girl walks by a house which was hit by a Hezbollah missile.
(Israel Sun photo)

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# One year after 'the storm,' New Orleans Jews rebuilding

By GAIL NARON CHALEW
*JTA*

**NEW ORLEANS** — One year after "the storm," as New Orleanians refer to Hurricane Katrina, Jewish communal leaders describe the health of the community with certain expected terms – loss, trauma, devastation and challenge.

Unexpected is the word "blessed," used repeatedly in reference to the outpouring from the American Jewish community of financial support, volunteerism and donations of everything from teddy bears to challah covers.

Funds from the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella of the North American federation system, and the national religious movements have kept New Orleans' Jewish agencies and synagogues afloat this past year and are expected to do so through 2007.

To date, the UJC has contributed more than $17 million to the rebuilding efforts; the Reform movement has contributed some $800,000 to local Reform congregations, with another $800,000 available for recovery efforts not covered by insurance. Other movements have sent funds as well, though exact figures were not available.

What will happen in 2008 and beyond is the worry that both drives many planning meetings during the day, and keeps communal leaders up at night.

**Houses were swamped by floodwaters following Hurricane Katrina a year ago. [Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA photo]**

"Fortunately, the Jewish community has not had to depend on the help of government, given its failure at all levels," said Allan Bissinger, president of the New Orleans federation. "UJC has taken the place of what the government should normally have done."

Roselle Ungar, interim executive director of the federation, said, "What UJC and the many generous contributions from individuals across the country have given us is the opportunity to take a deep breath, step back and take the time to make the hard decisions that will be necessary, so that in 2008 we can stand on our own two feet again."

A community-wide task force is in the beginning stages of implementing a recovery plan. The plan focuses on such issues as how to retain current residents while encouraging new ones to resettle here. It also is determining how the organized Jewish community can work smarter to make the best use of limited dollars.

One of the positive outgrowths of the storm has been the burgeoning spirit of co-operation among all the New Orleans Jewish institutions. Beth Israel Congregation, the Orthodox synagogue that took on 10 feet of water, is now holding a Shabbat minyan at the Reform Gates of Prayer Congregation.

The Anti-Defamation League is sharing federation office space. Interagency programs are on the upswing, and a Hebrew free loan program is in the works. The JCC is getting needed revenue by renting out its facilities to community groups.

Tackling the population issue will not be as easy. Current estimates are that the Jewish community will stabilize at about 65 per cent of its pre-storm strength of about 10,000 individuals.

Although there are no hard and fast data about the population exodus, the increasing number of "For sale" signs attests to residents' continued impatience with the slow pace of recovery, frustration with the government and concern about the rising crime rate. And it would be difficult to exaggerate the impact another hurricane would have on people's decisions to move.

Although all age groups have joined this exodus, one particular cohort – those in their 60s and 70s with grown children in other communities – has been leaving in large numbers.

Communal officials count the loss of these individuals particularly troublesome because these are the big machers – those with the money and the time to make significant contributions. Every institution has lost some of its biggest donors and officers.

At the same time, each of the five synagogues surveyed has reported new members, mostly young people drawn by the pioneer spirit of rebuilding and the opportunity to make a difference.

Indeed, despite the loss of members, synagogue attendance seems to have remained stable. As Rabbi Andrew Busch of the Reform congregation, Touro Synagogue, put it, "In their new lives after the storm, people have a greater need to come together in the synagogue."

Rabbi Ted Lichtenfeld of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation agreed. "Though I have not had people battering down my door for pastoral counselling, in a sense, the storm underlines everything. Fortunately, very few of my congregants lost family members to the storm, but most are rebuilding their homes and almost everyone's job was affected in one way or the other. That is taking up so much of their energy. They come to synagogue to be in community."

Undaunted by the storm, Chabad-Lubavitch of Louisiana has committed to build a new student centre at Tulane University; the cornerstone ceremony is scheduled to be held Aug. 27, two days before the storm's anniversary.

The New Orleans Jewish Day School, a community school supported by the federation, has been hit hard by the population exodus. From a pre-storm enrollment of nearly 90 children in kindergarten through eighth grade, it will begin the coming school year with 23 children in just two classes: a combined kindergarten-first grade and a second-third grade class. This precipitous decrease comes despite a halving of tuition, made possible by outside contributions.

## Israel Briefs

***Withdrawal plan shelved***

Israel's government has frozen plans to pull out from parts of the West Bank. Officials confirmed an Aug. 18 report in *Ha'aretz* that Prime Minister Ehud Olmert shelved for now the plan to unilaterally realign Israel's borders by pulling troops out and dismantling settlements. The plan lost favour after Israel's conflict in Lebanon. Israel's unilateral pullout from Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza last year failed to stop rocket attacks and cross-border raids.

***Gaza rocket hits Ashkelon***

A rocket fired by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip reached deeper than ever into Israel. The Russian-made Katyusha hit the Ashkelon marina Aug. 14, causing damage but no casualties. Officials said the strike, 15 miles from northern Gaza, marked a new record for Palestinian terrorists who have been trying to extend the range of their rockets. Israel's air force bombed the launcher in the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, killing three Palestinians.

***Iran issues another threat***

A senior Iranian cleric said his country would fire missiles at Tel Aviv if attacked. "If they militarily attack Iran, they should be afraid of the day when our missiles with 2,000-kilometre range will hit Tel Aviv," Ahmad Khatami told state TV. Khatami is a member of the Assembly of Experts, a clerical body that supervises Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khatami described the ceasefire that ended the war in Lebanon as a triumph for Hezbollah, which Iran sponsors, "I congratulate Hezbollah for its victory, which was the victory of Islam. This was a disgraceful defeat for America and the Zionist regime," he said.

***Justice minister resigns***

Justice Minister Haim Ramon said Aug. 18 that he will resign in the wake of sexual harassment charges. The resignation was to take effect Sunday. Israel's attorney general said he plans to indict Ramon on charges he forcibly kissed an 18-year old soldier at an office party July 12, the day fighting started between Israel and Hezbollah.

***Sharon worsens***

Ariel Sharon's condition has worsened. Doctors at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer said Aug. 14 that the former prime minister's brain function has worsened and he's developed pneumonia in his lungs. He's been in a coma since a Jan. 4 stroke.

***Breast implants save a life***

An Israeli woman wounded in a Hezbollah rocket attack was saved by her breast implants, a Nahariya hospital spokesperson said. Doctors found shrapnel only inches from the 24-year-old's heart, embedded in the implants. "This is an extraordinary case, but the silicone implants prevented her from a more serious and deeper wound," the spokesperson told Israel Army Radio.

***Meshal targeted: report***

Israel reportedly botched a second attempt to assassinate Hamas' supreme leader. Al-Jazeera reported Aug. 16 that the Mossad sent assassins into Syria last month in a bid to kill Khaled Meshal. The report said the agents were disguised as aid workers from Lebanon. Meshal escaped unharmed after being tipped off, the satellite station said. Israel had no comment. The Mossad is believed to have kept Meshal high on its hit list since a failed attempt to poison him in Jordan in 1997.

***War affected zoo animals***

Animals at the Haifa Zoo got stressed and fatter during Israel's month-long conflict with Hezbollah. *Ha'aretz* reported that the zoo's carnivores had been moved inside to keep them safe from rocket strikes and to prevent their escape in case a rocket hit the zoo's outer wall. A zoo manager said the lions gained weight during their time indoors, and the baboons suffered from stress.

*– with files from JTA*

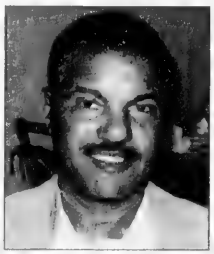
# Ethiopian staff plays key role in Falash Mora aliyah

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia** — Outside the walled compound of the Israeli embassy in Addis Ababa, hundreds of Falash Mora live patiently, waiting for the chance to convince a small group of interrogators that they are eligible to immigrate to Israel.

Among those they must convince is Adugna Biruk Farade, 58, an Ethiopian-born Israeli who speaks the same language of the applicants and understands just where they are coming from – both literally and figuratively.

Farade is a native of Guyna, a village of nearly 500 people near Gonder, historic home to the Jews of Ethiopia. Unlike the Falash Mora, whose ancestors adopted Christianity two, three or even seven generations before, Farade and his family remained Jews.



Adugna Biruk Farade

The family celebrated Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, ate kosher meat and "prayed for our own land," he said.

As a youth, after a few short years in school, Farade worked as a "cowboy," tending the family's many head of cattle. In addition to the cattle herd, the family owned lots of oxen and sheep. Many in his extended family were farmers but others were weavers. Some worked clay to make pots and his uncles laboured as blacksmiths.

As a young man, he learned from members of his family and from local rabbis all about the Jewish faith and his people's – the Beta Israel – ties to the Holy Land.

Ethiopians in general, not just the Beta Israel, were interested in Israel, but Jews in his village were so desperate for news about the Jewish state "people went 35 to 40 kilometres by foot to a town to hear the news about Israel," he recalled.

From a young age, Farade wanted to make the journey to Israel, and he began his journey well before most Ethiopian Jews considered it a feasible proposition. In 1971, he moved to Asmara, a city in Eritrea that was then part of Ethiopia and had access to the Red Sea.

At the time, Asmara had a functioning synagogue, rabbis and teachers, and it was Farade's hope that he would use it as a base to find a ship to bring him to Israel. Once there, he would attempt to reunite the family in the Holy Land.

Unfortunately, Farade was not able to collect enough cash to pay the bribes needed to acquire an Ethiopian passport, so when he took ill, he returned to Gonder, where he spent 11 months convalescing.

When he recovered, he got a job in a hotel in Gonder where he worked for years. In 1991, he moved to Addis and was hired by the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. Six months later, he got a job with the Jewish Agency.

It was the time of the second large exodus of Ethiopian Jews – Operation Solomon. He was intimately involved with the effort that brought 14,000 Beta Israel to Addis from Gonder and from there to Israel in a massive two-day airlift.

Farade, his wife and four children were on the last two planes to depart Addis for Israel. As it happened, the family was separated at the airport and his wife and one child took off on the second-last flight. Farade and three children were put on the last plane, which was delayed waiting for stragglers from a hospital as the deadline for the airlift came closer and fighting in a civil war threatened to upset the airlift.

After a nerve-racking two-hour wait, the plane took off and Farade finally arrived in the promised land. Unfortunately, his family had been taken to an absorption centre in Tiberias, and it took two weeks for the Jewish Agency – with his brothers and sisters helping – to track them down.

Six months after his arrival, Micha Feldman, the Israeli government official who co-ordinated Operation Solomon, helped get Farade a job in Tel Aviv looking into the cases of 36 Falash Mora families who had remained behind. They were not Jewish and so were not part of the airlift, but their relatives in Israel were pressing for their reunification.

In 1996, Farade was hired by the Israeli Ministry of the Interior to work on the Falash Mora file, and in 1997, he returned to Addis for the first time on a temporary basis. In 2000, he moved back full time, but he returns to Israel every three months for a couple of weeks to visit with family.

Based on his experience, he believes the Falash Mora now moving to Israel at the rate of 300 a week will experience "some difficulties. In Israel you have freedom, not like here… It's a big adjustment.

"Also, you feel it's your country, your motherland," he said.

* * *

Birhanu Yiradu Zeleke, 56, was one of the first Ethiopians to witness international efforts to integrate the country's Beta Israel into the wider Jewish world.

In the early 1970s, Zeleke was working as a cab driver in Gonder when a visiting Israeli, Levi Gershon, asked him to drive him to the village of Amibober in the Wagara area of northern Ethiopia. The Israeli was intent on visiting the Beta Israel, and Zeleke, who grew up as a Christian but who had many Beta Israel friends in school, was ready to assist him.

At one point Zeleke spent 20 days driving Gerson from village to village. The two got along so well, the Israeli eventually brought a Land Rover from Addis to Gonder to make the trips more convenient.

Gershon would open schools for Beta Israel in several villages, and Zeleke would go on to a 30-plus- year career working for Jewish organizations in Ethiopia.

He recalled that his career choice upset his relatives at the time. "When I started the job, my family said, 'why work with Beta Israel? They have the evil eye.' I said, 'Why? They have no evil eye. They're nice people.'"

Today, he is an employee of the government of Israel working to determine which Falash Mora will receive permission to move to Israel, but over his career, he has worked for the Falasha Welfare Association, ORT, individual Jews helping the Beta Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee.

He can recall the first big exodus from Ethiopia that went through Sudan, even as Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam persecuted the Jews. Beta Israel on that occasion were given a special *chai* necklace to identify them to Israeli agents who arranged their passage to the Jewish state, he said.

Zeleke's loyalty to the Beta Israel has been rewarded by the Israeli government, which in 1984 allowed him to travel to Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital for surgery and rehabilitation on his leg after a serious car accident.

In later years, four of his children were given permission to move to Israel, where they became citizens. Three converted to Judaism after three years of study and one subsequently moved to Detroit.

One of his sons has moved back to Ethiopia to work for an Israeli agricultural company, while one of his daughters is about to enter nursing school in Israel and another is dating a Beta Israel boyfriend.

Zeleke expects that when his turn comes and he returns to Israel for good, he, too, will convert. "I like Beta Israel people," he said.

# Costa Rican embassy decision angers Israel supporters

By LARRY LUXNER
*JTA*

**MIAMI** — The condominium along Diskin Street is rather upscale, with little distinguishing it from the other apartment buildings in Jerusalem's Kiryat Wolfson neighbourhood, except for a few cars bearing diplomatic license plates parked out front.

Those cars belong to the Costa Rican Embassy. Along with El Salvador, the government of Costa Rica for years has been alone in the world in officially recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital by placing its embassy there, rather than in Tel Aviv.

But last week, President Oscar Arias upset Israel and angered Costa Rica's 4,000 Jews with his announcement that he would close the embassy in Jerusalem, and transfer Ambassador Noemi Baruch and her staff to Tel Aviv.

"The decision is consistent with the obligations of international law and the resolutions of the United Nations, which for 24 years Costa Rica has disregarded by maintaining its diplomatic representation in Jerusalem," said a communique issued Wednesday in San Jose by Costa Rica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In fulfilling a promise he made before being elected president earlier this year, Arias said that moving the embassy to Tel Aviv "would rectify a historic error that has hurt our reputation on an international level and has deprived us of friendship with the Arab world and Islamic civilization, which shares our values of liberty, democracy and human rights."

Veteran Costa Rican diplomat Jaime Daremblum said he was deeply saddened by the news.

"As a Costa Rican of the Jewish faith, I think there is much more at stake here than just moving an embassy," Daremblum told JTA. "There is a big struggle in the world, in which Israel has been the victim of international terrorism, and the timing of this decision by the Costa Rican government was really deplorable."

The decision came less than 48 hours after the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon took effect, and barely a week after Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez threatened to break diplomatic relations with Israel in the wake of its monthlong conflict in Lebanon.

Daremblum, Costa Rica's ambassador in Washington from 1998 to 2004, said the move should come as no surprise for those who have followed the speeches of Arias, who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his efforts to bring peace to war-torn Central America.

"About five years ago, some news agencies reported that President Arias had indicated to audiences in the Middle East that if he became president again, he would move the embassy out of Jerusalem," said Daremblum, now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. "What he wants is anybody's guess. Apparently he wants to push for a Costa Rican seat in the UN Security Council."

Reaction from Jewish organizations in the United States was swift and angry.

"We are profoundly disappointed by Costa Rica's decision to move its embassy in Israel from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv," said a statement issued by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "Costa Rica and Israel are sister democracies with a long history of good bilateral relations, a fact which only deepens our disappointment. To make such an announcement after Israel has spent a month in intense combat with Hezbollah, when democracies must stand together against Islamic terror, sends the wrong signal to the world."

At one time, 12 Latin American countries and the Netherlands had their embassies in Jerusalem. In 1980, the United Nations passed Resolution 478, calling for the removal of all embassies in Jerusalem. Costa Rica's Foreign Affairs Ministry complied, but the ambassador at the time procrastinated for 1½ years.

For a six-month period, Costa Rica maintained a phantom embassy in Tel Aviv. But after Luis Alberto Monge was inaugurated as president in May 1982, his first official act was to move the embassy back to Jerusalem.

Two other countries – Paraguay and Bolivia – have maintained embassies in Mevasseret Zion, a suburb of Jerusalem, but only Costa Rica and El Salvador had embassies in the city itself.

Despite Costa Rica's pending departure, El Salvador says it won't follow its neighbour's example for the moment – even though the country's president, Antonio Saca, is of Palestinian descent.

# Ashkenaz celebrates resurgence of Jewish culture

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

Ashkenaz, the biennial festival of new Yiddish culture, set to take place Aug. 29 through Sept. 4 at Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, is incredibly contemporary, yet grounded in the past, says its producer and artistic director.

"The music, theatre, art, dance, literature, cabaret and film being offered, melds the traditional spirit of eastern Europe with the new, radical art being created in a contemporary resurgence of Jewish culture. It's connected, but it features a break from tradition," says Mitchell Smolkin, 28.

An actor, singer, and "Yiddishist" who is producing his third Ashkenaz, Smolkin says he first got involved with the festival because of his grandmother, a native of Poland.

"She is elderly now, and it is very hard to reconcile that for all intents and purposes, we are about to lose her culture.

"Ashkenaz is an opportunity to show ourselves on the rich, cultural landscape of Toronto, and [give] Yiddish a home."

Smolkin, who studied Yiddish at the University of Vilnius in Lithuania, and met his wife while studying the language at Columbia University, says he buried a program of a past Ashkenaz festival at his grandfather's grave because, "I knew he would have loved to see it. He would have enjoyed the intensity, the sadness and the levity."

Yiddishists are part of a very intense subculture, says Smolkin. "They connect around the idea that although it is not a living language, we have to make sure we do everything we can to make sure we preserve it. There are thousands of artists around the world devoted to [promoting] Yiddish."

**Yiddish author/teacher Michael Wex, left, appears at Ashkenaz. Mitchell Smolkin, above, is the Festival's producer.**

Ashkenaz events – a few take place at Earl Bales Park and Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre – are mostly free, although some special events require a ticket.

Musical programs include East Travels West: All Stars of the Former Soviet Union; Retro Ashkenaz: Klezmer en Buenos Aires; Yiddish Barbershop and Beyond the Pale; the Klezmer Cuban Connection; Chicago Klezmer Ensemble; and the Chassidic Jazz Project.

The two cabarets are Cabaret Russe hosted by Michael Alpert, and Cabaret, hosted by David Gale.

Among the films are *A Geshseft* (The Deal), made in New York 50 years ago; *Ashke-Animation*; and *Yiddish Theatre: A Love Story.*

Live theatre includes *Echoes and Shavings of Yiddishland*, and the *Wandering Jew* with Boris Sichon.

There are also a number of readings, workshops, panels, lectures and talks on such topics as Yiddish dance, Kabbalistic yoga, Soviet Yiddish poets, and music of the Jewish wedding celebration.

For a complete schedule visit www.ashkenazfestival.com.

# *Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass admits SS past*

By TOBY AXLEROD
*JTA*

**BERLIN** — Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass' admission that he was an SS member has drawn both rage and defences of the writer.

While some say the revelation devalues his life's work, others are showing more understanding for the pressures faced by the teenager who later would write such modern German classics as *The Tin Drum*.

Grass, 78, whose autobiography is due out this fall, told the *Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung* on Aug. 11 that he was drafted into the Waffen SS in the final months of World War II.

The Waffen SS was the elite fighting force of the SS, the Nazi Party's quasi-military unit, and was declared part of a criminal organization at the Nuremberg Trials. Grass was interned briefly in a POW camp in Bavaria after the war.

Literary critic Helmuth Karasek told the radio program *BDR* that Grass should have revealed the truth sooner, and he suggested that the Nobel Prize committee might not have wanted to honour someone "whom they knew had been a member of the Waffen SS and had long denied it." Grass won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1999.

Grass biographer Michael Juergs said he was "personally disappointed," and has called into question the validity of Grass' life work. But German writer Erich Loest told the *Tagesspiegel* newspaper that Grass' admission should be "accepted without condemnation. He was very young and there was no one to influence him in the opposite direction," he said.

German writer Ralph Giordano, who survived the war in hiding with his Jewish mother, praised Grass on the radio program *WDR2*.

"Good that you have done this, Gunter Grass," he said.

Grass told the Frankfurt paper he was drafted as a 17-year-old following a stint in a support unit for the German air force, and was brought to serve in a Waffen SS tank division in Dresden. In his forthcoming autobiography, *While Skinning an Onion*, he writes that the past had "oppressed him. My suppression of this through the years was among the reasons why I have written this book. It had to come out, finally."

Grass said he originally volunteered to serve in a Nazi submarine unit, which was "just as crazy."

Until now, Grass' biography had said that he was drafted in the support unit for the air force in 1944, then served as a soldier.

In the new book, he writes about how he was 15 when he tried to volunteer with the submarine corps and was rejected because of his age. He was called up in 1944, as were all boys born in 1927.

He was assigned to the Waffen SS, which "in the final year of the war took draftees, not only volunteers," he said in an interview with the German Press Agency.

Grass said he had never tried to hide the fact that as a youth he was vulnerable to Nazi propaganda. He also told the Frankfurt paper that he never actually served in the Waffen SS division to which he had been assigned. He ended up behind the Russian front on reconnaissance patrols, witnessing what he described as gruesome scenes and surviving by pure chance. During his brief internment as a POW, Grass says he met the similarly interned Joseph Ratzinger, who now is Pope Benedict XVI.

In an essay for the German Internet news agency Netzeitung, Israeli-born historian Michael Wolffsohn, who teaches at the University of the German Army in Munich, said Grass' "persistent silence would devalue his moralizing works, but not his novelistic works."

Further, Wolffsohn said Grass had lost a "golden opportunity" to come clean on the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II, when many were upset by the visit of then-German chancellor Helmut Kohl and then-U.S. president Ronald Reagan to a military cemetery in Bitburg, Germany, that contained SS graves.

Grass "should have stood up and said: 'I was there, too,'" Wolffsohn said. "It would have brought objectivity and realism to the discussion."

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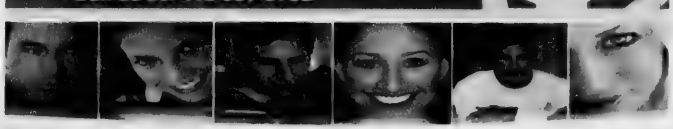

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# Travel Talk

By Bill Gladstone

## NEW INITIATIVE ENCOURAGES TRAVELLERS BACK TO GALILEE

Israel's tourism ministry launched a major new program last week to bring travellers back to northern Israel.

This summer was gearing up to be one of the best for northern Israel's hundreds of hotels, inns and bed and breakfasts, until the recent round of hostilities chased most of the tourists away from the Galilee and Haifa regions.

"The Galilee is one of Israel's favourite vacation regions," says ministry representative Arie Sommer. "And while the ceasefire will bring tourists back to northern Israel, we wanted to do something right now for Americans [and Canadians] who may have changed their summer plans to avoid that part of the country."

Working with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the tourism ministry has come up with Galilee Spirit, an innovative program through which travellers book and pay now for travel to be conducted any time through June 30, 2007.

The "pay-now, travel-soon" arrangement will help the travel industry in Israel's northern region, which has suffered greatly as a result of the recent crisis. By assuring a stream of current income, hoteliers will be able to sustain their businesses, pay employees and suppliers, and reopen as soon as possible.

For more details, visit the website www.goisrael.com, then click on "Galilee Spirit."

Between 2.5 and 3 million visitors had been expected this year in Israel, which is gearing up to celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2008.

* * *

**September Mission:** A solidarity mission involving members of Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim congregation and other interested parties departs for Israel Sept. 10 and returns Sept. 17. Round-trip travel is by El Al Airlines and accommodation is at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

The package includes full Israeli breakfasts, Friday night dinner and Shabbat lunch, 3½ days of touring and more. The price is $1,399 per person, double occupancy, with a single supplement of $379 and an airport tax of $65.
For reservations or information, contact David Freudmann, Uniworld Travel, 416-493-3322, ext. 356. E-mail david@uniworldtravel.com.

* * *

**At the Israel Museum:** The travelling public may have overlooked the recent opening of "Other Rooms, Other Voices: Contemporary Art from the FRAC Collections," an exhibition at the Israel Museum of Jerusalem, inspired by the European "cabinet of curiosities" of the 16th and 17th centuries. Organized by the Israel Museum, the exhibition is presented in distinct rooms, each comprising sculptural installations by French and international artists from the collections of Fonds Regionaux d'art Contemporain (FRAC) of France.

It presents a labyrinthine journey through 17 rooms, perceived as "chambers of wonders" filled with installations and sculptures. The notion originates from the European *Wunderkammer* of the 16th and 17th centuries, recognized as a precursor to the modern museum, which presented collections of natural and manufactured rarities, marvels and curiosities. On view through Oct. 28.

* * *

**Babi Yar Commemoration:** Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko recites his poem *Babi Yar* and pianists Misha and Cipa Dichter perform a movement from a two-piano version of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13, which the composer based on the Yevtushenko poem, at a 65th anniversary commemoration of the Babi Yar massacre next month in New York.

Tens of thousands of Jews, Soviet prisoners of war, gypsies, underground fighters and others from Kiev and environs were killed by the Nazis at a ravine called Babi Yar on Sept. 29 and 30, 1941. This mass murder is the subject of Yevtushenko's most famous poem and has also become immortalized in the music of Dmitri Shostakovich.

Born in Russia in 1933, Yevtushenko wrote *Babi Yar* in 1961; it was not published in the Soviet press until 1984. He currently teaches Russian and European poetry and film at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Babi Yar Remembered: Yevtushenko and Shostakovich in Word and Song takes place at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. 36 Battery Pl., Manhattan. $25 to $65. 646-437-4202, www.mjhnyc.org

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**Czech This Out:** Prague's Jewish Museum marks its 100th anniversary this year and has launched a yearlong marathon of events. "A Year of Jewish Culture – 100 Years of the Jewish Museum in Prague" includes exhibitions, theatre performances, concerts, film screenings, a "video-sculpture" and a collection of Torahs.

A large exhibition of Czech Torah scrolls opens Oct. 25 at the museum's Robert Guttmann Gallery. The exhibition traces the fate of Torah scrolls during the Holocaust and afterward. Some of the scrolls were sold in 1964 and are now lent out for religious purposes to Jewish communities around the world through the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre in London.

A current exhibition, "How the Beast Did Not Triumph," traces the museum's first decades, beginning with several objects being saved from the synagogues demolished during the slum clearance of the Jewish ghetto. By the outbreak of World War II, the museum had assembled a fine collection of Jewish artifacts.

Canadian artist Melissa Shiff created a video-sculpture in the shape of a huge ship or ark, specifically for the anniversary. The ark motif represents the museum, which has saved documents and artifacts from the 1,000-year Jewish presence in the Czech lands.

A two-part travelling exhibition, "The History of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia" and "Jewish Customs and Traditions," is on view in the town of Carlsbad during September (www.jewishmuseum.cz). A week of Jewish culture is also planned for Brno, Nov. 18 to 25. For more details, visit the museum website, www.jewishmuseum.cz.

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# Proceeds from CD launch to help rebuild north Israel

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

While travelling in northern Israel earlier this month, Menashe Solomon, spiritual leader of the Kiever Congregation, discovered that an upcoming concert at the synagogue featuring Balagan, a world music fusion band with an Israeli twist, happened to coincide with the birthday of Gilad Shallit, the Israeli soldier kidnapped in Gaza two months ago.

"It turns out that his birthday is the 28th of August, which is for us the evening of Aug. 27th when our concert takes place," Solomon wrote in an e-mail from Israel. He subsequently announced that the Kiever is going to dedicate this concert to Shallit. "We'll be sending all of the proceeds to help rebuild the north of Israel."

The concert, which takes place 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 27 at the Kiever, a vintage synagogue located at 25 Belleview Ave. in Kensington Market, will be the official launch of the band's eponymous CD– *Balagan*.

Solomon added that it was very apropos that Balagan would be performing at this benefit concert for Israel because so much of their music is in Hebrew.

Indeed, Haifa-born vocalist and guitarist Mickey Lewin, co-leader of Balagan, stresses that the group offers a unique Israeli approach to world music. "We are the only band in the country that plays such an eclectic collection of world music in Hebrew."

"All the songs have Hebrew words," says pianist and keyboardist Jordan Klapman, co-leader of Balagan. "Some of the songs are Israeli. Some are from all over the world, but they are Hebrew renditions that have been popular in Israel.

**Balagan: World music in Hebrew**

"A lot of these songs are popular all over the world. Some songs are done in the original English with Hebrew and Spanish, other songs are in English, Hebrew and French. We also do a Brazilian song in Hebrew and English."

Other members of Balagan include vocalist Sharon Smith, percussionist Lori Wolf, and guitarist Avital Zemer.

Balagan consists of an assortment of musicians with varying musical backgrounds, says Klapman. "Everyone's an accomplished musician in their own right."

He says that the name Balagan, Hebrew slang for a mess, means chaos or mishmash in Polish and Russian.

"It was suggested to us by someone at the JCC. The name's evocative. It worked in different languages and it made sense. We're a very eclectic band. We incorporate many different styles in our music."

The group plays vintage jazz pieces from the 1920s and '30s, Broadway standards, and Yiddish/klezmer folk tunes, says Lewin. "What sets us apart from simchah music is that there's a real rock, rhythm and blues and pop component integrated with samba, Africo-Cuban, Moroccan, Greek, and Celtic rhythms.

"A lot of the music is dance oriented."

He says he also expects a lot of audience participation. "Many people will be singing along because so many of these pieces are popular songs.

"We will also be performing a whole medley of peace songs from different countries."

While the concert happens to coincide with the monthly summer street festival in Kensington Market, Klapman says that for him the market symbolizes the historic roots of the Toronto Jewish community.

He says he's thrilled about performing at the Kiever. "The old style European set up of the synagogue is very quaint. The place is beautifully preserved. The acoustics are amazing and there's even air conditioning."

Lewin shares his enthusiasm. "We'll be playing on the bimah. For me this is the ultimate concert in the square."

And while he says the music is uplifting, the concert is also a reminder of the sad plight of Shallit and his family. "We are honoured to be dedicating the concert to Gilad Shallit. We are praying for his release and at the same time for the safe return of the other two POWs held by the Hezbollah."

For more information about the concert or the Kiever call 647-403-7714.

# *Photo book focuses on the Jewish struggle*

By JOSEPH SERGE
*Arts Editor*

*The 4000 Year Journey in Search of Peace* is a beautiful 24-page coffee-table book of pictures and photographs that cover the span of Jewish history.

It is put together by Montreal photographer Danny Taran who says in the foreward that he wanted to draw attention to the Jewish struggle over the years through the medium of photography.

**Above, A Jewish Family (Kaifeng, China), 1910.**
**Left, A Palestinian boy and a Jewish girl planting a tree: Hope for the future.**

Obviously, photography is a relatively recent innovation, so the book focuses heavily on the last century of Jewish life – culture, education, tradition, innovation and wars. It does begin with some beautiful colour illustrations of the biblical period.

**The "Herb Doctor" selling herbs and spices. [Earliest known photograph of a Jewish Montrealer]. 1859.**

It then switches to photography, highlighting Jewish tradition and culture, including one of nursery-school children in 1938 Lithuania celebrating Purim. These kids probably all died in a 1939 pogrom.

There is an unusual picture of a Chinese Jewish family in Kaifeng and one of a "herb doctor," the earliest known photograph of a Jewish Montrealer (1859).

A good portion of the book is spent on the wartime communities and the Holocaust. It then continues with pictures of Zionists and the settlement of Israel; the Arab-Israel wars and more recent pictures of the intifadah and the Gaza pullout as well as Israeli scientific achievement.

The Jewish National Fund is hosting a launch and photo exhibit of this book at the Loggia Room of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., Toronto, on Sept. 10 from 1 to 9 p.m. The exhibit runs until Sept. 29.

The book can be purchased during the exhibit for $54. A tax receipt for $36 will be issued. All proceeds go toward the JNF.

# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## ASHKENAZ YIDDISH FEST ENLIVENS LABOUR DAY WEEKEND AT HARBOURFRONT

Ashkenaz, Toronto's energetic biennial festival of new Yiddish culture, returns to Harbourfront this Labour Day weekend (Sept. 2 to 4) with more than 60 performances in eight venues. In the meantime, klezmer lovers can whet their appetites at these four preliminary events, Aug. 29 to 31:

• East Travels West: All-Stars of the Former Soviet Union features members of the **Kharkov Klezmer Band**, **Di Minsker Kapelye**, **Dobranotch Band** and other musicians at the Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre, Earl Bales Park. Tuesday, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. Admission free.

• **Ashkenazim**, Russia's finest Jewish a cappella group, sings from their repertoire of original compositions for Yiddish poems, as well as rare Jewish songs, Yiddish folk songs, klezmer music and *niggunim* (tunes). *The Ashkenazim*, a documentary film, is also scheduled for screening. The event includes pre- and post-performance receptions with refreshments. Nosh will be served. Miles Nadal JCC, Al Green Theatre, Wednesday, Aug. 30. Reception 7 p.m., screening and performance 8 p.m. Tickets $36.

• Retro Ashkenaz features the hot bands **Les Yeux Noirs** and **Klezmer En Buenos Aires**. Harbourfront Centre Concert Stage, Thursday, Aug. 31, 8 p.m. $25 in advance, $30 at the door.

• A preview performance of *Echoes and Shavings of Yiddishland*, a musical and dramatic tribute to Yiddish composer **Mordekhay Gebirtig**, is presented by France's LufTeater. Harbourfront Centre Theatre, Thursday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m. $10. (Tickets for performances on Sept. 2 and 3 are $18.)

Tickets to Ashkenaz are available at the York Quay Centre box office, Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay W. 416-973-4000. For a full schedule of events, visit www. ashkenazfestival.com.

* * *

**Manuscript Competition:** A cash award of $1,000 awaits the author of the best fiction manuscript appropriate for readers ages 8 to 11, as submitted to the 22nd annual Sydney Taylor Manuscript Competition of the Association of Jewish Libraries. The story should have universal appeal, yet serve to deepen the understanding of Judaism and reveal positive aspects of Jewish life; the author should be previously unpublished. Submission deadline is Dec. 31. Entry forms and rules available at the AJL website, www.jewishlibraries.org.

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**Names in the News**

• A local production of **Hannah Moscovitch**'s *The Russian Play* won the SummerWorks Jury Prize for Outstanding Production last week. The play, set amidst the rotten ideals of Stalinist Russia, is being remounted at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre next February.

• Kingston academic **Zailig Pollock**, the well-known **A.M. Klein** scholar, has edited a new book of essays by the notable Canadian poet and painter **P.K. Page**. *The Filled Pen: Selected Non-Fiction of P.K. Page* is due for release from the University of Toronto Press in December.

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• The band **Balagan**, led by **Jordan Klapman** and **Mickey Lewin**, plays classic hits with Israeli, Moroccan, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and Celtic rhythms. Kiever Synagogue, 25 Bellevue Ave. Aug. 27, 8:30 p.m. $10.

• Moscow-born electric violinist **Eugene Draw**, a "brilliant young musician [who has] created inspired compositions beyond his 23 years," has performed privately for some of Canada's most well-appointed families, including the Rogers, Tanenbaums, Westons and Schwartz-Reismans. He appears with full band at Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W., Sept. 2 and 3, 8:30 p.m. www.hughsroom.com. $23-$25.

• The Performing Arts Lodge offers an evening of poetry featuring internationally acclaimed poets and performance artists **Bill Bissett** and **Adeena Karasick**. 110 The Esplanade. PWYC ($10 suggested). Saturday, Aug. 26, 8 p.m. Karasick, who lives in New York and has been called "a tour de force of linguistic doublespeak," also appears at the Ashkenaz Festival, Saturday, Sept. 2.

* * *

**At the Galleries:** More than 40 original art works from Canada's most renowned book illustrators, including **Brian Deines**, **Ron Lightburn**, **Marie-Louise Gay** and **Barbara Reid**, are being auctioned in support of the Canadian Children's Book Centre. Hosted by the CBC's **Michael Enright**, the event also features readings from **Dennis Lee**, **Karen Levine** and other authors. Tickets $150. Four Seasons Hotel, Regency Ballroom, 21 Avenue Rd. Tuesday, Sept. 26. Reception and viewing, 6:30 p.m. Live and silent auction, 7:15 p.m.. 416-975-0010, info@bookcentre.ca. View the artwork at www.bookcentre.ca/artauction.

**Ashkenaz returns to Toronto's harbourfront this Labour Day weekend.**

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Books & Authors

# *Modigliani* and Pissarro scrutinized in two separate books

***Modigliani* by Jeffrey Meyers, Raincoast Books; and *Camille Pissarro* by Terence Maloon, Yale University Press.**

**By SHELDON KIRSHNER**
*Staff Reporter*

Amadeo (Modi) Modigliani and Camille Pissarro, both Sephardi Jews, were among the greatest visual artists of their times.

Now, thanks to two volumes published recently, their lives are, so to speak, an open book.

Jeffrey Meyers' *Modigliani* is a rich and nuanced biography of a painter who died young, before his stellar talents were fully appreciated by critics.

**Jeffery Meyers**

*Camille Pissarro* by Terence Maloon and four scholars well acquainted with his works offers a keen appraisal of Pissarro's style and his contributions to the art world.

Meyers, a prolific author, says that Modigliani's life was marked by sudden, radical changes – from health to sickness, Italy to France, bourgeois to bohemian, sober to drunk and drugged, sculpture to portraits and nudes.

The scion of Jews expelled from Spain during the Inquisition, he was born in Livorno (Leghorn), the Tuscan port between Genoa and Rome where Hebrew printing thrived and where Jews lived without overt anti-Semitic restrictions.

A sickly child who suffered from pleurisy, typhoid, headaches and tuberculosis, Modigliani was the apple of his mother's eye. She encouraged and nurtured his artistic temperament, and he made the best of the opportunities availed to him.

Brimming with ambition, he arrived in Paris in his early 20s, determined to make his mark. Delicate in appearance, refined, soft spoken, well dressed and fluent in French, he left a favourable impression on those who crossed his path, Meyers observes.

Due to his charm and charisma, he had no trouble making friends. Modigliani formed fast friendships with, among others, Pablo Picasso, Maurice Utrillo, Marc Chagall, Chaim Soutine and the French writers Max Jacob and Andre Salmon.

Yet Modigliani was a paradoxical figure. Friends were struck by the contrast between his personal fastidiousness and his tendency to exhibitionism. And while he was frail and nervous, he was also aggressive, his volatile temper suddenly flaring up, particularly when he felt an anti-Jewish slur.

It should be noted that he arrived in Paris in 1906, the year that Alfred Dreyfus, a French army captain, was finally exonerated of the treason of which he had been accused.

Supported by his mother, Modigliani was the consummate free-spirited artist, frequenting cafés, visiting museums, galleries and the latest exhibitions and reading in libraries.

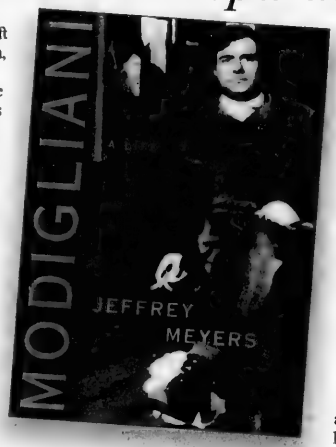
He was broadly influenced by the Art Nouveau movement, cubism, German Expressionism and African sculpture, but also by artists such as Gauguin and Cezanne.

Modigliani exhibited his works for the first time in 1907, but he failed to sell anything, and as Meyers notes, this pattern continued until his death.

Although he was intensely proud of his Jewish background, he was not, in the narrow sense of the word, a "Jewish" artist. Yet his work contained some specifically Jewish imagery, as Meyers explains.

Art was the sole stable element in Modigliani's chaotic life, his only solace and purpose. Again and again, Meyers returns to the sombre theme of his dissolute lifestyle.

Amid illness, poverty and the debilitations of drugs and alcohol, he created a brilliant body of work that ultimately sealed his reputation.




According to Meyers, Modigliani produced the bulk of his paintings in the last five years of his life, but never kept track of them. He lost many of them while moving from one dingy tenement to another, gave some away and sold others to pay his bills.

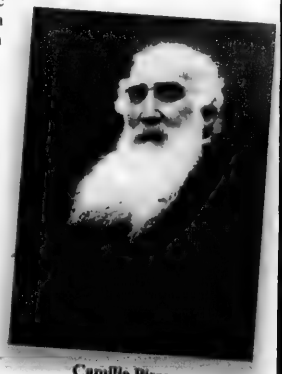
Meyers devotes considerable space to Modigliani's romantic liaisons. He was quite a ladies' man and flitted from one woman to the next. But his deepest relationships were with Beatrice Hastings of Britain, Simone Thiroux of Quebec and Jeanne Hebuterne of France.

Sadly, Modigliani received no recognition in his lifetime, but today his works are highly prized. As Meyers puts it, "He could not entirely fulfil his artistic destiny, but he left us with some of the most beautiful and original paintings of the 20th century."

The same can be said of Pissarro, the only member of the Impressionist school to exhibit in all eight of their exhibitions in Paris from 1874 to '86.

Born in 1830 on the Danish West Indies island of St. Thomas, the son of a prosperous French merchant family, he was convinced that he was destined to be a painter.

He began his artistic training when he was in his early 20s, and from the outset, showed a partiality for landscape paintings.



**Camille Pissarro**

But Pisarro had a special affinity for cityscapes as well, and during the last decade of his life he produced more than 300 paintings of the cities of Paris, Rouen, Dieppe and Le Havre.

Although he showed a remarkable aptitude for portraiture, he never accepted a commission, and chose an assortment of women as his subjects, ranging from his adult daughter (*Woman Sewing*) to peasant women and domestic servants (*Young Farmgirl* and *The Young Maid*).

In his paintings, he strove for economy and elegance, using the simplest and sparest means to achieve the most vivid and compelling effect.

"The great problem to solve is to bring everything, even the smallest details, into the harmony of the whole," he wrote.

Maloon says that the pictorial qualities of his paintings, from *Montmarte* to *The Fence*, are evident in the success of the composition and the beauty of the colour, texture and handling.

He and Claude Monet were the principal organizers of the first Impressionist exhibition. Pissarro was not only regarded as the unifying figure of that seminal movement, but was revered by the artists he mentored, from Gaugin to Matisse.

But for all his fealty to Impressionism, Pissarro had no problem making the transition to neo-Impressionism, claiming it was "a new phase in the logical advancement of Impressionism."

Compared to *Modigliani*, there is an unfortunate dearth of early biographical data in *Camille Pissarro*.

But this, nevertheless, is a handsome and eye-catching coffee-table volume, filled with the luminous beauty of 150 of Pissarro's greatest paintings.

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## Sleep apnea literally takes your breath away

By FRANCES GOODMAN PELLATT
*Special to The CJN*

**MONTREAL** — Does your partner snore? Do you have thoughts of moving into another room at night because of it? You may want to reconsider sleeping in another room and get your partner to a doctor.

As people age, changes occur that affect sleep habits, including snoring, especially when sleeping on your back. Research shows that individuals who snore excessively loudly may have a disorder called sleep apnea. Besides snoring, they may also stop breathing periodically while asleep.

With apnea – literally meaning "without breath" – the muscles in the back of the throat are not able to keep the throat open, creating blockages in the airway resulting in interruptions in breathing during sleep. Constant breathing interruption of 10 seconds and more is reason for alarm. Cessation of breathing results in deprivation of oxygen in the blood and, besides being life threatening, can cause daytime problems such as sleepiness, memory lapses, irritability, hypertension, headaches, difficulty concentrating and car accidents.

According to the National Sleep Foundation (NSF) website, people who suffer from cardiovascular problems have a higher prevalence of sleep apnea.

Mary Glick (not her real name) noticed that her husband John (who was 59 years old at the time and had been diagnosed with a heart condition several years previously) would frequently stop breathing while he was asleep. She insisted that he tell his doctor about this.

Finally, after two years of Mary poking him each time she became aware that he stopped breathing for several seconds while asleep, he sought help. At an overnight sleep clinic, John was hooked up to a machine while he slept and the periods of apnea (breathing stoppages) were monitored. The results were conclusive – he was suffering from obstructive sleep apnea, a serious sleeping disorder that can be treated easily.

There are several treatment option methods. They include avoiding tobacco and alcohol; taking sedatives or medications that relax the airway; regular exercise and weight reduction; not sleeping on your back; surgery; and the use of a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) device worn during sleep.

John admits now that he used to be overly tired during the day. His doctor noted that John's overweight condition was also a contributing factor to the problem, and suggested that he use a CPAP device, a unit with air pressure that is specifically set to each person's needs. The CPAP unit pushes oxygen through the nose, thus keeping the throat open, which prevents snoring and apnea.

John has been using the device every night for the past four years knowing it is a treatment not a cure. He says it has made a tremendous difference to his quality of life, as he now gets a better night's sleep due to the fact that he no longer has disruptions or stoppages of breathing.

Although sleep apnea can affect anyone, male or female at any age, some factors that increase the risk, according to the NSF, are a small upper airway (caused by a large tongue, tonsils or uvula); being overweight; having a recessed chin, a small jaw or a large overbite; having a large neck size; use of cigarettes and alcohol; and being over 40 years old. The literature also notes that this condition "seems to run in some families, suggesting a possible genetic basis."

Interestingly, John's older brother also suffers from sleep apnea and is using an air device as well to ensure uninterrupted sleep, and he also says he now sleeps better at night.

Signs you may be suffering from this disorder include experiencing snoring on a regular basis that can be heard from another room, and being told you stop breathing or that you make loud, gasping noises while sleeping. The Epworth Sleepiness Scale, used by sleep researchers around the world, asks questions such as how likely are you to doze off or fall asleep while sitting and reading, while watching TV, as a passenger in a car for an hour without a break, or when stopped for a few minutes in traffic while driving a car.

If you think you or a loved one are suffering from a sleeping disorder, bring it to the attention of your doctor. An overnight stay at a sleep clinic may save your life.

## Fourteen-year-old puts on a fundraising show

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

There aren't many kids who can say that their summer job consists of producing, directing and acting in a theatre production.

Fourteen-year-old Brian Lee of Thornhill is doing just that – producing, directing and starring in a musical revue to raise money for Giant Steps – a school for children with autism.

Brian Lee

"We have a family friend whose son is autistic. I grew up with him... and he went to Giant Steps. I remember his mom always talking about it [the school], and hearing about it, and I was looking for a charity this year and I wanted to do something to do with autism, so I thought it would be something to do," said Brian.

Last year, at the age of 13, after finishing his final year at Leo Baeck Day School, he produced and directed *That's Dancin'*, a music and dance show presented at the Markham Theatre for Perfoming Arts, to raise money for the Teresa Group – a charity for people and their families living with or affected by AIDS/HIV.

"Last year, what happened was this charity did a book launch at my elementary school, and I thought it was a great charity and I thought of what I could do to raise money for them. I'm very involved with theatre, so I thought it was a good way to do it," he said.

Brian said he's working on this year's production "off and on, because when [not everyone is] sitting and working on it, you have to make sure you have enough money coming in – that type of thing. You're going out getting ads for the program, that type of thing – corporate sponsors," he said.

Brian said charities such as the Teresa Group and Giant Steps are worthy causes.

"Giant Steps uses therapy to enhance the kids' social skills [so that eventually] they can go to public school," he said.

Brian's show this year, called *Children Will Listen*, is a musical revue with a cast and crew of 11. So far, approximately $1,000 has been raised for Giant Steps.

Brian said he has always had an innate desire to help those who need it.

"I can't really explain it... It does give you a great feeling when you help," he added.

Brian said getting involved with fundraising for a cause is not as complicated as people assume.

"You get an idea [of what you want to do to support a charity] and you contact them with your idea and they'll support you if they think it's a worthwhile idea," he said.

In May, Brian, along with stage actors Lisa Sunshine, Andrew Pifko and Shannon Barnett, performed the musical show *On Broadway*, with Marshall Loomer, the cantor of Beth David Congregation, at the synagogue.

"[Loomer] did my bar mitzvah with me and heard me sing," said Brian of how he came to work with Loomer. "We then started doing duets on Rosh Hashanah."

Brian said his ultimate goal is to revive the audience for theatre.

*Children Will Listen* will be performed at the Yorkwoods Library Theatre on Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Brian at 647-295-1124 or e-mail him at childrenwilllisten@hotmail.com. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for students and seniors.

# CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY


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500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
512 WAITERING SERVICES
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW SERVICES
550 WORKSHOPS


## 5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

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**BATHURST/SHEPPARD – JUST LISTED!!**
Large 3 Bdrm Ranch Bungalow - On pool size Lot! On cul-de-sac, Double Garage, Finished basement with 1 bdrm Apt & Sep Entrance, + Large Rec Room, Extras Galor!! Must See!! *Ted Waxman

* * *

**BATHURST/ELGIN MILLS**
Approx 2750 sq.ft 2 Years new, Large 4 Bdrm Home, 9 Foot Ceilings, Hardwood, Decorative Pillers, Balance of new home Warranty - Extras Galor!! Shows Great!! Asking $495,000. *Mark Waxman

* * *

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With separate Entrance To large self contained basement Apartment, Updated immaculate house, Steps to TTC, School & Shopping, Excellent for Investment. Call *Cila Fleischmann

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A real showplace, Upgraded from top to bottom, Stone & Stucco Elevation, Gleaming Hrdwd Floors, Marble Floors & Backsplash, Upgraded Kitchen & Appliances, Gas Cooktop, Custom Window Coverings, Must See!!! Call *Cila Fleischmann

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Approx 1400 sq.ft, Large 2 Bedroom Condo, Hardwood, Open concept, Ens. Storage & Laundry, Appliances, Incredible Value!! Must See!! Asking $220,000 *Ted Waxman

* * *

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* * *

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Approx 1300 sq.ft 2 bdrm, 2 washrooms, Panoramic View throughout, 2 walkouts to balcony. Asking $268,800. Call *Mila Gurfinkel

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**BATHURST/CENTRE**
New Condos, Disera Drive, Amazing Facilities, Granite Kitchen countertops, Close To Promenade, TTC, High reputation schools, "Shabat" Elevator!! 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms available, Starting at $179,000, some units available for rent. For more information & to view these stunning Units Call *Mila Gurfinkel

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*Chairman's Club Award Winner*
*2003 • 2004 • 2005*

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- $1,799,000 5+2 bdrms, 9 baths, 2 kitchens, 100' x 180' lot
- $1,799,000 5+3 bdrms, 8 baths, w/out bsmt, 100' x 308' lot
- $1,600,000 4+2 bdrms, 7 baths, fin bsmnt, 150' x 140' (excl.)
- $1,299,000 gorgeous 100'x 308' mature treed lot
- $818,800 5 bdms, 4 baths, huge eat-in kit, sep ent pot bsmnt apt.
- $729,000 mature treed lot 100'x180', rentable bungalow
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HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LTD. BROKERAGE
416-441-2888

**Stephen Bianco,**
Sales Representative
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Norman Hill Realty Inc (brkr)
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Norman Hill Realty Inc (brkr)
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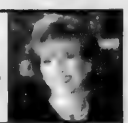

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**BRAND NEW** custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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**HUGE BACKSPLIT!** Ideal family home, 4 + 1 bedrooms, 4 baths, sep. entry to self-contained apartment, huge family room on lower level, main floor library, 2 heating & AC zones. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $499,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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- **BATHURST / LAWRENCE** 3 bdrm. 1 1/2 storey home, $1,500
- **BATHURST / RANEE** 4 bdrm. bung., 2,400 sq. ft., $3,250
- **BATHURST / WILSON** 3 + 1 bdrm. bungalow, $1,800
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Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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* * *

**BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000**
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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**CUSTOM EXECUTIVE 4 + 2 BEDROOM HOME!** Bright & spacious, stained double door glass entry, family-size kitchen, huge rec. room, new carpets, gleaming hardwood floors. **ONLY $869,000 — ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Neo-Classic limestone residence. Impeccably restored retaining architectural detailing. Grand principal rooms. Estate sized lot (150' x 170'). Lavish grounds, 75' lap pool. $10,800,000

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The Prince Arthur. One of the most prestigious condo buildings in Toronto. Close to the amenities of Bloor St. and Yorkville. Approx 3,100 sq. ft. Floor to ceiling windows offer tremendous views. $2,825,000.

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**BEAUTIFUL FULLY RENOVATED 4 BDRM, 3 ELEGANT BATHS**
186' lot with pool, kitchen & master bath addition, new decks 10++ $1,477,000. Debi Stone* 416-226-1987

**NEW PRICE! FABULOUS AVENUE/ST. CLAIR $1,195,000**
5+1 Bdrm, Centre Hall, Large LR, Den, DR, Hardwood Floors, Sep Entrance to Finished Basement. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

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Yonge N/Finch! Amazing 5+2Br 5Bth! Mn Fam+Lib+Lau+2Pce! W/ Out Bsmt! Superb 50x191'! Sandon Schwartzben **416-226-1987

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Spacious 3 Bdrm Bungalow on Huge Lot, 69.37 x 102.75, 3 Bdrms in Basement. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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1790 sq. ft Premium South Facing Courtyard Unit, Loaded With Upgrades, 3 Bdrms, 3 Baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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2,084 sq.ft. 3 Bdrm + Private Terrace, Fireplace, Laundry, Central Air. Allen Tobe** 416-488-2875

**FOREST HILL VILLAGES – JUST $539,000**
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**ELEGANT BLOOR STREET!! $214,000**
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Broker

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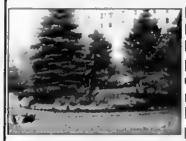

**HEMISPHERES.** 2 Bedroom, kitchen and solarium overlook beautiful park, Ultra modern powder room. Locker and laundry en-suite. New parquet floors, newer appliances. Direct bus to Finch subway station. Outdoor pool. 2 parking spaces. $199,000.

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JUST FINISHED. MOVE IN NOW, ENJOY APROX. 7,500 SQ FT., GOURMET KITCHEN, WALKOUT BASEMENT, 100 FT WATERFRONT, 10 MIN. NORTH OF BARRIE, $1.1 MIL

FOR MORE INFO. CALL OWNER, TERRY,
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**HIDDEN TREASURE**
**MEADONTE/HIGHLANDS**
*(North of Barrie)*
**WWW.CARLENOR.COM**

## 15 HOUSES FOR RENT

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**3000 Bathurst St.**
**Luxury Building**
**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer, solarium, prkng, Shabbes elevator, near Shul. Price reduced for immediate sale.
$ 265,000. Zidner Realty
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**BATHURST & LAWRENCE**
***New Listing!***
'THE ENCORE' bright corner suite 2 bdrm/2 bath approx 1140 sf, lovely hardwood flrs, large eat-in kitchen, balcony, parking, locker. $389,900
**KAREN G. ANTHONY**, B.A.
Sales Representative
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**WILSON HEIGHTS/SHEPPARD**
Large bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished basement, double garage, large lot, next to plaza.
**BATHURST/SHEPPARD**
3 bdrm, 2 bath, L shaped living & dining room, fin bsmt, garage.
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**SALLY ROSEN**
**905-764-7111**
**BATHURST & WILSON**
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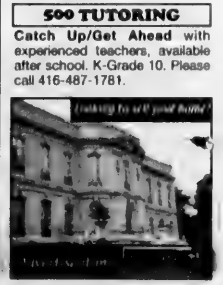

Coast to Coast

# Duceppe had 'duty to denounce Islamic extremists,' says Gold

**Continued from page 3**

"We tried to stop [the Hezbollah supporters] but it is tough to control 15,000 people... I don't know how many times we asked them to get out, but they kept coming back. Next time around, I hope we have more people in charge of security."

Although Baker's letter was dated Aug. 8, Duceppe said he received it the morning of Aug. 17, noting that the date was two days after the ambassador had given it to the media. Duceppe said he found it inappropriate that it was in English only and said that he did not plan to respond formally.

Duceppe said that the letter he received from the CIC, which was dated Aug. 16 and written in French – was "quite different in tone and in fact. It recognized that we have denounced terrorism."

Signed by CIC president Marc Gold, the letter also expressed the CIC's "profound anxiety" over the rally, especially the pro-Hezbollah presence, and the "clearly anti-Israel" statement released in advance of it.

Gold claimed that the event "created a toxic environment" in Quebec and damaged public discourse.

Gold noted that the statement contains no mention of "the fact that Israel was reacting to an attack and only exercising its most fundamental right to defend itself. Moreover, it contained no explicit denunciation of Hezbollah."

Gold also wrote that, judging from the placards at the rally, it was "more anti-Israel than pro-peace." With the appearance of several Hezbollah flags at a much smaller demonstration last week outside the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, where former U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell was speaking at a Jewish National Fund event, Gold writes that these incidents are no longer isolated.

As the leader of an important political movement in Quebec and Canada, Duceppe has a "duty to denounce Islamic extremists, here and in the world," Gold wrote.

"We believe you must also reaffirm that differences of opinion in Quebec have to be settled in a respectful, democratic and peaceful way. The excesses of the Aug. 7 [sic] demonstration, and certain messages that were conveyed there, have created a toxic environment in Quebec, that is harming the tone and the quality of democratic debate in our society," he added.

"We equally believe that the sovereigntist movement must distance itself from any attempt to exploit for purposes that are contrary to Quebec values of freedom, equality, democracy, secularism and the respect for the rights of women and minorities."

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# Israeli doubles team ousted early at Rogers Cup

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
*Special to The CJN*

The Israeli Davis Cup doubles team of Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram created high expectations when they finished in the semi-final and final rounds at the last two Rogers Cup Canadian Open tennis tournaments in 2004 and 2005.

So when the Israelis lost their opening match 6-4, 3-6, 10-6, to Wayne Arthurs and Dominik Hrbaty, the duo and their many fans in Toronto were disappointed.

About 200 fans, some wearing kippot and waving Israeli flags, encouraged Erlich and Ram throughout the match at the Rexall Centre at York University. Their enthusiasm helped the Israeli duo rebound with two service breaks in the second set to tie the match.

But the pro-Israeli crowd couldn't help the Israelis return Arthur's serve in the 10-point tie break, as the match was basically over after Arthurs and Hrbaty built the lead to 9-4.

Although disappointed by the loss, Erlich and Ram stayed on after the match for 15 minutes to sign autographs, take photos and thank their Toronto supporters.

"We never take any of our fans for granted. We love coming here, seeing much support from Toronto's Jewish community and the many Israelis living here," Ram said.

Asked whether Israel's conflict with Hezbollah, which was raging at the time, affected their play, Erlich replied: "The war is not an excuse for us losing. When we are on the court, we try to forget about all else that is happening in the world."

But off the court, Erlich and Ram did call family members to see how they were holding up. The duo live in Tel Aviv, but Erlich's parents, Daniel and Susana, live in Haifa.

"None of the rockets that came to Haifa came near their neighborhood, but I call them as often as I can," Erlich said.

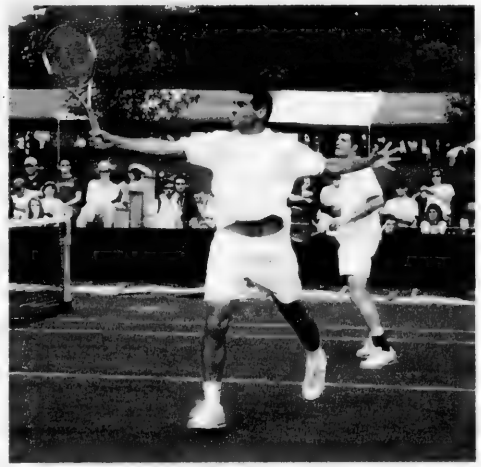
Erlich and Ram said they're happy to have come to Toronto, and to have gone to other international tournaments, where their focus remains tennis. "We are not doing ourselves or our families any good by not playing. Our mission is to represent our country well and to give peace and happiness to our friends back home for all our success," Ram said.

Over the past few months, Erlich and Ram have generated lots of praise in Israel for their achievements. In late June, Erlich and Ram won a doubles tournament in England. Ram then won the mixed doubles title two weeks later in July at Wimbledon with Russian Vera Zvonareva, becoming the first Israeli ever to win a Grand Slam tennis title.

One week later, Ram and Erlich upset the favourite British Davis Cup team in England to advance to the World Group two competition.

Erlich and Ram are now ranked sixth among doubles teams in the world.

Ram intends to celebrate in a big way next month when he marries his fiancée, Shiri Zlotikman, on Sept. 12. "Nothing will stop the wedding from taking place and I have every reason to be happy," he said.



**Andy Ram, left, and Jonathan Erlich at Wimbledon [David Granovsky photo]**

Since they started playing together in 2003, Erlich, 29, and Ram, 26, have won eight doubles titles. Erlich immigrated as a child to Israel from Argentina, while Ram hails from Uruguay.

In other Rogers Cup play, American Paul Goldstein tested former No. 1-ranked player Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain before losing 7-5, 6-2 in his first-round match. Goldstein broke Ferrero's serve three times and held leads of 4-1 in the first set and 2-0 in the second set.

"I thought I played well enough to win. My game plan is to capitalize on unforced errors by my opponents. But Ferrero served well in the games he fell behind, and I was not able to return his serves," Goldstein said after the match.

Although disappointed by his loss, Goldstein feels that at age 30, he is playing the best tennis of his career. Currently the highest ranked Jewish singles player (at No. 71), Goldstein saw his ranking dip to 199 in January 2005.

Since that low point, Goldstein has had success with two semi-final finishes in 2006, and he beat top player Lleyton Hewitt en route to a quarter-final finish in Los Angeles in July.

"I am so grateful for still playing tennis at a high enough level to make a good living. After graduating from Stanford [in 1998], I had the time to travel and not to get disappointed when the achievements were not there because I was 22 at the time.

"Now I am married [to Abbie in 2004] and can't travel 25 to 30 weeks [a year], as I have been doing if the results are not there. So if my ranking dips below 100, I will end my career," he said.

Goldstein was a top junior player, winning the USTA National Boys 16s and 18s national championships. The native of Rockville, Md., has also won 21 Challenger (minor league tennis) titles.

Of all his tennis achievements, Goldstein is most proud of being the first player to win four NCAA Championships and for being a four-time All- American at Stanford University.

He insisted on graduating from university and as a result, is the highest ranked player in the world with a college degree.

# Dennis Leary heckles Gibson during Red Sox game

By MENACHEM WECKER
*JTA*

**BOSTON** — The Boston Red Sox lost, 3-2, to the Detroit Tigers. But in the mind of Dennis Leary, at least, it was a win for the Jews – and a loss for Mel Gibson.

Actor-comedian Leary and his *Rescue Me* co-star, Lenny Clarke, were guests on the New England Sports Network (NESN) broadcast of the Red Sox baseball game against the Tigers last week.

When Leary asked if Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis is of Greek heritage, announcers Jerry Remy and Don Orsillo told him that Youkilis is actually Jewish.

"That's fantastic. That's one bottle of whiskey away from being Irish Catholic," Leary said. "They got the Manischewitz, we got the Jamesons. It's the same guilt, the same bad food… I'm so proud to have a Jewish first baseman."

Leary might have confused Youkilis' nationality because Michael Lewis nicknamed him "Euclis: The Greek God of Walks" in his 2003 book, *Moneyball*. Youkilis, then a minor leaguer, was known for earning frequent bases on balls, or walks.

Once told of Youkilis' true background, however, Leary couldn't resist riffing on the recent anti-Semitic tirade that actor/director Mel Gibson launched into after a drunk-driving arrest.

"Nice! Yeah, where's Mel Gibson now!" Leary yelled when Youkilis snagged a difficult ground ball.

"Mel? I hope in rehab they're showing replays of that. A Jewish first baseman makes the play… Good luck when you come out. Call Jeffrey Katzenberg and ask for a job when you get out. We'll have a whole Jewish infield by the time he gets out.

"Bring back Sandy Koufax," he said, referring to the Hall of Fame pitcher, who is also Jewish.

"We should have Sandy Koufax pitch at Mel's head," Clarke chimed in.

Leary suggested that Gibson's community service should be to take an at-bat against Koufax, with Youkilis playing first.

And so it went. When Remy told Leary that Sox outfielder Gabe Kapler is also Jewish, it elicited a new torrent of jokes. "We got two Jews on this team, Mel! Where's your father now, huh?" Leary asked.

But that's not all – another Jew, Adam Stern, plays for the Red Sox's AAA farm team, and the team's executive vice president and general manager, Theo Epstein, is also Jewish.

Suddenly, Leary and Clarke appeared to have a spasm of contrition over their roast of Gibson.

"Why are we jumping all over him, you know what I mean?" Leary said. "He had a little bit of tequila. You know those days."

But seconds later, when Youkilis tagged out a runner and gave the ball to a fan, they were back to their heckling. "The ball went to a fan! That's more than Mel Gibson's ever done!" Clarke said.

As he was leaving the booth, Leary told Remy and Orsillo, "Hope we didn't get you in trouble."

Trouble, no. In fact, he made them famous for a day, as a video clip of the conversation made the rounds on the Internet.

# The arts and aging

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Senior Side of Life

I have to admit to my bias. I believe in the importance of the creative arts as a life force, one that does not wane as one ages and can enhance the quality and fulfilment of the aging process. For those involved in eldercare, the use of the creative arts often has a great therapeutic benefit on the function, well-being and satisfaction of the elders we care for as family members and as health-care professionals.

The source of my bias is personal and professional. My maternal grandmother, with whom I lived until her death when I was 12 years old, profoundly influenced my development and appreciation of music. She sang in the Yiddish theatre, and I would occasionally accompany her to performances, some of which were extravaganzas. I also sometimes accompanied her on the piano when she practised.

Although my mother played the piano, her forte was dance. She was an excellent amateur dancer prior to getting married and continued to love dance throughout her lifetime. She was involved with her senior centre's dance group until her final days. She used to schlep me to performances of the New York City Ballet and the American Ballet. Even with the cheapest seats, somewhere in outer space, I was mesmerized by the grace and beauty of dance. Perhaps most impressive to me was attending concerts of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, with the brilliant Leonard Bernstein conducting.

So my bias in favour of the arts on a personal basis is well founded. It took some time and exposure for it to develop professionally.

Early on in my career at Baycrest (I am the vice-president of medical service there), I had the good fortune of meeting Brucha Stern, a Holocaust survivor who was at the time a resident in the former Jewish Home for the Aged. The first time I met her was during one of her many medical crises from which she miraculously recovered. I immediately connected to her because of her vibrant personality and learned that she was an accomplished late-life artist whose pictures reflected brightness, joy and a positive perspective on life.

Over a number of years, during which she became quite ill episodically, we would discuss art. I discovered that she knew, as a fellow student, my maternal grandfather, an amateur painter who had studied at the Art Students League in New York at the same time as Burcha. That revelation bonded our relationship. After her death, when some of her pictures became available for internal display at Baycrest, I requested that two of them be hung outside my office, where their bright and vibrant colours have delighted me for more than 15 years.

Over the years, with my elderly patients, I have exchanged books and discussed recordings of great works and musicians. I have also given advice to family members about providing their loved ones with music, books on tapes, joining a photography group and participating in creative arts programs to give special meaning to living.

A recent most meaningful interaction with music and the care of our patients and residents at Baycrest involved my 16-year-old son, Eytan. While doing an 11th-grade co-op program at Baycrest where among other things he plays guitar, he connected to a gentleman who had an important role in my life and my career, Dr. Abe Rapoport. A resident of the Apotex Centre, he gently grabbed my son's hand in a warm and appreciative manner after a guitar performance. I told Eytan how meaningful it was to me that he brought joy to the man whose advice and support led me to Baycrest and geriatrics more than 30 years ago: it demonstrated the extraordinary power of human relationships and connections made through the arts.


# Tangy Avocado-Orange Salad

2 oranges
1/2 small head of red leaf lettuce, coarsely torn
1 small avocado, halved, pitted, peeled, diced
2 tblsps. white balsamic vinegar

Using small sharp knife, cut off peel and white pith from oranges. Working over large bowl, cut between membranes to release orange segments. Add lettuce, avocado, and vinegar to bowl; toss gently.

Season with salt and pepper; divide among 4 plates.

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## Epi on Education

# Teachings of a master educator

Seymour Epstein

The summer of 1975 was a great one for North American Jewish education in that a few hundred young souls gathered at Brown University for the very first Conference for Alternatives in Jewish Education. That conference gave birth to a coalition, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), which gave stability to a movement that just held its 31st annual conference at Duke University in North Carolina.

Some 1,400 educators of every possible movement in Jewish life, ranging in age from high school interns to senior educators way beyond retirement age, met to learn together in hundreds of seminars, classes, workshops and meetings. I was there as a fellow educator, but also to celebrate the 26-year career of the CAJE's executive director, Eliot Spack, who will be retiring soon.

One evening that stands out as unforgettable featured Avraham Infeld, senior Jewish educator par excellence and outgoing president of Hillel International, as its keynote speaker.

Relating to the theme of the conference, which was Jewish literacy, he told us that his father had a solid definition of the literate Jew: one who knows more today than he or she knew yesterday. That statement implies two things: that it's never too late to start learning, and that learning never ends.

Infeld also blessed us with an elucidation of his five legs of Jewish education:

- Memory: that which connects the macro past of the Jewish people with the intimate mind and heart of the individual Jew in any time or place;
- The family of the Jewish People, which gives us an empowering sense of belonging;
- Sinai, the presence of God in our lives and the values He teaches us as being transcendent over all human values;
- Israel, land and state, as our homeland; and
- Hebrew, the language that both binds us together as a people and gives us the power to pray to the One above us.

These are the five paths to Jewish literacy as taught by the master, who explained that, in the modern age, having a strong sense of any three would suffice, since that means that at least one would be shared by any two Jews who meet.

*Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto*

# *Eema*, I love you

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

The phone rang. Bela hurried to pick it up. It was Baruch, her youngest son, who only two weeks before had been called up to fight in Lebanon.

"*Eema* [mother]," Baruch yelled into the phone. "*Ani b'seder* [I'm fine], *ve'ani ohaiv otach* [I love you]."

Tears streamed down Bela's cheeks as she yelled back, "I love you. Baruch, remember to eat your Power bars to keep your blood sugar up."

The signal on the phone faded. Bela hoped her boy had heard her voice.

The mother of three sat down at the kitchen table and sipped her tea. On the streets below, the noise of commerce boomed loudly. Voices of children filled the air.

Bela thought how strange that fruit and vegetable merchants were still selling their oranges and tomatoes, while her son Baruch was marching off to war to save the Jewish people. For a moment she was tempted to run downstairs, into the Tel Aviv marketplace, and yell, "Enough. No more deals! Stop with the eggplants. Don't you know where my Baruch is right now?" But she knew they knew. Their sons were there, too.

Bela could hear her husband snoring deafeningly loud. Since Baruch was called up, her husband's siestas were longer, because, she thought, a man knows war personally and therefore needs to find peace in his dreams. She let him snore.

Bela, a seamstress, picked up a stack of pictures, studying each one as if she were a scientist looking at a microscope slide. She firmly held a picture from Baruch's *bris*.

In the background of the picture, she saw her brother Dov, a strapping paratrooper who met with prime minister Golda Meir after the Yom Kipper War, for saving the lives of three of his buddies. She missed Dov so much since he had succumbed to his injuries. Bela counted the family members who were gone. Her head lowered in sadness and she nodded off.

The sleeping mother felt a tap on her shoulder. With the guilt of a relaxing mother, she quickly opened her eyes and focused in on her surroundings.

"Bela," her husband said softly, "your head looked like it was going to fall off. Oy, I have such *tsuris* when you get those neck aches. Let's eat."

Bela kissed her husband on the cheek and said, "I love you." He loved her back.

She sat still for one more second and whispered: "God, I've asked you for very little since I got to know you as a child. You'll remember I never lost faith in your plan for the Jewish people even when my boys came home with broken limbs from fighting the intifadah. Well now, I'm asking you for something, which is the right of a Jewish mother whose son is fighting in a war."

"My Baruch is a man with the soul of a poet. He always holds his head high, never wanting us to see the fear that lies in his heart with the knowledge he might have to use his gun one day to hurt another person. But God, a mother knows. And you know. So, I ask you, please watch over Baruch. Make sure he is safe. Please bring him home to us. I ask you for this and promise I will do my utmost to live according to your will. And God, enough already with the wars and the hatred against us. There are only so many white hairs a mother can grow. Thank you for your blessings. Amen"

Bela sat down and nibbled on her dinner. The day would soon be over and sleep would be her gift. She listened to the news, and the names of the soldiers who had been killed that day. Bela said a quiet prayer for their mothers.

*Avrum@wahaya.org; SUDAN*

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The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

# Jewish Community Focus

## Listening to the echo

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Feature

One of the hottest topics being discussed in the organized Canadian Jewish community is how to reach out to members of the "baby-boom echo" – also known as the "millennials," university-age Jews born between 1982 and 2000 – most of whom, according to a Hillel of Greater Toronto study, have little or no interest in becoming involved in Jewish activities, both on and off campus.

As Jewish leaders and parents have continued to watch members of this younger generation become less and less interested in the kind of programming they grew up on, they've been scratching their heads as they try to figure out why they don't relate to or connect with, and in some cases actually resent, institutional Jewish life.

The main objective of *Understanding Jewish Students in Canada: A research study for Hillel of Greater Toronto*, which based its format on an earlier Hillel International study, was to gain a better understanding of the attitudes and interests of Canadian Jewish youth on the topic of Jewish involvement.

Hillel has done an adequate job of informing Jewish programmers about the mentality of the "new Jew," defining the characteristics associated with the millennial/echo generation, and what it is that turns them off about Hillel.

But what Jewish organizations should do now is shift their focus away from defining the problem – as a number of studies have already successfully done – and put their efforts into using the data to nurture an emerging Jewish culture that includes edgier publications, music, blogs and social activism, as well as social gatherings that aim to do more than get Jews to marry other Jews.

Continued on page B8

TIKKUN OLAM: Jewish students lend their voices to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur, and their hands to help rebuild homes that were devastated by last year's Hurricane Katrina. The photo below was taken by a student who went to Gulfport, Mississippi to help its citizens fix their homes.

Community Focus

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Official representative and voice of Canadian Zionists to the World Zionist Organization, committed to strengthening the ties between Israel and Canada. With a membership of 45,000 Canadian Zionists in 15 constituent organizations across Canada, the CZF is expressly committed to Jewish education, culture, aliyah and the centrality of Israel in Canadian Jewish life.

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**Education Director: Rabbi Michael Skobac**
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**Tel: 416-764-6633**
**E-mail: spring@eitzchaim.com**

Yeshivas Eitz Chaim is dedicated to instilling within its students the foundations for living a Torah observant life and to provide the skills to understand and succeed in today's world in accordance with Torah values and ideals. Eitz Chaim strives for excellence in education in all areas of its curriculum. Rooted in tradition with over 80 years of history, Eitz Chaim continues to provide its students with the finest Torah and general education in an environment filled with the love of Yiddishkeit and the Jewish people.

**GRATZ COLLEGE**
**7605 Old York Rd.,**
**Melrose Park, PA 19027**
**Tel: 215-635-7300, ext. 150**
**Fax: 215-635-1046**
**E-mail: lfisher@gratz.edu**
Providing quality secondary Jewish education across North America, the Jewish Community High School of Gratz College (JCHS) - the largest supplementary Hebrew High School in North America - introduces the Kenneth I. Rothbart Distance Learning Program for Teens as the first distance learning program focused entirely on Jewish adolescent education.

**KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE**
**788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 312,**
**Toronto, Ont. M2R 3W5**
**Executive Director: Joseph Klinger**
**Tel: 416-787-0197 Fax: 416-781-3166**
Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew and Bible and prayers for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14 sessions.

**THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL**
**Director: David Prashker**
**Tel: 905-709-3636 Fax: 905-709-1999**

**Atkinson Campus,**
**36 Atkinson Ave.,**
**Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9**
**Principal: Jan Lapedus**

**Holy Blossom Campus**
**1950 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9**
**Principal: Eric Petersiel**
A Reform Jewish day school; sensitive to the educational needs of its children; providing for individual learning styles; music, art, drama and computers enrich a curriculum integrating Hebrew/Judaic and general studies. Students are prepared to be knowledgeable, practicing Liberal Jews and contributing Canadian citizens.

**PAUL PENNA DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL**
**750 Spadina Ave., Miles Nadal JCC,**
**Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2**
**Principal: Janet Nish-Lapidus**
**Co-Presidents:**
**Paula Klein & Michael Miloff**
**Tel: 416-928-3537 Fax: 416-533-7471**
**E-mail: info@djds.ca**
**Website: www.djds.ca**
Founded in 1998 to address the growing need for Jewish educational alternatives in downtown Toronto, The Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School is committed to academic excellence in a warm, supportive environment. Our SK to Grade 8 integrated curriculum weaves together the Jewish and general facets of children's lives to develop a meaningful Jewish identity. Through an arts enhanced approach and commitment to social justice, students grow to be responsible citizens and compassionate, confident human beings. Registering now for SK to Grade 8. Subsidies available.

**THE RENANIM YOUTH SINGERS**
**at The Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7**
**Director: Susan Michaels**
**Tel: 416-449-2296 Fax: 416-449-5926**
**E-mail: susan.michaels@rogers.com**
**Website: www.renanimchoirs.com**
Considered the voice of Jewish youth, this multi-award winning, all denominational choir will represent Canada in Israel next year. Divided into Junior and Senior Ensembles, these auditioned vocalists earn community hours enhancing functions throughout metro. During weekly rehearsals students develop literacy, vocalization and musicianship skills along with self-confidence and the essentiality of community.

**SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**
**2 Simonston Blvd.,**
**Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1**
**School Supervisor: Hava Greenberg**
Location: Brownridge Public School
**Tel: 905-889-4975, #26**
**Fax: 905-889-1575**
**Website: www.shaarshalom.ca**
Highlights: Two days a week. Intensive Hebrew reading program; Excellent Family Education; Special Theme Days; music; dance & bible content; synagogue skills; remediation available. We are committed to helping children develop the skills and tools they need to become committed adult Jews. SK-Gr. 8. Classes meet Sunday and Wednesday. Affiliated with BJE and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

**TEMMY LATNER HEBREW SCHOOL**
**446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 206,**
**Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2**
**Principal: Rifky Karlunkel**
**Tel: 416-483-0683 Fax: 416-483-6712**
The Temmy Latner Hebrew School is an afternoon Hebrew school program at the Forest Hill Elementary School. Your child will love our exciting, stimulating environment, where Hebrew school is fun, without compromising solid learning and growth. Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. SK-Gr. 6. Call now to register!

**THE TORONTO HESCHEL SCHOOL**
**819 Sheppard Ave. W.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 2T3**
**Principal: Ms. Gail Baker**
**Tel: 416-635-1878 Fax: 416-635-1800**
**E-mail: office@torontoheschel.org**
**Website: www.torontoheschel.org**
**Ideology: pluralistic. Affiliated with the BJE** The Toronto Heschel School is an innovative Jewish day school in Toronto. The educational philosophy of The Toronto Heschel School is based on the principle that students learn best in a supportive and nurturing environment, and that arts play a major role in the transmission of academic knowledge. Small classes ensure high academic achievement within a positive, joyful, relaxed learning atmosphere.

**UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL**
**Administration House:**
**3072 Bayview Ave.**
**Head of School: Lucy Cohen**
**Bathurst Campus, 1700 Bathurst St.**
**Bayview Campus, 3080 Bayview Ave.**
**Tel: 416-224-8737, ext. 137**
**Fax: 416-225-9108**
**E-mail: rosemary.tile@usds.ca**
**Website: www.usds.ca**
For over 40 years USDS has offered a program of academic excellence. Integrated general and Jewish studies programs from nursery to grade 8 emphasize technology, creative arts, music, physical education and Jewish values. Progressive teaching strategies respect individual learning styles. Alternative Jewish studies programs now available. Member of the Solomon Shechter Day School Association (Conservative Movement).

## Funeral Chapels

**BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
**2401 Steeles Ave. W.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3J 2P1**
**Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin**
**Tel: 416-663-9060 Fax: 416-663-9417**
**E-mail: info@benjamins.ca**
**Website: www.benjamins.ca**
Since 1922, Benjamin's has been part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow and stress. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved Jewish families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

**HEBREW BASIC BURIAL**
**3429 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3**
**Contact: Lawrence Scheinman**
**Tel: 416-780-0596 Fax: 416-780-0638**
When economy is a major consideration, you should know that Hebrew Basic Burial offers the lowest interment costs available from any Jewish establishment. Guaranteed. Families who have used Hebrew Basic Burial's services have all found that dignity and observance of Jewish law were exactly as they should be. Hebrew Basic Burial - a non-profit organization.

**STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL**
**350 Steeles Ave. W.,**
**Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1A1**
**Managing Funeral Director: Carol P. Saucier**
**Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539**
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

## Health

**DR. LES PRIEMER**
**40 Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 100,**
**Toronto, Ont. M2N 6K9**
**Tel: 416-224-9998**

**L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR JEWISH WOMEN**
**21 Midvale Rd.,**
**North York, Ont. M3H 3H8**
**New Contacts Co-ordinator: Clara Shore**
**Tel: 416-630-0203 Fax: 416-785-8285**
**E-mail: lchaim_group@hotmail.com**
L'Chaim is a support group for Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment. L'Chaim's volunteers are Jewish women cancer survivors trained to provide **confidential** support via phone or visit. L'Chaim is also dedicated to raising cancer awareness through events and our educational DVD entitled "What Every Jewish Woman Should Know About Cancer".

## Israel Based Organizations

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL - CANADA**
**788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1**
**Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496**
**Toll free: 1-800-433-6226**
**E-mail: asicanada@gmail.com**
ASI is the only non-profit organization in Canada supporting the men and women of the IDF on active duty. ASI works tirelessly for the wellbeing of the soldiers - funding social, educational, spiritual, and recreational programs to ease the burdens faced by these young soldiers.

**CANADA-ISRAEL COMMITTEE**
**100 Sparks St., Ste. 600,**
**Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5B7**
**CEO: Shimon Fogel**
**Tel: 613-234-8271 Fax: 613-563-9379**
**E-mail: cic@cicweb.ca**
**Website: www.cicweb.ca**
The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) is the official representative of the organized Jewish community on Canada-Israel relations, communicating regularly with the government, media, academics and public opinion-makers on the bilateral relationship. Staff and lay leadership are available to the community to provide expertise on Middle East issues concerning Israel.

**CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL**
**3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6**
**Executive Director: Rachel Sochaczewski**
**Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236**
**E-mail: friends@laniado.ca**
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Help provide state-of-the-art equipment by supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital.

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**
**National Office: 4700 Bathurst St., 2nd fl.**
**Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W8**
**Tel: 416-733-9220 Fax: 416-733-9430**
**Toll-free (in Canada) 1-800-387-3894**
**E-mail: weizmann@ca.inter.net**
**Eastern Region: 14-2340 Lucerne Rd.**
**Montreal, Que. H3R 2J8**
**Tel: 514-342-0777 Fax: 514-342-0602**
**Website: www.weizmann.ac.il**
Chairman of the Board: H. Thomas Beck
President: Jay Alan Smith
National Executive Vice-President: Michael E. Meyer
Executive Director, Eastern Region: Susan Stern
Programs & Operations Director: Sheri Federman
The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together 2,500 scientists, technicians and research students devoted to adventuring into the unknown for the benefit of mankind. Visit the Weizmann website to find out more!

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM**
**The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority**
**970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6**
**National Chair: Hank Rosenbaum**
**Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536**
**E-mail: yadvashem@bellnet.ca**
**Website: www.yadvashem.ca**
Representing Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, we promote Holocaust education and remembrance. Funds raised support the new Yad Vashem History Museum, Jerusalem. We also send educators, annually, to study the Holocaust at Yad Vashem's International School. Families are encouraged to inscribe Holocaust victims on our Wall of Remembrance, Earl Bales Park, Toronto.

**CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY**
**970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6**
**Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas**
**Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255**
**E-mail:cheryl@cdntech.org**
**Website: www.cdntech.org**
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

**EMUNAH WOMEN OF TORONTO**
**3768 Bathurst St., Ste. 308,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3M7**
**Office Administrator: Janice Freedman**
**Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039**
**E-mail: emunah@kwik.net**
**Website: www.emunahcanada.org**
Emunah is the largest religious Zionist Women's organization in the world. Provides care for 8,000 children in over 127 day care centres and nurseries across Israel; educates more than 2,000 girls in 6 high schools; supports 5 children's homes and youth villages for more than 600 children.

**ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND**
**2300 Yonge St., Ste. 402, Box #2444**
**Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E4**
**Executive Director: Joy Wagner**
**Tel: 416-487-5246 Fax: 416-487-8932**
**E-mail: research@icrfonline.org**
**Website: www.icrfonline.org**
ICRF is the largest source of private funds for innovative cancer research in Israel. In 2004, two ICRF scientists won the Nobel prize for chemistry. Our researchers continue to make significant progress in the fight against cancer, developing drugs that are benefiting patients in Toronto, across Canada, and throughout the world.

**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND**
**700-1000 Finch Ave. W.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3J 2V5**
**President: Ron Hoffman**
**Executive Director: Ben Prossin**
**Administrative Co-ordinator: Lil Jacobson**
**Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345**
**E-mail: tor@jnf-canada.org**
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. JNF is now embarking upon major developments in the Negev in order to ensure that the barren and desolate landscape becomes habitable and productive and able to accommodate a growing Israeli population. JNF will truly *"make the desert bloom"* with the hep of its supporters worldwide. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

**NA'AMAT CANADA**
**272 Codsell Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3X2**
**Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248**
**E-mail: na'am@bellnet.ca**
**web: www.naamat.com**
A dynamic fighter for women's rights in Israel and Canada. Na'amat Israel, with 350,000 members, has dramatically affected the lives of women by providing child care, high schools, shelters and counselling centres for family abuse and legal advisory clinics. In Canada, Na'amat sponsors Bialik Hebrew Day School, Camp Gesher, Habonim-Dror Zionist Youth Movement, a Free Legal Aid Advisory Clinic and provides school supplies for children living in shelters.

# COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS cont'd

## ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS cont'd

**SAR-EL CANADA/CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL**
**788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 315,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1**
**President: Len Berk**
**Tel: 416-781-6089 Fax: 416-785-7687**
**E-mail: toronto@sarelcanada.org**
**Website: www.sarelcanada.org**
**Montreal tel: 514-735-0272**
Sar-el is a voluntary, non-political organization providing Diaspora Jews with the opportunity to directly help Israel. Most volunteers are between 18 and 65. They work and live from 10 to 18 days on IDF maintenance bases. Room & board and work clothing supplied, also some touring.

**STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS CANADA**
**970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 502,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6**
**Executive Vice-President & CEO: Yona Gazit**
**Tel: 416-789-3351 Fax: 416-789-9436**
**E-mail: toronto@israelbonds.ca**
**Website: www.InvestInYourValues.ca**
An investment of conscience springs from the finest of human desires: to live our lives responsibly; and to leave the world a better place for our children and grandchildren. **Israel Bonds are investments of conscience.** With Israel Bonds you can both make an excellent financial decision as well as ensure that the world is a better place because of a strong, proud and thriving State of Israel.

**TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO**
**638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 209,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S1**
**Executive Director: Laurie Siegel**
**President: Lenore Ivers**
**Vice-President: Maria Dan**
**Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370**
**E-mail: info@hadassahwizoto.ca**
**Website: www.hadassahwizoto.ca**
Founded in 1917, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO is the largest women's Zionist organization in Canada with 10,000 members across the nation. Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is the largest centre with 55 chapters and 2,500 members. Known for its annual Bazaar, volunteers raise funds for social service and educational projects supporting youth at risk and women and children in Israel, and 3 renowned hospitals: Hadassah Hospital, Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre, and Sunnybrook Hospital. Subjects: Israel: Education, Social Service, youth at risk, women and children.

## MONUMENT COMPANIES

**ALEF'S FAIRLAWN MONUMENTS**
**3331 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2B7**
**Director: Eugene Shayevich**
**Tel: 416-784-5268 Fax: 416-782-0668**
Alef's Fairlawn Monuments has brought together two trusted names in the monument business, to offer the Jewish Community the finest customer service available in Toronto. Our newly designed showroom, factory prices and top quality granite from around the world, make us the number one choice for your monument or inscription needs. Our expert staff can serve you in a number of languages including Hebrew, Russian and Yiddish.

**BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS**
**3429 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3**
**Contact: Michael Levitt**
**Tel: 416-780-0635 Fax: 416-780-0638**
**E-mail: monuments@benjamins.ca**
**Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca**
Benjamin's Landmark Monuments is Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. As the only Jewish monument dealer in Ontario authorized by Rock of Ages to distribute the "Sealmark" granite with the perpetual warranty, our monument counsellors can assist you in preparing an honoured memorial of unsurpassed quality.

**IZENBERG GOLDBERG MONUMENTS**
**3173 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2B1**
**Tel: 416-789-0319 Fax: 416-787-0310**
For over 80 years Izenberg Goldberg Monuments has provided the Jewish community of Toronto with excellent quality memorials at the most reasonable possible price. Our granite is carefully selected from quarries the world over, and all lettering and design work is now done in our own North York factory under our direct supervision.

**STONECRAFT MONUMENTS**
**121 Brisbane Rd., Unit 1,**
**Downsview, Ont. M3J 2K3**
**Contact: David Friedman, Shai Lobart**
**Tel: 416-667-1474 Fax: 416-667-1470**
Serving the Jewish community for many years, Stonecraft Monuments provides factory direct prices and sensitive, considerate service to their customers. Monuments using the finest granite can be made available within one week.

**YAD VASHEM AT LANDMARK**
**3429 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3**
**Contact: Akiva Balter**
**Tel: 416-782-8995 Fax: 416-780-0638**
**Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca**
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments personalizes memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs.

## RELIGIOUS LIFE

**ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION**
**37 Southbourne Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 1A4**
**Administrator: Sheila Starkman**
**Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629**
A dynamic family-oriented synagogue in Toronto. Daily minyanim, Shabbat and festival services. Hebrew School, with Special High School Program. Religious, social and educational programs for babies & toddlers, youth, families and seniors. Active Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Beautiful social halls, COR catering by ZB Creative Catering Ltd. New members welcome.

**ANSHEI MINSK CONGREGATION**
**10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market),**
**Toronto, Ont., M5T 1K6**
**Contact: Rabbi Shmuel Spero**
**Tel: 416-595-5723**
**E-mail: reachus@theminsk.com**
Morning and evening services daily and on Shabbat. The beautifully restored sanctuary glows with warmth and tradition. Please join our weekly Friday night dinners, Shabbat lunches, and a variety of educational and family programming. Our spirited shul community fosters a Judaism that is grounded yet spiritual, traditional and creative.

**BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL**
**Join us at our temporary home**
**Reena Centre, 927 Clark Ave. W.,**
**Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6**
**Shul Administrator: Leslie Lewis**
**School Administrator: Fran Isaacs**
**Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635**
**E-mail: admin@beitrayim.org**
**Website: www.beitrayim.org**
**Synagogue:** Beit Rayim means "House of Friends and Neighbours". Warm, youthful and *haymishe* atmosphere. Participatory services. Programs for all ages. The only Conservative egalitarian Synagogue serving York Region.
**School:** K-7. Learn and experience Judaism. 2 day per week format meets USCJ standards for Bar/Bat Mitzvah at any Conservative synagogue. Innovative programs include Hebrew reading, prayers and synagogue skills, holidays, history, laws and customs, Jewish music and folk dance, Family Education. First school in Canada to be presented with the Framework for Excellence Award.

**BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION**
**55 Yeomans Road,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3J7**
**Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740**
**E-mail: info@bethdavid.com**
**Website: www.bethdavid.com**
Beth David is a vibrant, family oriented Conservative synagogue. Our dynamic family and youth programs are second to none. The Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and senior group 'Club Chaverut', make our synagogue a great place to pray and play. Join us for a unique Jewish experience.

**BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE**
**100 Elder St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 5G7**
**Contact: Julian Lewin**
**Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153**
**Website: www.beby.org**
More than just a synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (BEBY) is a vibrant centre of Jewish life. We are bound by our commitment to synagogue, community and Israel. Our mission is to be the focal point of the Jewish lives of our members.

**BETH RADOM CONGREGATION**
**18 Reiner Rd.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 2K9**
**Rabbi Steven Schonblum**
**Cantor David Rosen**
**Tel: 416-636-3451**
**E-mail: myinfo@bethradom.com**
The Beth Radom Congregation caters to conservative families seeking an alternative to the larger synagogues. Our 'haymishe' environment encourages 'women inclusive' participation in every aspect of Jewish life. Please join us for prayer, celebration and community. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Affrufs, Baby Namings for members and non-members.

**BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE**
**1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6**
**Executive Director: Barbara Berke**
**Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923**
**E-mail: barbara@bethsholom.net**
**Website: www.bethsholom.net**
We are a warm, friendly traditional, Conservative "family" synagogue where the Rabbi knows your name, the Sanctuary is warm and inclusive. Innovative programming for all ages. Adult education & social programs. Special memberships for young marrieds, young families and young singles. Reserved seating for High Holy Days. 416-783-6103. www.bethsholom.net

**BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE**
**3080 Bayview Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3**
**Director of Administration: Lillian Cornfield x307**
**Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602**
**E-mail: info@bethtikvah.on.ca**
**Website: www.bethtikvah.on.ca**
We're a full service synagogue in the north end of Toronto. Our beautiful services and life cycle events are led by Rabbi Wayne Allen and Cantor Tibor Kovari. With children's programming beginning at 18 months through to seminars for seniors, the synagogue has something for everyone. In its 40th year, Beth Tikvah sports a proud past and a bright future.

**BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION**
**1700 Bathurst St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K3**
**Executive Director: Sheldon Maerov**
**Tel: 416-781-3511 Fax: 416-781-0150**
**E-mail: info@beth-tzedec.org**
**Website: www.beth-tzedec.org**
*Classes, public lectures, Crash Hebrew. Call 416-781-3514*; for 2006-2007 catalogue - x34; *Shabbat Synaplex* - Sanctuary Services, Torah Study Group, Learners' Services, Little Minyan Participatory Services, Family Services - x34; *Generation Hutzpa* - Students, Singles, Young Marrieds - x47; *Hebrew Schooling* - x30; *Membership Information* - x20. Home for United Synagogue Day School.

**B'NAI SHALOM CONGREGATION OF HALTON-PEEL**
**Tel: 905-824-3783**
**E-mail: info@bnaishalom.ca**
**Website: www.bnaishalom.ca**
B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel is a conservative egalitarian congregation. Monthly Shabbat services followed by a kiddush and lively conversation. New and exciting programs in the planning stages. Preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION**
**272 Codsell Ave.,**
**Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2**
**Contact: Dale Noble**
**Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451**
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

**CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM**
**3845 Bathurst St., Ste. 301,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 3N2**
**Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel**
**Tel: 416-630-0375 Fax: 416-630-5089**
**E-mail: ccrj@uahc.org**
Canadian national office of the Union for Reform Judaism, representing over 950 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action, leader development.

**CONGREGATION BINA**
**(A Community of Jews from India)**
**PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M1W 3Y8**
**Contact:**
**Reuben Jacobs, 905-660-6027;**
**Noel Joseph, 416-293-9700**
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held. A quarterly news bulletin, "Contact", is published.

**CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM**
**15 Hove St.,**
**Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8**
**Offices at 183 Cocksfield Ave., Ste. 4**
**Rabbi Tina Grimberg**
**President: Michael Mitchell**
**Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852**
**Website: www.darcheinoam.on.ca**
Our Reconstructionist community is vibrant, egalitarian and inclusive. Religious services are traditional in form and progressive in content. Women and men participate in all areas of synagogue life. Award-winning social action and stimulating adult learning programs. Solid commitment to our Hebrew School, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Teen and Family programs.

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**Co-ordinator/Leader: Aviva Goldberg**
**Contact: Eden Nameri**
**Tel: 416-465-5488**
**E-mail: shirlibeynu@yahoo.ca**
**Website: www.shirlibeynu.ca**
Shir Libeynu is a progressive, egalitarian and inclusive congregation. We hold our High Holy Days services downtown at Cecil Community Centre. The rest of the year, we are wandering Jews, holding holiday events, services and study groups at other convenient locations. Elements of Jewish Renewal infuse our joyful, meaningful services, where you may do more than just congregate - you can participate!

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**Administrator: Marlene Rosen**
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**WSebsite: www.shaarshalom.ca**
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**Tel: 416-301-0648**
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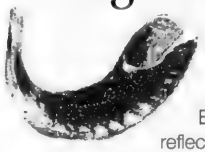

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Community Focus

# 'J-blogosphere' a forum for Jewish discussion

By LAUREN BRESLIN
*Special to The CJN*

Young Jews around the world have found a hip new meeting place – and no, it's not the local synagogue, the JCC or the Hillel House. Thousands of tech-savvy Jews are turning to blogs for their daily dose of Jewish.

Everywhere you surf, the blogosphere is blooming. Technorati, a leading blog search engine, currently tracks 49.9- million active blogs worldwide, with 75,000 new blogs created every day. It's a vast, virtual society, populated by amateur journalists, cultural critics, gossipmongers and tell-all diarists. But somewhere in this cyberspace lives a growing community of Jews looking to connect.

For the uninitiated, blogs (formerly called "web logs") are online journals that typically combine text, images and links. While it's true that any Joe Shmoe can host a blog, it's usually the pithier, more incisive writers who realize the medium's potential to reach a mass audience.

But the real beauty of blogging is its interactivity. Blog readers are always free to publish comments in a designated area, and once they do, they are automatically part of the conversation.

Blog technology is heralded as one of the most democratized revolutions in media. So it's no surprise that thousands of Jews, from all corners of the globe, are going virtual. They have embraced the blogosphere as a forum for Jewish discussion, and as a public space to share information, exchange ideas, challenge the mainstream press, kvetch, commiserate, make friends and generally explore new outlooks on Judaism and Jewish life. Blogging is, quite possibly, the most accessible way for people to interact with one another from anywhere, at any time.

Rachel Barenblat

"That's what I love most about the blogosphere: the sense that I'm constantly in conversation with so many people," says Rachel Barenblat, a 31-year-old rabbinic student living in Lanesboro, Mass., and author of the blog Velveteen Rabbi (velveteenrabbi.blogs.com).

Barenblat created her blog in 2003 as a means to reflect on Jewish festivals and observances, prayers, texts and her own experiences in rabbinic school.

"I live in a small town where the Jewish community is terrific but limited," she continues. "Through my blog-reading and my blog-commenting, I'm in ongoing dialogue with Jews of every stripe around the world all the time."

But are these dialogues meaningful? Yes, argues Barenblat. As someone who reads – and often participates – in 80 Jewish blogs a day, she believes they open the possibility of meaningful connections between Jews in a way that wasn't there before.

Among her favourite blogs is a virtual space for Torah study, called Radical Torah (www.radicaltorah.org), where multiple writers – including Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Rabbi Michael Lerner – share a "progressive" take on the parshat hashavuah, the weekly Torah portion.

Barenblat also enjoys The Head Heeb (headheeb.blogmosis.com), authored by Jonathan Edelstein, a 31-year-old lawyer from New York whose blog is a running commentary on the issues that interest him, such as Israeli politics and the Middle East conflict.

Daniel Sieradski

The great thing about blogs is that everyone's invited to the party, regardless of their denomination, politics or sexual orientation. Barenblat says that alienated Jews find blogs particularly empowering.

"J-blogs can offer a safe way for people on the fringes of organized Judaism – young people, unaffiliated people, people who aren't certain that organized Judaism is for them, those who question Judaism, those who may be intermarried or interdating – to dip into the Jewish world, to meet passionate and interesting people, and to begin wrestling with the question of their own Jewish identity," she says.

"Walking into a synagogue for the first time if you don't know anyone can be terrifying. Clicking over to somebody's blog is a much smaller commitment. It's an open door, a way to welcome people in."

Continued on page B7

Canada-Israel Committee
Advocating for Strong Canada-Israel Ties

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) is the Canadian Jewish community's central pro-Israel advocacy organization, working with the political, media and business sectors in both Canada and Israel to advance and strengthen a dynamic bilateral relationship.

The CIC is sponsored by UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) through the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA), and the Jewish communities of Canada.
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# 'Blogs highlight the generational divide'

**Continued from page B6**

Although the exact number of active Jewish blogs is hard to pin down, they are now known, collectively, as the "j-blogoshpere."

The term was coined by Steven Weiss, a 25-year-old New Yorker and one of the web's most prolific Jewish bloggers. Weiss hosts three Jewish blogs, the most popular being Canonist (www.canonist.com), a Jewish news and culture blog with the subtitle "Blogging Religiously."

Recent Canonist posts explore everything from the legitimacy of Sabbath elevators to Mel Gibson's recent anti-Semitic tirade.

Weiss also blogs about Jewish news on campus (www.CampusJ.com) and good kosher cooking (www.kosherbachelor.com), but Canonist is his most well-read site, averaging 25,000 to 30,000 page-views a week.

"What blogs do is they say, here's a medium – do with it whatever you will," says Weiss. "And sometimes the Jewish discussion is about Israel, sometimes the Jewish discussion is about ritual, sometimes the Jewish discussion is about being Jewish. And it's entirely up to the participants to determine where it goes."

Regaining control over the media is a hot topic for bloggers.

Daniel Sieradski, creator and editor of Jewschool, a progressive Jewish blog, sees blogging as the antidote to the mainstream press.

"Blogs are an attempt at democratizing the media," he says. "Bloggers focus on the news that they want to hear about, and the conversations and issues that they find important, as opposed to the talking points or the agendas set by their leadership."

***'Blogs are an attempt at democratizing the media'***

Meanwhile, Sieradski also points out that the popularity of blogs, especially among younger people, highlights the generational divide.

"Our parents took the things they would read in the newspaper or see on television at face value," says Sieradski. "Because it was coming from a big news outlet, they trusted it to be authoritative. What's happening now is that people are quickly realizing, by engaging with the journalistic tools themselves, how simple it is to appear authoritative, and how simple it is to skew the news to cater to your own agenda."

Indeed, anyone looking to supplement the "corporate" media with a more organic form of Jewish journalism will find blogs especially appealing.

A recent Jewschool post, for example, discussed the criticism levelled at Israel for its air strike against the village of Qana, Lebanon, and the disturbing media images that followed of Lebanese bodies being pulled from the rubble.

"Israel and its supporters know full well that every strike Israel makes against Hezbollah within civilian areas is the equivalent of a strike against Israel itself, as it turns international opinion against Israel and breeds more extremism," wrote Sieradski on July 31.

Jewschool, with 30 contributors from five countries and 50,000 readers a month, is one of the most popular Jewish blogs on the web. But perhaps the mother of them all is Jewlicious (www.jewlicious.com), another group blog that gets a whopping 10,000 visitors every day. Recent Jewlicious posts also delve into the current crisis in Israel and Lebanon, but other posts go slightly off topic, like an Aug. 1 entry that sought to solve the ever-pressing mystery of kosher shrimp-encrusted fish sticks.

Apparently, a Jewlicious reporter discovered a package of frozen fish sticks, containing shrimp paste, with a kashrut symbol on the box.

"If you don't know, shrimp ain't kosher. Ever. We're talking biblical unkosher," wrote a blogger named "themiddles."

"Yes, yes, it's a punishment, but who ever said being Jewish was easy?"

All told, the diversity of topics buzzing through the j-blogosphere not only represents contemporary Jewish life but it also provides a means of engaging with it.

"Blogs archive and preserve an ongoing conversation about what it means to be Jewish in this day and age," says Barenblat. "Many young Jews seem to feel that the organizations which served our parents' and grandparents' generations don't necessarily speak to our needs or to the ways in which we want to enact our Jewishness; in the blogosphere we can speak up about what we want Judaism to be, we can work together on shaping the Judaism to come."

And that, truly, is something to blog about.


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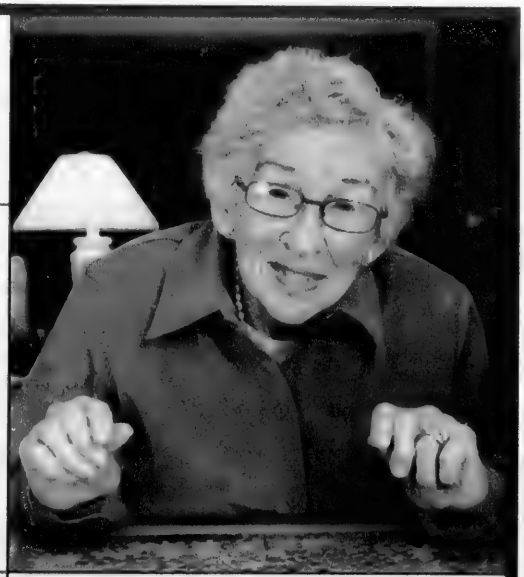

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# Heeding the echo

**Continued from page B1**

Hillel's study took a step in the right direction by giving community leaders a glimpse of what goes on in the heads of young Jewish adults.

The 641 students who completed the survey were classified into three categories based on their level of Jewish self-identification.

Forty-four per cent of respondents were placed in the "moderate" category, which means they feel pride in being identified as Jewish, but rarely take part in Jewish activities.

Only 20 per cent of those polled were identified as "low," which means they barely have any connection to Judaism, while 36 per cent of the students were classified as "high," which means they frequently take part in Jewish-themed events.

The study focused more on the "moderates," because they're regarded as a "swing group" with the potential to become more involved in Jewish campus life.

According to the study, the largest proportion of the students polled consider themselves to be either non-denominational or secular. As well, most moderates – about 65 per cent – don't see marrying a Jewish partner as a defining element of their Jewish identity.

The study also suggests that compared to the highs, moderates rarely or never participate in Jewish events on campus. Some of the reasons listed were that they don't relate to the people who go to them, they don't hear about the programs in the first place, or they don't find them inclusive enough.

Moderates, most of whom have non-Jewish friends, don't want to participate in programs that don't include their friends.

One program that continues to succeed in attracting moderate Jews is birthright israel. Fifty seven per cent of moderates have been to Israel on this free trip, and for the most part, all come back feeling more connected to Israel.

What this data suggests is that organizers of youth-oriented events need to place less of a focus on strict religious practice and more of an emphasis on broad Jewish traditions and philosophies if they want to succeed in luring members of the moderate group.

For instance, combining the philosophy of tikkun olam (repairing the world) with the opportunity to travel seems to be the hottest trend among youth looking to become Jewishly involved.

Jews of the so-called "echo" or "millennial" generation are better educated, more ambitious and more socially active, and they've grown up in a more globalized world than their parents, so it's no surprise that programs such as Tzedek Hillel, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND), and Project Equity – all run by students who live by the tikkun olam philosophy of helping to make the world a better place – are attracting students of all denominations.

Respondents to the Hillel study rated programs that are inclusive and provide a welcoming atmosphere for all political, religious and other viewpoints as the most important characteristic that a Jewish organization can have.

For the religiously observant, minyans such as Kehilat Hadar, an independent, egalitarian minyan in New York City, aim to reach out to all members of the Jewish community, whether old or young, male or female, straight or gay.

And when it comes to social events, the study suggests that students prefer programs with educational, thought-provoking or entertaining themes, rather than being thrown into a room with a bunch of other single Jews in the hope that some will get married and procreate.

Organizations such as the Adath Israel Young Professionals Network and The House provide this kind of programming.

But perhaps the biggest thing taking the young Jewish community by storm is the onslaught of new Jewish magazines, such as *Heeb, Guilt and Pleasure* and *Jewish Mayhem*, as well as blogs such as *Jewlicious* and *Jewschool*.

What can be learned from all these new initiatives – which are mostly being created by young Jews themselves – and the response they're getting is that it's time our parents begin to realize that the more they try to convince their children that institutional Judaism is the right way to be Jewish, the more their kids will come to resent it.

The older generation needs to embrace this revolution and let young people be Jewish in the way they want to be Jewish.

This year's community focus is an attempt to show young readers – and their parents – that there is a way to be involved Jewishly without giving up on, or being deprived of, aspects of secular life that we have become accustomed to in this borderless, multicultural society.

# The challenge: creating the ultimate Jewish singles program

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

It's the million-dollar question in the fight against intermarriage and assimilation: what kinds of programs do young single Jews like to attend, and how do you figure out what they want so you can tailor events to their needs?

While nightclub parties and "matzah ball" bashes have been common forums for young, single Jews to meet, event co-ordinator Judith Weinroth opted for a different approach, combining lectures with social gatherings.

"We wanted to have a user friendly place for young people in their 20s, 30s and 40s to socialize, learn something and in the process, be with other people in their own age group," says Weinroth, an organizer of several programs for the Adath Israel Young Business and Professionals Network.

"We had no hidden agenda, except to help them meet each other."

Weinroth co-ordinated such programs as a lecture about the way the press covers the Middle East and a fun night out at the Bistro Grande restaurant.

"There are many other singles groups that hold parties, but to the best of my knowledge, this is the only one where lectures are a focus. I like that," says a 38-year-old systems analyst who asked that his name not be published.

Suzy Dickstein, a 33-year-old financial and insurance advisor, says the Adath young professionals events had a different feel than others she's attended.

"Many of the other events that I have attended have been in the [recreation] room of a synagogue or downstairs at [a kosher restaurant]. [The Adath venues] had a more upscale ambience."

Although a few events garnered decent turnouts, Weinroth has decided to take a "hiatus" from any more programs for the time being. "Until I can build my market, get some credibility and assure people there will be a really nice turnout, there's no point," she says.

"I don't think starting small works. And I don't know what [the young singles] want… I think we have to find out what these young people want."

So how do you go about finding out the answer to that proverbial million-dollar question?

Weinroth and her associate, marketing professional Jerry Maser, suggest an interactive website that would act as a virtual singles community for young Jews.

"What is missing [in the Jewish community] is the development of all sorts of interest groups and activities where young single Jews can meet each other," Maser says.

"On an interactive website, we would have postings for hundreds of different activities. Each person would go to the web page, check off what they like and there would be people who organize these activities. They would also have discussion groups about what they like, so we would learn what we need to about their interests and create for them what they want."

The website Maser is talking about is "Jewish Singles World," a project he and Weinroth have been working on for years.

They believe the idea has much potential in the effort to combat the gradual loss of Diaspora Jews to intermarriage, but will only be able to make significant in-roads if it's widely marketed with a massive media blitz.

Judith Weinroth and Jerry Maser

"You've got to create awareness before you can have any effect," Maser says, driving home his point by noting advertising is the best way to reach the 56,000 Jewish singles who are dispersed around the Toronto area.

"A heavy [advertising] campaign for a few months will help the word spread like wildfire."

The challenge that Jewish Singles World faces is raising funds.

"We have been desperately trying to raise funds for a couple of years," Maser says. "The only way this can be done is by having Jewish foundations support us."

Maser and Weinroth told *The CJN* last December that they would require about $300,000 in seed money to get the program up and running: to buy media placements, operate the website, rent venues, hire staff and operate Jewish Singles World in a professional manner.

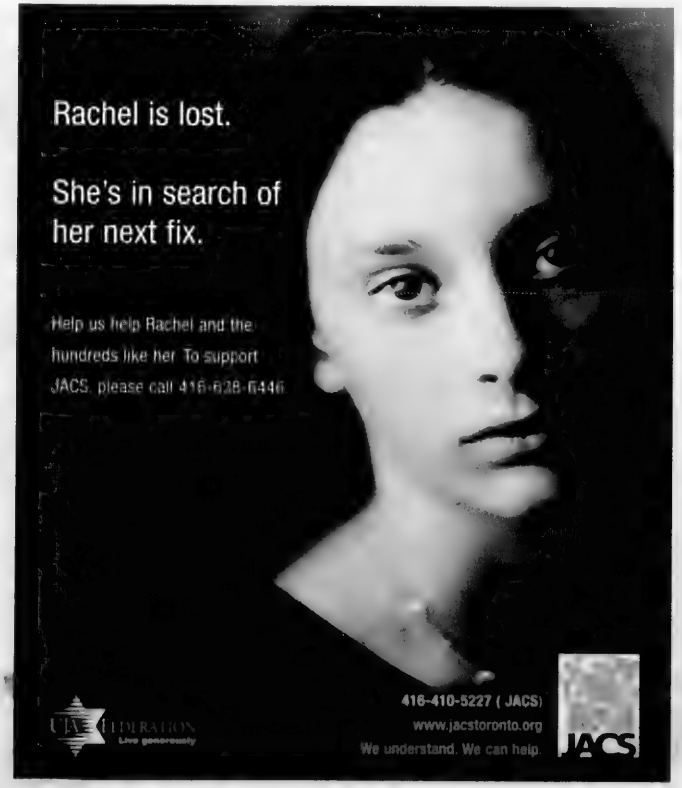
Even though many local singles events haven't attracted scores of Jews, Weinroth says the desire for Jews to court their own is there.

"I think if young Jews had a preference between two programs – one guaranteed to have 200 Jews or one guaranteed to have 200 non-Jews – they would go to the program with the 200 Jews," she says.

"But what sort of event they want is something I don't know."

Dickstein, for her part, has at least one suggestion.

"Today's organizers need to understand that we need something interactive to lighten the pressure of dating. It needs to be more about getting to know people and laughing with them than about what they look like."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# Rabbi reaches out to interfaith couples as rates climb

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

With intermarriage rates in North America continuing to climb and the importance of marrying within the Jewish faith becoming less of a priority, community leaders are being encouraged to reach out to interfaith couples in an attempt to ensure Jewish continuity.

*Jewish Life in Greater Toronto: Trends and Attitudes of the Greater Toronto Jewish Community*, a report published by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in June, focused on the trends of Jewish communities in Jewish education, religious observance, affiliation with Israel and intermarriage.

Perhaps the most troubling conclusion the study makes is that intermarriage rates are continuing to rise.

Of the 654 Toronto-area Jews who successfully completed the survey, 11 per cent of respondents said they are either married to or living with a non-Jew.

**Passover in the Matzah Aisles runs in supermarkets across North America.**

The report says that "while intermarriage rates are lower for Jews than for most other ethnic groups in Canada, intermarriage represents a serious threat to Jewish continuity given particularly low Jewish fertility rates and increasing levels of assimilation."

On a more positive note, only Rhode Island and Atlantic County, N.J., showed lower intermarriage figures than Toronto, with the American figure hovering around 31 per cent.

Toronto also has a higher proportion of non-Jewish spouses converting to Judaism, at 30 per cent, than other North American cities.

However, about 28 per cent of the respondents said their children married non-Jews, and among Jews who live "outside the sphere of Jewish neighbourhoods," such as in Aurora or Newmarket, 80 per cent of respondents said they have children who married non-Jews.

According to a 2001 census, 70 per cent of Ottawa couples age 30 or younger are intermarried.

"[This] suggests that such geographic detachment from the community may be associated with lower levels of affiliation and connection that stretch across generational lines."

The data also suggests that children who are raised in intermarried families are themselves more likely to intermarry.

Almost 30 per cent of those living in intermarried households said their children were brought up within the Jewish faith, 37 per cent said within both faiths, and almost 30 per cent without religion.

While intermarriage is a concern for the Jewish community, Rabbi Tina Grimberg, the spiritual leader of Congregation Darchei Noam in Toronto, said an even greater threat to Jewish continuity is children not being raised Jewish.

"It is a lack of Jewish life, Jewish living and Jewish learning [that is more of a threat]," she said, adding that a low fertility rate among Jews compounds the problem.

"[Those who say intermarriage threatens Jewish continuity] have a valid concern. But the issue is not only that Jews don't marry Jews, it's that Jews who don't marry Jews have less than a 50 per cent rate of raising their kids Jewish. The concern is not only that couples are intermarried, but it is about their commitment to Jewish life."

Rabbi Grimberg added that her goal in reaching out to the intermarried Jewish community is to see that "the Jewish partner's passion for Judaism is ignited, and that the non-Jewish partner has an interest in Judaism and an appreciation is ignited in them as well."

She said the growing rate does worry her, but she is just as concerned about the "indifference that a Jew feels for his own traditions."

Julie Seltzer, the communications associate and program officer at the New York-based Jewish Outreach Institute, and Sonja Spear, the national Mother Circle co-ordinator at JOI, said the organization is attempting to create a more welcoming and inclusive community for intermarried couples and unaffiliated Jews, because it is this, they say, that will ensure Jewish continuity.

Spear explained that the JOI performs research studies to learn about Jews "on the periphery" and about how welcoming the Jewish community is to them. The organization also trains Jewish organizations to eliminate barriers that would deter the unaffiliated and intermarried from becoming involved in the community.

**Continued on page B11**

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# JOI helps interfaith couples raise Jewish kids

**Continued from page B10**

"A lot of what the JOI advocates is going to where the people are rather than waiting passively for the people to come to you. The goal is to re-energize Jewish communities," Spear said.

The service JOI provides is aimed at Jewish professionals, who can then use their training to reach out to their respective communities.

**Rabbi Tina Grimberg**

One of the programs, called Passover in the Matzah Aisles, runs in communities from British Columbia to Washington, Spetzer said.

"Basically, they teach people about Passover and tasting Passover foods, in the supermarkets. Passover is one of the holidays most celebrated, even by unaffiliated families, so they might go to the supermarket to buy a box of matzah before the holiday, and this is a way to go where the people are instead of waiting for them to come to Jewish institutions," she explained.

But one program aimed specifically at welcoming interfaith families into the community is the Mother Circle.

> ***'The goal is to re-energize Jewish communities'***

"The Mother Circle is a program of education for the non-Jewish mother in an interfaith relationship who has decided to raise her children as Jews," Spear said.

"The program is meant to empower her to transmit the Jewish tradition to her children and also to deal with the Jewish community."

Spear said that based on JOI research, it is the mother who takes on the responsibility for the religious upbringing of their children. She estimated that 200,000 non-Jewish women in intermarried relationships are attempting to raise their children Jewish, while the community offers them little or no systematic support.

**Sonja Spear**

"If she is not Jewish and she is not converted, it seems that there is no clear place for her in the community, and in many cases, the women who were doing this felt alienated, even slighted, because they felt they were getting a cold reception," Spear said.

The Mother Circle has two parts: A national listserv, an Internet mailing list, that includes women from all over North America, and an eight-month course, a class that meets twice a month.

Spear said the listserv allows women who are not Jewish but decided to raise their children as Jews to contact each other to form a virtual support network.

"On the list just recently, women were talking about what happens when the child next door comes over and says to your son, 'The Jews killed Jesus.' How do you answer that, especially if his mother is still Christian?

"That was a lively discussion and raised a lot of passion and some sensible answers," she said.

Meanwhile, the eight-month course includes sessions on everything you would need to know about raising a Jewish child.

"There are discussions on how to talk to your in-laws and also in informal sessions, usually with the whole family."

Spear said the Mother Circle offers the participants who "feel like they are just faking it… a kind of authenticity, a kind of security in what they are doing and why they are doing it."

Rabbi Grimberg, who has a background in marriage and family therapy, has been doing her part to connect with the interfaith community in Toronto by conducting intermarriage workshops and working with couples during classes and private meetings.

"I usually make a habit of having them over for Shabbat dinner. My husband and I reach out to these couples and I see them through the year of the conversion process, all the way to the chupah, which is a tremendous joy," she said.

Spear said that rather than fight the intermarriage trend itself, the community needs to work on instilling in them a sense of belonging.

"What the Jewish community needs to do to ensure its own future is to make raising a Jewish child easy and comfortable, to make sure the community offers the children of intermarriage a warm, secure place in which it is easy for them to affirm their Jewish identity," Spear said.

For more information, visit www.joi.org.

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# Not your bubbie's magazines

By DAVE GORDON
*Special to The CJN*

Where can you find an article about women with menorah tattoos selling authentic red Kabbalah string? Or an article about a motorcycle club for yeshiva boys in Iowa?

Welcome to the new face of Jewish magazines. In the past year, there has been an explosion of Jewish publications – not of the local variety, but national and international. That there are so many publications popping up shouldn't be a surprise to anyone at a time when magazines like *Heeb: The New Jew Review* have shown that young Jews are eager to express their views.

In fact, 10 new magazines are launching, or have been recently launched. They are, in no particular order: *Jewish Living, American Jewish Life, Mensch, Guilt & Pleasure, American Jewish Spirit, Heeb, Soul Magazine, Jewish Mayhem, Present Tense* and *Notebook*.

If the sheer number and style says anything, it's that today's Jew reads magazines reflective of a different kind of Judaism, the kind with shock-jock topics, where limits are pushed, taboos are challenged, and the conventional is turned on its head. Some are awarding covers to any popular rapper or comedian who happens to be born to Jewish parents; others are focused on "flipping the bird" to the once-sacred.

These publications are focused on the ennui of the postmodern Jew, the "new" Jew, the cultural Jew, to make Judaism more inclusive to multi-identity persons of the Hebraic persuasion.

Perhaps it was *Heeb* magazine that began it all, or at least popularized, this "new Jew" identity with which the magazine refracts its lens. Some call it edgy, risqué, provocative, counterculture, but the national Jewish magazine, launched four years ago, has ostensibly given inspiration to others.

*Heeb* shows that there is more to Jewish publications than the retread topics of day-school-funding kvetches, the Holocaust and the local macher's newest philanthropic efforts.

*Atlanta Jewish Life*, which was the print form of the website *Jewsweek* previously, included stories of wider interest beyond those focused on life in Georgia, mostly pop and celebrity culture with a Jewish twist, including reports on Madonna and Kabbalah, Jewish celebrity interviews, and columnists like *Kosher Sex* author Shmuley Boteach.

Other publications, such as *Jewish Living* and *American Jewish Spirit*, are keeping a dash of conventionality, spiced up with giant glossy photos and twists on familiar topics. The former, for example, has had articles on *Gelt Complex*, *Chanukah Chic* and *Kibbitzing with Sarah Jessica Parker*.

Though not necessarily targeted toward the new Jew specifically, there appears to be recognition of that important demographic. The new publications demonstrate a common denominator: it's hip to be Jewish.

Joshua Andrews, the 33-year-old publisher of *Jewish Mayhem*, wants his magazine to be "a little more racy" than anything else out there. Stories about Jews with tattoos, the Jewish mafia and Jewish bikers are not uncommon. It's not surprising then that he has received an endorsement by porn star Ron Jeremy.

"These are stories not in the mainstream. These are Jews that come on board because they're going to get alienated from the rest of us. Jews tend to get alienated… they see a Magen David symbol and they get turned off, and it reminds them of everything bad they know about Judaism," says the Torontonian.

His magazine "gives them an open-source kind of concept, the result of which is *Jewish Mayhem*."

Andrews launched the website two years ago as a forum for Jews who "didn't grow up in insulated environments, like Teaneck [N.J.] or Thornhill [Ont.], but made urban centres their homes," he says, adding that the print-edition debuted last month.

"Too much of our identity is based on the past, the Holocaust and the suffering, or on the future, continuity, assimilation," says *Present Tense* publisher Ariel Beery of how his magazine was named. "But what's going on in the here and now? It's a young new age of Jewish consciousness. I want my magazine to be a focal platform for those discussions."

Beery, 26, now studying for his master's of Jewish philosophy at Columbia University in New York, says he does not consider himself a new Jew and he hopes people don't think his magazine is about that.

"I personally take issue with it, this multicultural universalism, because that's what's 'in.' New Jews are bagels and lox. You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy bagels and lox. For me, being Jewish is an operating system, not a computer program. Some people have a bagel and lox program, but for some people that's their Jewish operating system. It is a way of life."

Benyamin Cohen, editor of *American Jewish Life*, feels the same way. Like Beery, he says that new Jew culture can seem like candy, when people should be getting steak and potatoes.

"My philosophy is 'now what?' You get people in the door, people talking about it… but you need some kind of Torah-based activity after that," Cohen, 31, says.

**Continued on page B13**

# 'They've created a lot of Jewish pride'

**Continued from page B12**

"I take issue with a movement that is getting a lot of Jews involved – it's getting one-note Jews involved, solely involved because of *x* or *y*. God bless those who take it to the next level, marry Jewish, raise their kids Jewish. But there has to be a redeeming value," he adds.

Beery says it is important to see the difference between Judaism as something you are, rather than something you do.

"Perhaps the new Jew is something their parents aren't," he adds.

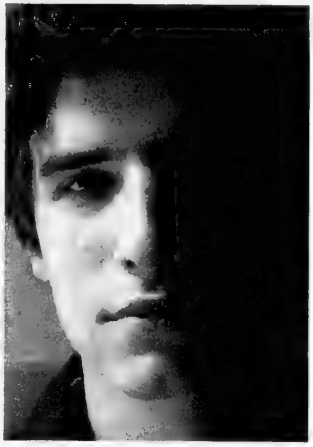
A new study, *The Latte Report* by the Reboot organization, focused on the dislocation between the growing and intense interest young Jews have in their Jewish identities and the complete disinterest they express about Jewish institutional life.

The new Jews, according to many, don't believe religious institutional affiliation automatically equals spirituality, but that spirituality can be found in any place. They believe acceptance isn't contingent on your level of connection with Judaism. They are people who don't neatly fit under the umbrella of any one kind of movement.

Mireille Silcoff, editor of *Guilt & Pleasure*, says that her magazine is "for people who might be addicted to ideas, like reading good stuff in an exuberant package. If a lot of people think we are new Jew-ish, I think we are new Jews. Everything can be slotted somewhere – there is some movement of young Jewish culture going on. It's normal."

She says that young Jews are craving Jewish intellectual culture.

"New Jew culture appeared to be pap a few years ago, and people derided things like *Heeb* as overly ironic, pooh-poohing it, that they were turning everything into a joke. I just think it was a gateway for us. If something like *Heeb* didn't exist, I'm not sure that *G&P* would have come out. They've created a lot of Jewish pride among Jews."



**From left, Ariel Beery and Joshua Andrews edit magazines that appeal to a new generation of Jews.**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# Young Jews create their own congregations

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

Single Jews are among the least likely of Toronto's Jewish population to belong to synagogues, according to *Jewish Life in Greater Toronto*, a report published this past June that was based on a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto survey.

But around North America, single Jews, who tend to be younger and less inclined to affiliate with traditional mainstream Jewish organizations, have been creating alternative shuls and minyanim to fulfil their spiritual needs.

This past year in Toronto, a group of recent university graduates established Kehilat Or Hadash, a roving traditional minyan for young people, complete with mechitzah, that has held periodic services in such places as people's homes and the Wolfond Centre at the University of Toronto.

South of the border, the trend toward young adults starting their own small-scale congregations is more well-established.

Take Kehilat Hadar, a five-year-old, self-described "grassroots community" on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Its co-founder, Elie Kaunfer, said that "institutional Judaism" – which includes Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogues – is struggling to attract Jews in their 20s and 30s, but Kehilat Hadar has succeeded in attracting this elusive demographic to its services and educational programs.

He said that with its traditional approach to liturgy, as well as its egalitarianism and spirited services, Kehilat Hadar offers a combination of enticements for young Jews who have been turned off by the institutional Jewish scene.

"By spirited services I mean that we are infusing new melodies but keeping the rhythm of traditional services alive," Kaunfer told *The CJN*. "Also, the service is layled, with different people leading each week, so there is a different approach to the service each week.

"People were excited to come to a community where people their age were in charge, and saw that as a model that they could connect and contribute to," he said.

Egalitarianism is an important part of Hadar's philosophy. Women lead services, read Torah and are not separated from the men by a mechitzah.

As a result, Hadar, which is neither affiliated with any religious movement nor a breakaway from a synagogue, has attracted a wide spectrum of Jews from varying backgrounds.

Indeed, Kaunfer is reluctant to describe Kehilat Hadar in terms of categories such as Orthodox or Conservative, noting that many Jews avoid using such terminology to define themselves.

Ultimately, he thinks that one word doesn't do a good job of describing the spiritual journey of modern young Jews.

"In past generations, your definition of your Jewry was very important. Orthodox or Conservative stood for a specific ideology," Kaunfer said. "Now, young people are finding that these terms don't describe their personal Jewish journey accurately."

Kaunfer grew up attending a Conservative synagogue, but in university was exposed to many different types of Judaism through Hillel. After graduating, he spent a year in Israel "with people where denominational slots weren't part of their vocabulary. A one-word label doesn't describe me very well. It's a more complicated identity than one word can transmit. People are not willing to identify themselves on one plane anymore.

"Jews in my generation are not bothering to explain what 'my Conservative Judaism' means as opposed to what 'my Judaism' means," he said.

Kaunfer believes that Kehilat Hadar has also been able to isolate the factors in institutional Judaism that tend to alienate young people.

**Continued on page B15**

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Community Focus

# The House lets students feel right at home

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
*Special to The CJN*

College-age students gather at the House.

A small group of young Jews share their reflections about a book on Jewish thought as they sit on a cozy couch in a second-storey storefront-turned-living room.

In another room, two students do their own learning in a more intimate fashion. Then a few people pop in because they spotted the lights on and want to see what's happening.

This is The House, a non-profit, hip setting in mid-town Toronto that "bring[s] together the heart and the mind in a rich blend of intellectual discovery and spiritual exultation," its website says.

The House, located on Eglinton Avenue between Spadina and Avenue roads, started a few years ago with the intention of being a relaxed forum to experience Jewish education.

"I've always felt that education is the greatest way to bond with your Jewish identity," explains Rabbi Rafi Lipner, director of The House. "Especially within this demographic, Jewish thought creates excitement."

After starting off with programs twice a week, The House now boasts events most days or nights of the week, with as many as 130 students streaming through its doors for programs that range from laid-back discussions and lectures to Shabbat dinners and concerts.

Rabbi Lipner says the 17- to 23-year-olds who frequent The House are drawn to it because of its openness.

"What scares [this demographic off] is a lot of red tape," he says. "Not being an organizational or institutional centre, there's no pressure. It's a place where you walk in and know it's open. The House is very real, and that's what I think students are looking for."

Though programs often take on a social dimension, Rabbi Lipner says The House isn't just a place to get together.

"We don't run anything that doesn't have value," he says. "We always scrutinize what is the meaning of this event and that it's well beyond just bringing people together."

The House also organizes occasional tikkun olam projects, teaming up with other groups, such as Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee.

Lipner says he sees value in the different approaches that other Jewish groups and organizations take to courting this demographic, but he also says that many young Jews are averse to being a "part of them" and are more inclined to go somewhere where the slogan is "we have something for you."

As The House website states, "it's all about helping you discover a Judaism you can call your own."

More than anything else, Rabbi Lipner passionately believes that education is the key way to the Jewish soul.

"People can get sensory pleasure or enjoyment anywhere, but to be Jewish is really to learn what it's all about," he says. "It's not just about how you cover your head – it's how you fill it."

For more information, visit www.checkoutthehouse.com or call 416-569-6647.

# 'People come by because they want to'

**Continued from page B14**

For one, he said, young people don't necessarily identify with the hierarchical authority of a rabbi running services. At Kehilat Hadar, it's not readily apparent who organizes the services, since the leaders are members of the community and one person usually will not lead a service more than once a year.

As well, guilt, a traditional Jewish staple, is totally absent from Kehilat Hadar. "Our philosophy is if people don't want to come, then maybe the program should change or end," said Kaunfer. "Using this model, we have never once found ourselves without a minyan at the beginning of services. People are coming because they want to."

While many Kehilat Hadar attendees are single, it never holds singles events. "Most people shun singles events because the only thing in common for attendees is that they are single," Kaunfer said.

If single people happen to meet at Kehilat Hadar programs, which cater to singles and couples alike, it's because they share a common interest, not because they are single, he added.

From its humble beginnings five years ago in an apartment with 60 people at its first service, Hadar has grown to an average of 200 people and now meets three out of four weeks of each month.

"On the High Holidays, we get 600 people, and we do a Shavuot retreat which sells out every year with 250 people," Kaunfer said.


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## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

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## THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

**Retro Ashkenaz - Klezmer superstars and past festival faves**
**Les Yeux Noirs (France) & Klezmer en Buenos Aires (Argentina)**
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## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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**Silent Film Laughter Through Tears with accompaniment by trumpeter Paul Brody & Sadawi (Germany)**
**STUDIO THEATRE, 7:30PM - $10**

**Havdallah Celebration**
**TORONTO STAR STAGE, 9PM -**

**Ladino singing sensation Yasmin Levy (Israel)**
**CONCERT STAGE, 9:30PM -**

**The Klezmer Cuban Connection: David Buchbinder & Hilario Durán**
**HARBOURFRONT CENTRE THEATRE, 10PM - $18**

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

**Klez Kazoo Orchestra with Sruli & Lisa**
**TORONTO STAR STAGE, 11AM - FREE**

**Kaballah Yoga class with Rabbi Itzchak Marmorstein**
**ANN TINDAL LAWN, 1PM - FREE**

**Toronto Jewish Folk Choir & singer Janie Respitz**
**BRIGANTINE ROOM, 1PM - FREE**

**Kharkov Klezmer Band (Ukraine)**
**CONCERT STAGE, 2PM - FREE**

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 continued

**Around the World with Boris Sichon**
**BRIGANTINE ROOM, 3:30PM -**

**Matzo Ball Gumbo & Shakshuka**
**TORONTO STAR STAGE, 4:30PM -**

**Keyboard Legends Irving Fields (USA) & Maurice El Medioni (France)**
**HARBOURFRONT CENTRE THEATRE, 5PM - $25**

**The Socalled Orchestra (Montreal)**
**CONCERT STAGE, 9:30PM - FREE**

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

**Learn to kvetch like a pro with Yiddish expert Michel Wex, author of Born to Kvetch**
**BRIGANTINE ROOM, 1PM - $10**

**Chassidic Jazz Project (USA)**
**CONCERT STAGE, 2PM - FREE**

**Klezmer punk stars Golem (USA)**
**TORONTO STAR STAGE, 4:30PM - FREE**

**Greg Wall Trio: Later Prophets (USA)**
**BRIGANTINE ROOM, 5:30PM - $12**

**Theresa Tova "Tova Sings Boyle" CD Launch**
**HARBOURFRONT CENTRE THEATRE, 5:30PM - $18**

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2) **Yesod/Foundation Program** – The goal of the program is to support students in grades 1 and 2 who need to consolidate their first language skills before being introduced to a second language. The customized curriculum builds a strong foundation in general studies and gradually integrates Hebrew language instruction and promotes academic excellence.

3) **TeLeM/Adapative Program** – This program, beginning in grade 4, is designed to deliver our current Jewish curriculum in English for students who would benefit from learning Jewish studies in their first language. During the Jewish studies portion of the day, subjects are taught, discussed and evaluated in English, with the integration of texts, key vocabulary and terms in Hebrew. Hebrew language arts continues to be delivered in Hebrew.

4) **Mechina** – This program provides an opportunity for students who have not previously attended Jewish day school to enter at middle school (grades 6-8). They receive Hebrew language instruction and study the Jewish texts in English.

5) **Song, Circle & Celebration™** – USDS, in partnership with Beth Tzedec, will sponsor five fun-filled events over the 2006/2007 school year. Preschoolers, parents and grandparents can celebrate their Judaism in a warm nurturing environment. Based around Jewish holidays and themes each program includes music, arts and crafts, snack and playtime activities. Events will take place at both campuses.

6) **Math, Literacy and Technology** – USDS offers a cutting edge math curriculum called Math Makes Sense and a focus on literacy which is the touchstone of academic success. Technology is integrated into the program across all subject areas allowing for enriched curriculum.

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8) **Construction at Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Community Campus** – As part of its strategic plan for the future, USDS is moving ahead with a strong presence in the north. This new state of the art facility is set to open in Vaughan in 2008.

9) **Bathurst Campus Renovation** – USDS, in partnership with Beth Tzedec Synagogue, is working on a joint renovation that features a full size gym, green spaces and larger classrooms.

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USDS is part of the Conservative Movement's Solomon Schechter Day School Association. Lucy Cohen, Head of School, is excited about the opportunities that these initiatives provide. They build on the USDS goal of "inspiring excellence in each child".

For more information contact Rosemary Tile at 416-224-8737 ext. 137 or rosemary.tile@usds.ca.

Community Focus

# Record company produces current Jewish music

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

JDub Records in New York City has become known as the company that found and nurtured the talent of platinum-selling Orthodox Jewish reggae performer, Matisyahu.

While Matisyahu ended his relationship with the small, not-for-profit label in March, other artists signed by JDub include klezmer/rock band, Golem, and The Balkan Beat Box, whose music is a fusion of electronica and folk music from the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East.

Aaron Bisman, executive director and label manager along with Ben Hesse, established JDub Records five years ago.

"I went abroad for a year, and when I came back, [Ben] had been working on a project that combined chassidic and Middle Eastern Jewish melodies with hip hop and electronica, heavily sampled and layered. It was really interesting and creative and sparked a lot of conversation," said Bisman, who studied music business at New York University.

"We spent a lot of time asking questions and realized that there was no music label, no Jewish organization and no record company that would know what to do with that kind of music or how to properly market it.

"It had to be in secular spaces, not in synagogues or Jewish community centres. It had to be marketed as authentically Jewish, but also as really good, innovative music. We just sort of set out to create that organization ourselves."

Around that time, Hesse met Matisyahu through a Chabad rabbi they were both studying with.

"[Matisyahu] was just becoming religious at that point. [The situation] was a little bit of the right place, right time. JDub really benefited him as well. He was doing stuff at Chabad houses, and it just wasn't what it should've been. We talked to him about playing at open, secular spaces and making those spaces welcome to all people, not just a religious crowd," he said.

"We also really helped him develop his music, his band, the marketing – all those bases."

Bisman said the Jewish-themed music of JDub Records has had an impact on the secular Jewish community through its promotion of modern Jewish music.

"We're putting the music first, knowing that it makes great connections with young Jews, for many reasons, around identity and community, but that JDub is about art and music, and that's not always commercially successful," he said.

"The reason we exist is that there is no commercial entity that does what we do, which is invest heavily in artists that have great impact on the world."

Bisman said old, traditional Jewish music is "from a different generation.

"Music is a major part of pop-culture, and it often defines how you dress and who your friends are and what you do with your free time," he said. "Having music out there that sounds really good at the same time, that is coming from a unique cultural place, is really valuable in terms of where we are at this point in time."

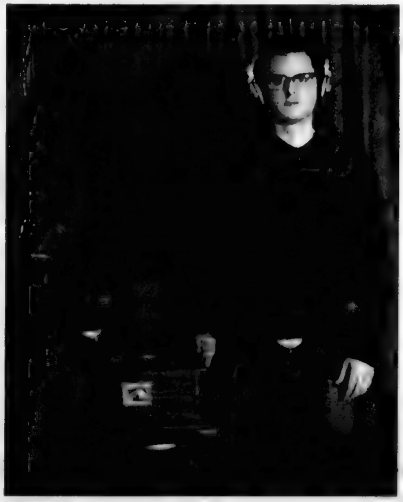
While Bisman is thrilled at the mainstream success of his artists – The Balkan Beat Box performed at Bonnaroo, the biggest music festival in the United States recently – he doesn't think Jewish music will dominate the *Billboard* charts any time soon.

"I think we've proven that we have Jewish artists who can be very popular in a mainstream world, with different levels of success. I don't think, as a whole, Jewish artists are getting popular," he said.

"I think we now know what's possible. I don't think we've seen a mass success of Jewish artists yet and I don't think we will."

Bisman is optimistic about the future of JDub and Jewish life at the moment.

"[In] a world where individuality is valued, to have high-quality Jewish [material] which young Jews can identify with and claim as their own, is something that we really haven't had ever before," he said. "I think [our artists] really speak to people because there was a real need for it even before it existed."



**SoCalled is an artist signed on the JDub label.**

While Bisman has achieved his goal of creating a record company devoted solely to current Jewish music, he is still looking to the future.

"We have yet to see any success out of any non-Ashkenazi musicians, and I think that would be really interesting to see," he said.

JDub Records is supported by the Joshua Venture Fellowship, the Natan Fund and Bikkurim Incubator for New Jewish Ideas.

For more information, visit the website at www.jdubrecords.org.

Community Focus

# Jewish salon offers community outside traditional institutions

By TANIA HAAS
*Special to The CJN*

When Mireille Silcoff moved from Montreal to Toronto in 2002, she found herself without the comfort of her friends or family, or an outlet to explore her Jewish identity. Not one to dwell on the negative, the ambitious journalist created her own community by hosting an evening of conversation, a "salon," for 14 people.

Three years later, the Jewish salon has emerged as the latest trend in non-traditional Jewish engagement.

The concept is simple: provide a venue for a group of individuals, most of whom are Jewish, and let them converse.

"A salon is a talking party – nothing more complicated than that," said Silcoff, a journalist, writer and editor-in-chief of a new Jewish quarterly magazine called *Guilt & Pleasure*.

Guests may or may not know one another, and conversation can range from philosophy and food to freedom.

"My salon is not bible study. It's cultural talk," she said.

"The point of the salon is to get people together in a leisure setting to talk. It can be a very grand affair in the sumptuous Parisian tradition or five people on a patio on College Street."

Since first hosting a salon in her Clarendon Avenue apartment, Silcoff has organized dozens of salons at venues across Toronto.

At one of Silcoff's events, 60 to 70 young professionals attended four separate salons held at the Drake Hotel on Queen Street West.

Finding that event too bombastic for the salon's purpose, she followed up with a more intimate affair at a small French restaurant in Kensington Market.

Unlike the larger Drake party, La Palette's was a more inviting ambience for conversation, the drawback being that not all willing participants got in.

"There was a cap at 30 people at La Palette. And every month following, the demand would grow," said Silcoff.

What makes the Jewish-salon concept so appealing to the young professional crowd? Silcoff suggests that much like her initial reason for starting the salon, individuals in their late 20s and 30s are trying to incorporate Jewishness into the rest of their lives.

"People want community, but some people don't want the traditional institutions because they feel like they deal with the concerns of another generation. People want something that feels right and relevant for the circumstances under which they grew up."

Mireille Silcoff

Shaina Ezrin, 28, a registered nutritional consultant working in Toronto, may join a synagogue in the future, but right now her interests in the Jewish community are different from her grandparents' generation.

"For my grandparents, all their friends were in the Jewish community. That was their world," said Ezrin.

"For me, my colleagues and friends are from different walks of life, and my community is not based solely on religion, but on similar interests. A lot of my friends are into yoga, organic foods and environmentally conscious issues. These are the people in my community."

Ezrin grew up in a Jewish home, and she is dating someone who is Jewish. But like many of her Jewish peers, her identity derives partly, but not exclusively, from her religion.

Finding appropriate social events that reflect her diverse interests can at times be challenging.

"In the back of my mind, there is always the desire to get more involved with the Jewish community," Ezrin said.

"I want to get involved with Jewish events, but it needs to take place in an environment that I feel comfortable and connected to. I would join something but not just because it is Jewish, but because it has meaning for me."

Elli Chemel, 27, a designer and manager for a Toronto event company, sees a need for more substance and inspiration in organized social events.

"Create something that is inclusive to all people," he said. "One of the biggest turnoffs is the exclusive Jewish event. As soon as you make an event only a Jewish thing, it loses the element that is appealing to me."

Chemel said he sees the value in Jewish events but would more likely attend festivals and concerts with Judaism as a branch, not as the main tenet of the event.

So are salons the "Jew-dos" for the intellectual crowd? According to Silcoff, the salon is not a veiled matchmaker attempt but, rather, an enriching, positive contribution to current Jewish culture.

"Whether the salons lead to people getting married is really not my concern. My concern is to make something that is communal, to make something relevant. If you take care of the present, the future will take care of itself. There is way too much concern about the Jewish past and the Jewish future. Meanwhile, the Jewish present is falling by the wayside. The way I try to address it is by creating good events that people want to be a part of," Silcoff said.

Since the launch of Silcoff's Toronto salon in 2003, Jewish salons have taken place in Montreal, New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Hosts across North America are replicating Silcoff's salon formula to meet their social, cultural and spiritual needs. Or, perhaps, they want to have a good conversation with interesting people.

A do-it-yourself salon guide can be found online at www.guiltandpleasure.com/salonhaveown.html.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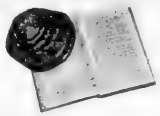
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# Jewish students meeting on Facebook.com

By DAVE GORDON
*Special to The CJN*

It used to be that through "Jewish geography" you could always find yourself a couple of degrees separated from other Jews, though not necessarily be able to meet or speak with them.

Then came the search engine Google, which makes it possible to get information on who they are or what they do, and perhaps how to contact them. Consider Facebook.com a combination of the two.

Facebook is becoming one of the most popular virtual and vital meeting places for Jewish students. The Facebook website, spanning nationally and even internationally, is open to the general public. There are literally thousands of different local discussion groups on the site revolving around topics such as Israel, activism, Jewish comedy, Jewish culture and the many stripes of Judaism.

It's where Jewish students are schmoozing with their peers, and friends of their peers, and friends of friends.

Jesse Paikin, a 22-year-old York University religious studies major, says that he lobbied Facebook for about a year to come to Canada, whereas previously it concentrated mostly on the United States. "Finally, it worked. I think it's great, even if it takes up far too much of my time," he says.

There are hundreds of groups to join for young Jewish Canadians of diverse interests. A search for "Jewish" or "Israel" culls groups such as "I Sit in Hillel All day and Eat Jewish Food," "The Top 10 Reasons Why I Support Israel," "I Love Israel," "Zionism: The Fight For Our Land," "Union of Progressive Zionists," "Honorary Jews," "Sexy Jews," "I Went To an Officially Non-Jewish School That Felt Like a Jewish School," and "The Jews of Fine Arts."

Searches can also be done on a myriad of topics, including music, TV or politics. Signing up for groups is generally as easy as clicking the "join" button on the screen. Members can see who else has joined, see other member profiles and partake in the discussions.

Launched in February 2004, the free service touts more than seven million people registered, with representation from more than 2,200 colleges – over 150 in Canada.

Talia Klein, 33, is the creator of the Facebook group Betar-Tagar, a Zionist organization. She served until recently as director of Hillel at York University and found out about Facebook from her Hillel students.

"I tend to belong to groups that share my interests, like pro-Israel groups or groups of people who read the same books as I do or listen to the same music," says Klein, who adds she has nearly a hundred friends on Facebook.

"It is very easy to create a group and send [virtual] invitations to people to sign up... people will spontaneously join if they like the subject matter," she says.

While Facebook does not have a real-time "chat" function, users can leave private messages that function like e-mail or can place a note on the bulletin board (also known as "the wall") of whatever group they belong to.

Klein concedes that it can be hard to meet new people on campus, and the "virtual Jewish campus" makes connecting with others easier.

**Continued on page B21**

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# Facebook adds new element to Jewish geography game

**Continued from page B20**

"I see it happening already," she says. "There are new groups and events popping up on Facebook all the time. I would highly recommend a new student arriving on campus to join the Facebook groups and to meet new people there. It is definitely an excellent way to break the ice and to make friends before encountering the existing groups in person at the Hillel."

Shaun Bernstein, 19, a second-year professional writing major at York, found out about Facebook through some older friends at York who had discovered it a year ago. As soon as Bernstein received a York e-mail address, making him eligible for Facebook, he joined.

The site requires that the user identify themselves with a school or company e-mail address to ensure they are who they say they are. Members share information and their personal profiles only with others in their networks and with confirmed friends.

Bernstein counts more than 200 Facebook friends – both new and old – and belongs to over 100 groups, adding that he has reconnected with friends dating as far back as preschool.

"I'll go into my friends' groups, a lot of Jewish groups, groups for causes I believe in."

As for Jews meeting other Jews online or at events, he says, "They would all be on a very similar wavelength, so it could work really well for Jewish singles networking."

Jenna Goldenberg, 21, is a York business major who began using Facebook about a year ago, and stays in touch with friends and meets new people through it.

"I have joined groups that I thought were funny or that I had some kind of interest in," she says.

And although she belongs to groups relating to Judaism and Israel, she says Facebook helps maintain rather than adds to her Jewish identity. Goldenberg says she is like many others who, despite not frequenting Jewish school events, often instead finds Jews to interact with online, and connects with new friends on Facebook.

"So I do believe it could make it easier for people to meet in that sense," she says.

Jewish students, therefore, can play Jewish geography online effortlessly with other campus friends on Facebook to find other like-minded individuals.

"I feel that there is a strong Jewish Facebook community out there, and they do actively seek each other out for social events, [such as] Jew-do parties, and also more religious events on and off campus," says Goldenberg.

"'Jewdar' [the ability to detect that a person is part of the Jewish culture/religion – short for "Jew-radar") is definitely heightened on Facebook, since you can see pictures, names, schools, friends and other giveaway associations. So it makes it easy to find other Jews on campus."

**Facebook user Talia Klein says the virtual Jewish campus makes connecting with others easier.**


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# Students STAND up to help others outside their community

By DEANNA LAMPERT
*Special to The CJN*

Students spend more time at school than at home, and many turn to campus groups for a way to become socially active and feel they are doing something to help those less fortunate than themselves.

STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) is one example of how university students can get involved with a cause, regardless of their religion.

Ben Fine, 23, a co-founder of STAND Canada, graduated from engineering at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) and currently attends Boston's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he is working on a master's degree in the same field.

Three years ago, Fine learned of the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and because he had been taught the Jewish philosophy of tikkun olam, repairing the world, he felt that somehow he had to make a difference.

According to the STAND website, the Sudanese government forces and government-backed ethnic militias known as Janjaweed have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and participated in ethnic cleansing of the black Sudanese.

STAND's goal is to create awareness of this issue, advocate solutions and provide resources that would ultimately promote action to end the violence in Sudan.

Fine, who is Jewish, believes that other Jews find STAND inviting because the issue hits close to home.

"Jews today are very comfortable in their communities, and joining a group like STAND allows them to find common bridges with people who are from different [backgrounds]," Fine says.

Another organization trying to make a difference by promoting social action among students, especially in Darfur, is Project Equity, whose vision is to see this world become more as it should be – a world that values human life and encourages equal opportunities.

Like STAND, Project Equity, which has both high school and university students, invites young people of all ages and ethnicities to join together for a common cause. Earlier this year, it organized a student rally called Screaming for Darfur.

What makes STAND and Project Equity appealing to students is that they can get involved in a worthwhile cause and meet other students who share the same values.

Danny Richmond, the 21-year-old national program director of Canadian Young Judaea (CYJ), co-founder of Va'ad Tikum Olam (VTO) and also a Darfur advocate and student at the University of Toronto, believes that today's youth are interested in becoming involved with social action.

"Any organization offering students a sense of ownership and real responsibility is one that is very enticing to youth," Richmond says.

"Idealism is strong in youth and so is passion. The natural [outlet] for these two is tikkun olam. The emphasis… of tikkun olam is both inward toward the Jewish community and outward toward the general and international community," says Richmond.

Fine believes that young people become active because they have the luxury of living in a place like Canada where they can be comfortable with who they are inside and outside their community. This ability to be comfortable allows young Jews to spread their wings and reach out to other communities without feeling as if they are neglecting their own, he says.

There are STAND Canada goups at UWO, McGill University, Concordia University, University of Toronto and Queens University.

To become involved with STAND Canada or Project Equity, visit www.standcanada.org or www.projectequity.org for upcoming events and campaigns.

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Community Focus

# Club combines Judaism with the outdoors

By DEANNA LAMPERT
*Special to The CJN*

Picture this. You are a young Jew attending university in Toronto. You have yet to make friends because you have little time to socialize.

You realize that university or any other post-secondary education is expensive and you want to get as much out of it as you can.

Your classes are huge with hundreds of people, which makes it hard to find friends there.

Where do you turn to find people in the same situation as you? You could join the Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario (MOCO).

MOCO is an organization that appeals to people of all ages, especially young adults. MOCO offer participants a chance to enjoy nature and the opportunity to make new friends.

Today's young Jews lead hectic lives and have little spare time. Some of them are not interested in traditional, institutionalized Jewish programming. It's not to say that students are less religious, but some are just looking for a way to combine their beliefs with an active and community-based lifestyle.

"Modern Orthodoxy has become more religious and the other movements more liberal, leaving less of a place for the centrist Jew within institutionalized Judaism," said Maxwell Kates, 28, one of the younger MOCO members.

He understands that the world has changed and that the nine-to-five work week has expanded to the weekends in some cases. Kates, who said he "used to be in radio and standup comedy but when that got boring, [he] decided to become an accountant," calls this situation "time poverty."

He said students are too busy, even in the summer when the school year is over, to become involved with the Jewish community.

Summer vacation is no longer about going to camp with friends, he added. In most cases, students have to work to save money for the next school year.

Some are so consumed with their studies that they enrol in summer school. For those people in particular, the Mosaic club is the perfect way to take a break.

MOCO is a non-profit organization that doesn't advertise. Kates heard about the organization through word-of-mouth while volunteering for the United Jewish Appeal.

Kates said one of the reasons MOCO appeals to young adults is that it offers activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, skating and horseback riding. These season specific sports are for those aged 19 and up, while younger people can get involved as long as a parent or guardian accompanies them.

The activities promote socializing and making friends, and being active could help a student shed the "freshmen 15" – the weight university students tend to gain in their first year away from Mom's home-cooked meals.

"The name Mosaic itself pays tribute to the interweaving of outdoor activities and Jewish history," Kates said.

The first chapter of Mosaic was founded in Denver in 1988 and was named after the first Jewish outdoorsman, Moses.

Today's young Jews seek places to achieve religious and spiritual knowledge outside the organized Jewish community.

Kates, who has met Mosaic members from Russia, Israel, Iraq, England and across Canada, said that Mosaic offers many trademarks of synagogue culture such as community involvement, discussions, food and self-actualization.

"Mosaic tries to be as respectful to observant Jews as possible by refraining from organizing events on Friday night or Saturday. You can also attend as many or as little events as you wish," he said.

Another aspect of the organization that works well for Jewish students is the low annual fee of $35.

Those who choose not to become members but want to take part in a particular event pay $6. There may be added fees for sports equipment rentals.

For more information about the Mosaic Outdoor Club on Ontario, visit www.mosaictoronto.org.

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Community Focus

# Tzedek Hillel: Jewish identity through social action

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to The CJN*

A growing number of Jewish students are using their university years to answer Rabbi Hillel's well-known challenge: "If I am not for myself, who am I? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Last year, through Tzedek Hillel, the social action program of Hillel of Greater Toronto, groups of Canadian Jewish students visited hurricane-torn regions of Mississippi and Louisiana not just to witness the devastation, but to lend a hand.

"You see all these images of things in the media," says Ninat Friedland, a visual arts and psychology major at York University who went to Mississippi in January. "It's sort of separated from your life here."

Twenty Torontonians joined some 60 U.S. students repairing roofs of homes that had been destroyed. "We'd have to strip the roof of old shingles and nails, repair rotting wood, and cover it up again with felt paper, new shingles and tar," Friedland says.

Participants met local residents living in FEMA trailers and heard stories about when the hurricane hit. "It was quite awful," Friedland says. Even in January, months after Hurricane Katrina, "a lot of [Gulfport, Miss] had been evacuated and was still gone…it seemed quite empty when we were there."

Ninat and Bobby

Friedland also spent her 2005 reading week in Honduras with Hillel building a school for a small village.

Social action is a growing interest for Jews on campus, says Devora Schwartz, Tzedek Hillel's director. "A lot… don't relate to their Jewish identity religiously – [they relate] more culturally or through social action programming."

Friedland is among them. She recently joined Temple Sinai, but says she has never felt "part of the mainstream Jewish community…we shul hopped for most of my life. I went to public school, a lot of my friends aren't Jewish."

While Hillel on campus is traditionally better known for Shabbat and social programs, those don't appeal to everyone. That realization led to the creation of Schwartz's position four years ago. "[Non-observant students] want to be able to bring non-Jewish friends [to programs]. You can do that with volunteer work," Schwartz says.

**Continued on page B25**


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Community Focus

# Jewish involvement includes reaching out to all communities

**Continued from page B24**

On extended trips, participants must be Jewish, but not for local events, such as a January program called Focus Africa, featuring Paul Rusesabagina, the manager of Hotel Rwanda.

"It was really a tremendous day," says Schwartz. More than 1,200 people attended talks by Rusesabagina and Stephen Lewis, now UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, that were co-sponsored by other campus organizations such as the University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council. Other local endeavours include sandwich-making for the homeless and a tutoring program at King Edward Public School.

Schwartz went along to Mississippi and to New Orleans in February. There, "instead of just roofing, we did everything: put siding on houses, insulation, painted, poured concrete… all different kinds of jobs. A lot of hard work."

> ***'Judaism provides a framework through which to do social action'***

Staying at Tulane University, "our students got to meet their students… and hear their personal stories… a lot had just started school when the hurricane hit."

Hillel trips aren't just about physical labour, Schwartz says. "We try to use the Hillel International model of a service learning program, with educational programs in the evening."

In Mississippi, Shabbat services catered to several denominations, and the Hillel students stayed in the Westminster Presbyterian Church – where the kitchen was kashered for them – while a rabbi led discussions on "the Jewish perspective on repairing the world and volunteerism."

Even being in New Orleans during Mardi Gras was a learning experience.

"It was the first Mardi Gras since the hurricane…they got to hear from different locals about how they felt running Mardi Gras," Schwartz says. "Some thought it was great, with money coming in, but others thought it was not a time to be celebrating."

Schwartz believes next year may be even busier for Tzedek Hillel, thanks in part to an Everett Initiative grant, funded by a New York philanthropist, to promote student social justice initiatives. The grant was given for Tzedek Hillel's participation in U of T's anti-racism campaign, part of its mandate to "build bridges on campus through social action."

She hopes there will be more Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief trips through Hillel International, along with a possible trip to Uruguay to build houses. And "next spring, we'd like to take students on an extended volunteer trip… up to a month of hands-on volunteer work."

There's little crossover, Schwartz says, among people who take part in social action projects and those who attend Hillel's cultural or religious programs – in other words, signing up for a trip to Honduras is not necessarily going to lead to a Shabbat dinner or Chanukah party.

But she says the choice to pursue such projects through Hillel shows strong Jewish identity. "There are lots of different organizations you can volunteer through. Students who come with us like to go with other Jewish students. They benefit from the Jewish learning part that we add to the trip, also."

As Friedland says, "Judaism provides a framework through which to do social action."

**Jewish students traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi to help rebuild homes ruined by Hurricane Katrina.**


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Community Focus

# Gen J offers programs for young Russian Jews

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

**From left, Rabbi Levi Jacobson and Allan Motrosov on a birthright Mayonot trip to Israel last May.**

From outside a room at the Reena Centre in Thornhill, you can hear the singing, laughter and chatter of young Jewish adults who are originally from the former Soviet Union [FSU].

Every couple of months or so, around 150 people come together to celebrate Shabbat as part of Gen J – the Russian Jewish Community Centre's program for people between the ages of 18 and 31.

Rabbi Levi Jacobson, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., established the program in 1999 in order to teach Jews of Russian extraction about Judaism. Judaism had been severely repressed in the FSU following the Russian Revolution.

"Unlike the Canadian Jewish community, most [Jews from the FSU] grew up in an environment where they never went to shul at all. The Canadian Jewish community, even those who don't consider themselves religious, observe High Holy Days, went to shul, most of them had a bar or bat mitzvah they had some type of Jewish connection," he said.

"There was less Judaism displayed [in the home of Russian Jews], and this is thanks to Communists that they lived under and the persecution that they'd experienced in Russia. They knew they were Jewish, and many of them were proud that they were Jewish, but they didn't really know what it was to be Jewish. They definitely didn't appreciate the beauty of Judaism."

Rabbi Jacobson said the Shabbatons are the highlight of the Gen J, but the frequency of them is dependent upon the season.

"Sometimes we'll have it every few weeks, sometimes we'll have it once a month," he said.

Other programs include camping trips, getaways and movie nights as well as Thursday challah drives to Jewish families north of Steeles Avenue. There are nearly 500 people on Gen J's mailing list.

He said it's important to not teach Judaism in a diluted context because "it just doesn't work.

"A lot of older leaders will want to do something cool, and get everyone excited. It might work for a week or two and then after a while, they [participants] will turn around and say 'this is fake, I want something real,'" he said.

Thirty-year-old Ron Gersh was not born and raised in Russia as his parents were.

"When I came into it [Gen J], I observed Yom Kippur and Pesach, and that was pretty much it. We didn't even celebrate Shabbat," said Gersh.

Seven years ago, he was one of the founding members of Gen J. The organization was launched after Rabbi Jacobson asked his friend Irvin Studin for advice on how to connect with the Russian Jewish community.

**Continued on page B27**

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Community Focus

# Religion is about more than dos and don'ts, rabbi says

**Continued from page B26**

Studin, who was an Oxford University Rhodes Scholar at the time, was leaving for England and left Rabbi Jacobson with a list of young Russian Jews he thought would be interested in a project and the rest is history.

Gersh said the Gen J Shabbatons are a "critical success factor.

"You get to sit around and talk to people. There's talking and singing. You learn a little bit about who you are," he said.

"[Rabbi Jacobson] usually makes a speech with a Jewish connection. He takes everyday scenarios that are happening, like the war in Lebanon, and you can discuss it and learn [the Jewish perspective]."

Gersh said Gen J is an ideal program for networking and meeting other Jewish people.

"If you're at the age of 21 to 30, there are a few things that you're looking for. You're looking for a network of friends, you're looking [for a girlfriend, boyfriend or potential spouse]. I know a lot of Jewish guys are at that stage," he said.

"You're looking for business contacts. All of these things come to play 'cause you're setting yourself up with a network of people."

Rabbi Jacobson said that those involved with the Gen J program have an eagerness to learn about their religion.

"People are looking for meaning and inspiration. People want to learn. They are not afraid and do not have any preconceived notions. But if you ask them if they know anything about Judaism, they'll say that they don't really know, but that they'd like to know more about it," he said.

"People want to have more meaning in their life. They want to find more significance in their day-to-day life and they feel that it's out there and, unfortunately, some people go to the Far East or different religions to look for spirituality, but Judaism has a huge amount to offer and a lot of them are looking for that and want to know what it is."

Rabbi Jacobson said some Jews see Judaism as being based on "dos and don'ts," which is not what the religion is all about.

"Judaism is all about making the world a beautiful place and serving God, and a lot of people have misconceptions about what all these things are – what God is, what the world is, and where we're headed as individuals and as a people," he said.

"Definitely, there is an emphasis that we have a responsibility which in turn means that we all have to do whatever we can to make the world a better place, which is by doing mitzvahs and so on and so forth."

Gersh, who is now shomer Shabbat, is optimistic about the future of Judaism for Jews of the FSU.

"I think there are a lot of good things going on. I think it's really easy to point out negatives and things you want to pick on, but the way I see it is that there are a lot of positive things," he said.

"There are a lot of people who are involved and care about Israel. There are a lot of people who want to connect with other Jews in the community, and I don't see it as a good or bad thing. I think it's just very interesting. I'm noticing a lot of people becoming religious, too."

Rabbi Jacobson said another reason for Gen J's success is that"I don't judge anybody for who they are or who they're not."

"A Jew is a Jew is a Jew. I look at every Jewish person with a Jewish mother, or it they are converted properly, like my brother or sister [or] just like myself. I don't say, 'Oh, you don't do that properly so you're not a full-class Jew.' It's pretty clear and I think I've gotten that message across, and thank God we've been successful in what we're doing."

For more information about Gen J, visit its website at www.genj.net, contact Rabbi Levi Jacobson at 416- 222-7105 or e-mail Jacobson@jrcc.org.


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Community Focus

# Range of Israel experiences are available to students

By DAVE GORDON
*Special to The CJN*

Putting out fires or working at a newspaper might not sound like a typical Israel experience for a Jewish student, but many people might be surprised to learn that tours to the Jewish state take all kinds of shapes and forms.

Besides the well-known free 10-day birthright israel trips, Jews of university age can get a different taste of Israel by volunteering or interning there. And for those looking to immerse themselves in a hands-on experience, there are plenty of options.

One such program is offered by Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's ambulance service, in which volunteers receive first-aid training and are placed at ambulance stations assisting medics. And although they are not the first responders to an emergency such as a bomb attack, they are often on the scene as a second responder.

Jaime Lerman, 19, who volunteered this summer with MDA, simply paid the cost of a plane ticket and $500 for her six-week trip. She described her time with MDA as "one of the best experiences I've ever had."

Lerman, a business administration major entering her second year at the University of Western Ontario, contrasted her trip with the more communal Jewish life that she experiences on campus. "Hillel you do with others, but this trip you do on your own."

As an MDA volunteer, she put in 40-hour weeks, experiencing everything from bandaging to taking blood pressure to giving oxygen to patients.

Her unit was once called on to avert a suicide attempt, and fortunately, the woman's daughter came home early that day and found her in time. In another call, Lerman attended to a homeless man having a heart attack.

**Jaime Lerman volunteered with Magen David Adom**

"I felt as though I was helping. I love the fact that I got to participate in some way in Israel," Lerman said. "I felt like I was part of the community."

In fact, Israelis asked her to join in some of their activities on Yom Ha'atzmaut and Lag b'Omer.

"You go into many people's homes and see they way Israelis live. It's not just seeing inside a hotel," she said. "The trip made me want to go back and continue volunteering or go to school there. This trip opened my eyes."

Students can also find a variety of programs, many subsidized, that are suited to their needs. One is a professional internship program that facilitates two- to five-month placements for students to work alongside Israelis in their field of choice. Students in the past have been placed at newspapers, as interns with MKs, and as workers with special needs students.

Another program allows students to be on the scene with Israeli firefighters in a program called Lehavot (which means "flames" in Hebrew). The six-week program, in which volunteers are placed at fire stations across the country, is similar to the one with MDA.

"Many participants subsequently forge a much stronger connection to Israel during and after the programs," said Dina Gidron, outgoing regional director of the Israel Aliyah Centre, which, though its Israel Program Centre, promotes programs that send Jewish students to Israel for hands-on programs.

In the Marva program, volunteers join the Israeli army for eight weeks and go through an ersatz basic training.

**Continued on page B29**

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Community Focus

# Going beyond birthright israel

**Continued from page B28**

"They learn discipline, wear greens, spend time on a base, and learn shooting training," Gidron said.

Marva volunteers, she added, gain insight to what it's like to be an Israeli soldier, particularly when they are in uniform and regular Israelis can't tell them apart from real soldiers.

The Toronto Jewish community has also developed a link with the city of Eilat called Partnership 2000, Gidron said. It allows students to spend time in the beachfront city and foster a bond with its people by being, for example, placed as an intern in a marine biology lab.

For those wanting to spend a semester to a year studying in Israel at places such as Hebrew University, a program called Masa provides $2,000 scholarships from the Jewish Agency, Gidron noted.

Michal Kaye, regional director of the Israel Program Centre, said the trips she helps organize for students "are very personalized. Some want to go and have a good time, and others want a learning experience. We try to make sure it's the right program for them and we get to know them, whether over the course of two or four months."

Kaye said many people who take part in these individualized programs are birthright israel alumni who want to spend time living and working in Israel to see what life is like there.

> ***'They came back excited and filled with great experiences'***

"These aren't group programs in the sense that it's 30 people on a bus. You go out on your own and explore. It has a very strong impact on people that volunteer," Kaye said.

Adam Hummel said he heard about some of the individualized Israel trips from people who had raved about their experiences.

"So many students I spoke with who went on Israel trips came back fuelled with inspiration. They came back excited and filled with great experiences," said Hummel, a fourth year political science and history major at York University.

"That's why I think it's a good idea to go on a trip where you can experience Israel in whatever way fits you best."

In December 2004 he went on a two-week trip called Hadracha, led by Hillel staff, that consisted of touring and meeting with journalists and politicians such as Natan Sharansky's assistant; David Horowitz, editor of the *Jerusalem Post*; and columnist Yossi Klein Halevi.

"So many people are always getting hooked on Jewish life from these trips. Volunteer summer programs like these provide meaningful experiences," said Hummel, who will be the president of York's Hillel for the coming school year.

"Trips are costly these days, and students are very lucky today to have these resources."


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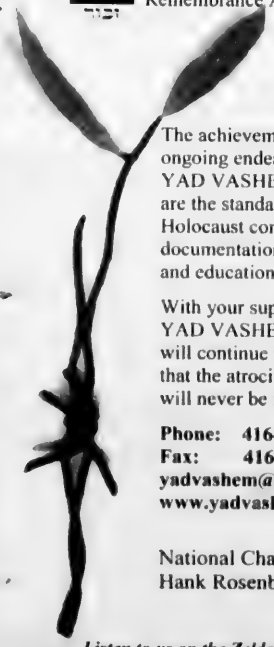

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Community Focus

# Hagshama brings Israel to Canadian Jewish students

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to The CJN*

"We're bringing Israel to the campus, and the campus to Israel," says Daniel Roth, the Toronto-based regional director of the World Zionist Organization's Hagshama department.

Whether it's Canada's largest Yom Ha'atzmaut party or an on-campus film festival of work by female filmmakers, Hagshama is bringing its dynamic new Zionism to young people around the world.

"It's hard," Roth says. "At U of T there's something like 3,000 Jews on campus," but only around 10 per cent are estimated to be active in Jewish organizations like Hillel.

"Engaging them is the goal... to convince someone they have a cultural, historical... [or] any sort of interest in Israel because they're Jewish."

To reach that goal, in 1998, WZO formed Hagshama (which means "fulfilment") to work with existing community organizations and create Israel-centred programming that has a broader, more modern appeal.


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Locally, Hagshama's role is twofold: presenting its own programs, developed through its central offices in New York and Israel; and encouraging on-campus programming by providing funding and logistical support to local organizations.

In March, Hagshama brought female Israeli filmmakers to Canada as part of its own FeminIsrael program. The women's films, touching on important feminist issues facing Israeli society such as divorce laws and homosexuality, were shown at the University of Toronto, Queen's University, McMaster University and the University of Calgary. Past FeminIsrael events have also featured talented Israeli authors.

**Anat Zuria, an Israeli filmmaker, came to Toronto in March to promote her film as part of Hagshama's FeminIsrael program.**

The other facet of Hagshama's role is supporting existing local organizations. "We want to work with you. We want to help strengthen your group," says Roth. "Whether it's Hillel or [the new organization] Hashomer Hatzair-Kidma, let's help strengthen you in the campus community."

This year, along with the Union of Progressive Zionists (UPZ, a new umbrella group formed by the youth movements Habonim Dror, Hashomer Hatzair and Ameinu, formerly the Labour Zionist Alliance) and Meretz USA, Roth helped plan birthright israel trips for "a different contingent that hasn't been reached" thus far by the free program.

These students were attracted by the UPZ's critical left-leaning approach and moderate two-state advocacy. "They're bringing in a new section of the campus community who is not necessarily enticed to be active by groups like Hillel or Aish [HaTorah]."

While the campus environment is often divided between extremist ideologies, Roth believes modern Zionism can be both moderate and pro-Israel.

***'Zionism can be both moderate and pro-Israel'***

It's all about "broadening the spectrum of Zionist thought, activity and discussion," he says.

Roth feels he's meeting the challenge "if I can convince a young Jew who's anti-Israel or apathetic toward Israel not that their politics are wrong but that their politics are best served in becoming active and aiming to fix Israel."

Just saying that "Israel has problems... doesn't make you anti-Zionist, just someone who sees there's something to fix there. If you see that, you should go for that goal."

Roth, who grew up in Hashomer Hatzair, says many young people are coming to "see their Zionism, in part at least, as actively working toward a better Israel" through social justice and an end to conflict.

Internationally, Hagshama has also become known for programs such as Do the Write Thing, a campus-based media awareness program for journalism students that's held during the United Jewish Communities' annual General Assembly.

Community Focus

# Birthright israel: 'no cookie-cutter experience'

By JENNIFER M. MACLEOD
*Special to The CJN*

You've probably seen the ads, and maybe wished you were between 18 and 26. In seven years, more than 100,000 young people have travelled free with birthright israel. But thanks to a system of independent trip providers, it's no cookie-cutter experience.

Lauren Wolff, 27, advertising and promotion co-ordinator for Cancer Care Ontario, participated in May 2005 after facing her fears about Israel being unsafe.

Finally, realizing everyone she knew had come back safely, she says, "I figured I might as well… I had paid vacation time."

She joined a young professionals group organized by Canada-Israel Experience (CIE) in Toronto and the trip blew her away.

"The trip itself is… nothing you expect," says the University of Guelph graduate.

"Jerusalem completely floored me. I cried like a sissy at the Wall… twice."

Wolff was transformed from someone who dreaded visiting Israel to a gung-ho supporter who wants to spread the message to young professionals, for whom birthright is a welcome break.

"It's 10 days of pure fun – you're a kid again at camp," she says.

She credits CIE for putting together an eventful itinerary meant to help create a connection to Israel, even for the most secular participants.

CIE and other trip providers are allocated a certain number of spaces to fill and follow specific guidelines set by Taglit-birthright israel, which, along with the Israeli government and local Jewish federations, subsidizes the birthright trips.

Anyone with one Jewish parent who has never been to Israel on a formal peer program can apply, even if they've visited with their family.

Coby Segal, a 27-year-old electrical engineer, was born in Israel and lived there until he was 12.

He participated in the first Canadian trip, in February 2000. Now a trip leader, he says birthright changed his childhood impressions and strengthened his spirituality.

"Birthright has contributed very strongly to my Jewish identity."

Though Taglit (meaning "discovery") sets the core agenda, each provider offers a slightly different take. Mark Snaper, 18, returned in July from a trip run by Aish HaTorah.

"Israel to me was paradise… gorgeous…unbelievable," says the Thornlea Secondary School student.

Rabbi Mark Zelunka, who accompanied that trip, believes there are advantages to an Aish birthright trip, such as having a rabbi along, though the 29-year-old says with a smile, "I'm not your zaide's rabbi."

"There was not a single religious student on this trip," says Rabbi Zelunka, who himself became observant in university. His goals were simply "having a lot of fun, and making it meaningful in a very laid-back, unconditional way."

Despite the escalating conflict in Lebanon during his stay, Snaper says trip organizers helped participants feel safe at all times.

**Continued on page B32**

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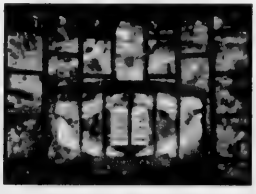

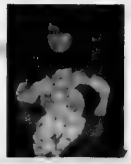

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# 'In Israel, everybody belongs to everybody'

SHI 360, a rapper, in the centre wearing a black cap, held a rap workshop for birthright israel participants early this year.

**Continued from page B31**

"We didn't go to some of our destinations because of the situation."

Snaper hopes to return next year on the subsidized Aish fellowship program, a three-week followup at a more relaxed pace than birthright, where, Zelunka says, "You're whipped around the country very quickly."

While Snaper, growing up aware of birthright, probably always assumed he'd someday get the chance to go, for others, even a free trip may seem impossibly out of reach – though not for financial reasons.

This summer, Masha Posen, an occupational therapist with Toronto's Zareinu Educational Centre, accompanied nine special-needs young adults in the first Canadian trip of its kind. Challenges included cerebral palsy and "invisible" disabilities such as developmental delays, autism and mental illness.

The logistical hurdles took creativity, a sense of humour and a suitcase full of craft supplies. Every detail, from marking luggage (with bright strips of tape) to allocating room keys (with homemade lanyards), was planned to make the experience meaningful at each participant's level.

Visiting Yad Vashem – a stop required by Taglit – meant interpreting the Holocaust for adults who are developmentally delayed. They visited the Children's Memorial, viewing photos of children and candles reflected to infinity by mirrored walls, a visit that left an impression on many participants.

"A lot of my family did not survive the Holocaust… it was sad for me. I thought about them," says Jared Krybus, 21, a participant with special needs.

An Israeli taxi driver cried and thanked Posen for taking care of "our" kids.

"In Israel, everybody belongs to everybody," says Posen. At the Mega Event, a party for all 6,000 birthright participants in Israel at the time, the crowd embraced the special-needs participants, dancing and singing *Am Yisrael Chai*. Krybus recalls "a lot of people came together… sharing the same experience of Israel."

"When we look at our very needy kids," says Posen, "they are achieving an incredible amount through their impact on us and our *dveikus* [closeness to God] and our opportunities for *chesed* [kindness]." Since some wouldn't remember their experiences, Posen ensured they would return with many tangible memories, souvenirs such as maps, menus and candlesticks the young people made and lit on Shabbat in Israel.

For Krybus, the memories remain vivid. Though his trip was far different from most birthright experiences, he's grateful and hopes to return soon.

"I want to go back to Israel… it's important for a lot of people to know what their history is, and to know how people in Israel feel every day."

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## This Week

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**Yiddish teacher** resigns over CUPE resolution. *Page 6*

**Beit Halochem** comes to aid of disabled Israeli soldiers. *Page 15*

**Body of Toronto man** found on Lake Nipissing. *Page 29*

### On Campus

**Hillel prepares** to combat increase in anti-Semitism *Page 34*

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# Israel weighs Iran options

By YAAKOV KATZ, HERB KEINON AND NATHAN GUTTMAN
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — There is growing consensus within the defence establishment that the United States will not attack Iran and that Israel might be forced to act independently to stop the Islamic republic from obtaining nuclear weapons, a high-ranking official told the *Jerusalem Post* last week.

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush does not have political support for launching a strike against Iran's nuclear sites, an Israeli defence source said. "America is stuck in Iraq and cannot go after Iran militarily right now."

The defence official blasted the United States for not doing enough to stop Teheran's race to the bomb. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, he said, is leading the State Department in the direction of "appeasement."

"The only way, besides military action, to stop Iran is through tough economic sanctions," the official said. "But the only way to do that is for the U.S. to overcome Russian opposition in the [United Nations] Security Council and pass a resolution calling for sanctions against Iran."

**Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Israel, meanwhile, was carefully watching international reaction last week when Iran failed to react positively to the incentives offered to have them discontinue uranium enrichment. Sources in Jerusalem said recently that Israel "could not abide" a nuclear Iran and might have to act to disrupt Tehran's nuclear program if the international community does not do so.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, on a visit to Nahariya, said Israel "must be prepared for every scenario." It was not clear whether the reference was to another round of fighting with Hezbollah or to some future confrontation with Iran.

There is no consensus among Israeli policymakers on whether the United States will act militarily against Tehran: some rule out the possibility, while others say Bush doesn't want to leave the world stage in 2009 with the legacy of a nuclear Iran.

Sources in Jerusalem say that among the key lessons the country needs to learn from the recent war against Hezbollah, one is how to better prepare the home front to deal with rocket attacks.

**Continued on page 35**

## Busting Hezbollah's bunkers

**Israeli soldiers last week discovered and destroyed an enormous underground Hezbollah-built bunker that was some two square kilometres in size. The bunker was less than a kilometre from Israel's border and close to a United Nations observation post, seen at left, Israeli forces continue to operate in south Lebanon, seeking and destroying Hezbollah weapons caches.** *[Israel Sun photos]*

**Ki Tetze**
**Candlelighting: 7:36**
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*Greater Toronto Area*

Don't ... to ... every week.

Gaza a place of anarchists and thugs — please see page 37

# The News in Brief

## CANADA

### Prayers for Israel

**TORONTO** — Millions of Canadians took part Aug. 20 in a national day of prayer for Israel and peace in Jerusalem. Charles McVety, president of the evangelical Canada Christian College, was one of the main organizers of the event. A full-page ad for the "Emergency Day of Prayer" ran in national newspapers, urging the public to pray and donate to the "Israel You're Not Alone" campaign.

### Looted Art Returned

**OTTAWA** — The National Gallery of Canada has returned a Nazi-looted painting to a family in France. *Le Salon de Madame Aron*, by French artist Edouard Vuillard, depicts a scene in the salon of Marcelle Aron, a Parisian socialite of the early 20th century. The National Gallery purchased it from a Paris gallery in 1956. No estimate of the painting's worth is available. The gallery first tried to return the painting to the Lindon family six years ago but the family refused, saying it had never belonged to them. Extensive research uncovered proof that the Lindons did indeed once own the painting, but lost track of it during the Nazi era. The National Gallery began investigating the provenance of dozens of works in its collection in 2000 after the Canadian Museum Directors Association established guidelines governing the illegal appropriation of objects during the Nazi era. The gallery lists many paintings whose provenance is uncertain on a website, but this is the first time it has returned a looted painting to the family of a former owner.

### Student Rabbi Visits

**KELOWNA, B.C.** — The Okanagan Jewish Community Centre hosted its new student rabbi earlier this month. Sadie Reuben, a third-year rabbinical student from the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, met Aug. 15 with 30 members of the Okanagan Jewish community to outline her background and studies, and answer questions. This is the third year of the OJCC's student rabbi program, which includes 10 visits to Kelowna, starting with the High Holy Days and ending in May or June.

## WORLD

### Buffalonian Honoured

**BUFFALO** — Budapest native Clara Ambrus-Baer was recognized as a Righteous Gentile for her family's protection of 50 Jews. Her family hid Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust, including the future chief rabbi of Vienna. Ambrus-Baer, 81, of Buffalo, N.Y., received the recognition from Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, which bestows the title on those who risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis.

### Shoah Museum Opens

**OSLO** — The Oslo home of Norway's wartime leader, a Nazi collaborator whose name is now synonymous with traitor, has been turned into a Holocaust museum. The villa of Vidkun Quisling, who was executed in 1945 after leading a pro-Nazi puppet government, now houses the Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities. Opened Aug. 23 by Norway's Queen Sonja, the centre will focus on the Shoah and have displays on minorities in Africa, Armenia, Cambodia, the Balkans and Rwanda. Norway gave the villa to the Jewish community five years ago. Some 800 Jews, half Norway's prewar number, died in the Holocaust.

### Grass Says He Erred

**BERLIN** — German writer Gunter Grass said he made a mistake in not disclosing his service in the Waffen SS until recently. In a letter to the mayor of his hometown of Gdansk, now part of Poland, Grass wrote, "It's only now, with age, that I have found a suitable way of talking about it from a wider perspective." After reading the letter, former Polish president Lech Walesa, who rose to fame in Gdansk as a union leader who defied Communist authorities, and who like Grass is a Nobel Prize winner and an honorary Gdansk citizen, said he'll drop his demand that Grass be stripped of his honorary citizenship. Grass was born in Gdansk when it was under German rule.

### El Al, SWC Launch School Bag Drive

**TORONTO** — Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies and EL AL Israel Airlines have launched a program to provide ready-made school bags to Israeli children displaced by Israel's recent conflict with Hezbollah.

"We are assembling newly purchased items such as a junior backpack, exercise workbook, stickers, markers/crayons, pencils/pencil case, pencil eraser, pencil sharpener, child friendly scissors, anti-bacterial handwash, hairbrush, solid body soap, small toy or stuffed animal," Friends president and CEO Avi Benlolo said last week.

"A personal letter of support and photo of a donor's family would also be really appreciated," he added.

Filled school bags can be delivered to the Friends office at 5075 Yonge St., Suite 902, Toronto, M2N 6C6. Visit www.fswc.ca, or call 416-845-9735 for details.


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**Part 2 of a series**

## Orthodox Jews 'grappling to find a way of negotiating their allegiance to science and also their allegiance to Torah and Torah leaders'

*In this final part of our series on the move to the religious right in Toronto's Orthodox community, we hear from other centrist voices about what they see as the growing influence of haredi religious leaders and practices in the rest of the Orthodox community. Much of their concern centres on the prominence of Kollel Avreichim on Coldstream Avenue, located in the heart of the haredi community near Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue. As the leading haredi post-yeshiva educational institution in Toronto, its rulings have come to exert significant influence in the wider Orthodox community. (Rabbi Shlomo Miller, its rosh kollel and av beis din – head of the institution and its rabbinical court – declined to speak directly to* The CJN, *saying that the media have misquoted and misunderstood him. However, he authorized a spokesperson to speak on his behalf.)*

*Many people in the Orthodox community are troubled by what appears to be a refusal of non-haredi rabbis and other Orthodox leaders to speak out against the current situation. Several people interviewed for this series expressed the view that many Orthodox rabbis and leaders are afraid of being censured by Rabbi Miller and the haredi community, and these sources contend this fear is behind the silence of Orthodox leaders. It is this context – and our belief that issues that generate such vehemence should be discussed openly – that has led* The CJN *to investigate the situation.*

**By FRANCES KRAFT and LEILA SPEISMAN**
*Staff Reporters*

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, secretary of Toronto's Vaad Harabonim and spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah, a Modern Orthodox congregation, paints a more positive picture than some others of the move toward more stringent religious practices and views in the Orthodox community.

"I feel that, often when there are dramatic changes in policy, people look at it as being a step backward, or as the Orthodox world becoming more fundamentalist. I don't view it that way. I view it as a positive change, that the number of people who want to live a rich and full life completely consistent with what the Torah wants from us is growing."

He said he does not see the discrepancies between Modern Orthodox and haredi philosophy as a division between the two groups.

"I think there are different approaches. It's not a new issue. It's a new manifestation. Part of the reason [the issue seems more pronounced] is because of e-mail, the Internet and instantaneous communication. And to some extent it's also the ascendancy of Torah and knowledgeable Jews in the Orthodox world in general."

**Rabbi Reuven Tradburks**

However, he noted, there are Orthodox Jews "grappling to find a way of negotiating their allegiance to science and also their allegiance to Torah and Torah leaders."

Rabbi Tradburks was referring to the debate about British-born, Israel-based Rabbi Natan Slifkin, a haredi scholar who touched off an ongoing controversy in the Orthodox world with his views on creation and science.

Three of his books – including *Mysterious Creatures* and *The Camel, the Hare and the Hyrax*, which offer ideas about the origins of the universe that are anathema to his fellow haredim – were banned by Israeli and North American haredi

**Continued on page 28**

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Greater Toronto Area

# Agitation is the new normal

*From the editor's desk*

The sun-soaked, playful fun that tourists and Israelis were enjoying last week on the country's crowded beaches belied the tumult and turmoil sweeping across its political establishment.

Editorialists and experts were still heatedly arguing on the pages of every newspaper, as well as on radio and on television, about the conduct and the results of Israel's war with Hezbollah.

Early in the week, a group of army reservists who had served in the war encamped near the Knesset and demanded the resignations of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defence Minister Amir Peretz and Chief of Staff Dan Halutz. As the week progressed, they were joined by other Israelis who shared their views, essentially accusing the political leaders of having deprived the military of the opportunity and the means to achieve a clear-cut victory over Hezbollah and Iran.

The political parties were seen trying to respond to the disquiet and dissatisfaction coursing through the general population. Likud decision-makers were publicly suggesting that former chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon would soon join their ranks, while the Labor Party's deep thinkers were publicly debating whether to ask current leader Amir Peretz to give his defence portfolio to former leader Ehud Barak.

More than two weeks after the ceasefire went into effect, UNIFIL forces were still not in place, nor was there any imminent prospect of their being so.

The kidnapped soldiers were still in their captivity, nor was there any imminent prospect of their release.

The sense of agitation among the people was palpable, made edgier and nastier every day by the constant cutting of the jagged edges of hostile propaganda from Israel's enemies and distorted reporting by much of the western media.

As anyone who has ever been to Israel knows, most Israelis immerse themselves every hour on the hour in the morning and afternoon, and then for hours at a time after dinner, in news and news commentary. At the end of the day, they are super-saturated in the tensions and pretensions of competing, insightful expert analyses.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah boasts of his great victories. His proponents do, too. But most Lebanese and other Arab leaders, despite their triumphalist interviews, know a starker truth. To truly rebuild Lebanon, they cannot return to Lebanon's status quo ante. A free hand to Hezbollah in south Lebanon gives free reign to Iran in all of Lebanon. Everyone knows it. And they also know the truth about the unbending resilience of the Israeli people and the determined fighting spirit of the Israel Defence Forces.

To watch the BBC, as I did last week until I could no longer bear to, one could form the impression that Hezbollah was the defender of the Lebanese people fighting a foe whose conquering nature was of the combined ilk of Mussolini, Franco, Hirohito and much worse.

I actually heard a BBC interviewer describe Hezbollah admiringly as "smartly" rebuilding southern Lebanon. She was interviewing Claire Spencer, a British expert on the Middle East, who referred to "Israel's hegemony" in the region and explained Iran's ascendancy in terms of the Jewish state's refusal to make peace with the Palestinians. It was all nonsensical, distorted piffle that the BBC reporter-interviewer was passing off as the truth.

Is it any wonder then that we discover that most people in Germany, France and Britain considered Israel's fight against Hezbollah to have been unjustified?

Those are the findings of a a poll conducted by TNS of more than 4,000 people on Aug. 11, one day before the acceptance of the UN ceasefire resolution, the *Jerusalem Post* reported last week.

"The French appeared to be most critical; 66 per cent found the Israeli military intervention unjustified," the *Post* said. "A clear majority of Germans came to the same conclusion; 65 per cent responded 'unjustified.' In the U.K., the balance was similar; 46 per cent believed that the action was not justified, compared to 24 per cent who held the opposite view."

On the same day that the results of the poll were released, Amnesty International called for an investigation into what it called Israel's "war crimes." In a 20-page report on the war, Amnesty accused Israel of "indiscriminant and disproportionate attacks" against Lebanese civilians. There were very few references in the document to Hezbollah's conduct in the war. Amnesty's senior director for research, Claudio Cordone, said that would be addressed in a future report.

Amnesty's "findings" and allegations were decisively rejected by Israel and severely condemned by Abe Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. But of course, such rejections and condemnations by Israel and its supporters are dismissed and simply not heard by the European public (and others). Amnesty's pronouncements merely confirm their attitudes toward Israel and the war – that is, "unjustified."

It's with a great bitterness of heart that one observes this. Why have Europeans conferred a virtual impunity upon Hezbollah (and Hamas, Iran and Syria)? Don't they know how they operate? Worse, don't they know why they operate? Under the circumstances, feeling agitated, as most Israelis do, is quite normal.

***MBD (agitated in Israel)***

SeeJN

**ARMY RESERVISTS PROTEST:**
**Some Israeli army reservists who fought in Lebanon have been protesting against the government's decisions in its conduct of the war in south Lebanon. The reservists have demanded the resignations of Prime Minister Ehud Olmer, Defence Minister Amir Peretz and Chief of Staff Dan Halutz.**
**[Israel Sun photo]**

# Haifa U suffered casualties in Lebanon war

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

It took three days from the start of hostilities for the first Katyusha rocket to land on Haifa, forcing many to head to underground shelters or leave the port city altogether.

From its perch atop Mount Carmel, overlooking the city harbour and the Mediterranean Sea beyond, the University of Haifa did not avoid the disruption and tragedy of war. "We were very much affected, like everyone else in the northern end of Israel," said Ada Spitzer, the U of H vice-president who is responsible for external relations and resource development.

Spitzer was in Toronto last week to attend the campaign launch for a fundraising dinner that will honour Elizabeth and Tony Comper on Nov. 19 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Comper, president and CEO of the BMO Financial Group, and his wife are being honoured for their rôles in creating FAST (Fighting Anti-Semitism Together), an organization that brings together non-Jews to confront the growth of anti-Semitism. The university will be conferring Comper and his wife with an honorary doctorate at the tribute dinner in November.

Ada Spitzer

Describing the impact on the university of the recently concluded war, Spitzer said exams were postponed, classes shut down, the popular summertime ulpan (Hebrew language) classes moved to Jerusalem, and many staff sent home when the bombs came raining down. Although there were eight to 12 warning sirens each day, the university avoided direct hits. One missile landed less than half a kilometre away and another only about 200 metres away, virtually on the university's grounds.

Tragically, some of the university's students – reservists in the Israel Defence Forces – were called up and lost their lives or were wounded in the war with Hezbollah, she said. Some employees lost their children and some of the students lost their homes.

"We went to too many funerals," she said.

Spitzer, who also visited the Montreal office of Canadian Friends of Haifa University (CFHU), said FAST is the sort of initiative that fits squarely with the kind of social action advocated by the university, which is known for its promotion of pluralism and co-existence.

Funds raised at the dinner will go to support creation of the Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Institute for the Study of anti-Semitism and Racism at the University of Haifa, said Peter Biro, president of CFHU. The institute is slated to open in time for the 2007 academic year

A liberal arts school with 17,000 students and 4,000 employees, the University of Haifa is the largest educational institution in northern Israel. Sixty-eight per cent of its students are women, 10 per cent hail from the former Soviet Union, and about 20 per cent are Arabs, including Muslims, Druze, Bedouin and Christians. Of that group, 64 per cent are women, including in some cases "the first women to leave their village," Spitzer said.

The U of H was the first Israeli school of higher learning to admit Ethiopian students in 1990, and today 40 per cent of Ethiopian students in Israel attend the U of H. The first two Ethiopian lawyers in Israel graduated from the school's faculty of law.

**Continued on page 34**


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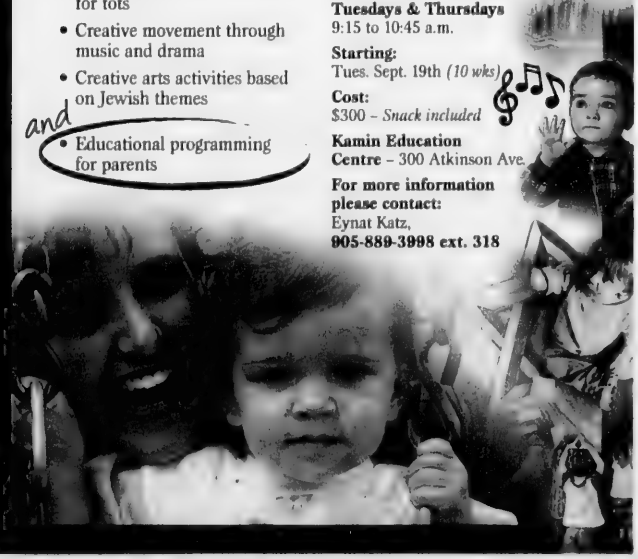

# Yiddish teacher takes a stand against CUPE

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

Ellie Moidel, a Yiddish class teacher, resigned from the Toronto District School Board last month to take a stand against Sid Ryan and CUPE Ontario's stance against Israel.

"I resigned from the Toronto District School Board because in order to teach for them I would have to continue being a member of CUPE," said Moidel, who taught a weekly continuing education course for the board at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

She said that when she heard in the news that CUPE Ontario had passed a resolution in late May at its convention in Ottawa that condemned Israel's security barrier and called for boycotts and divestments from Israel unless it "recognized the Palestinian right to self-determination," she was furious.

"I was incensed," Moidel said. "I was absolutely enraged. How could they take that stand?"

She said that when the news broke, she phoned her liaison, the TDSB's program officer, to tell him that although she had nothing against the school board, she could not continue to work for them if her union dues went to CUPE.

"I wrote [CUPE Ontario president] Sid Ryan a really scathing letter, I mean, I just let him have it. How dare he speak in my name?" Moidel said.

"I wrote him and said, 'You're saying you're not against Jews? Who do you think lives in Israel? Who do you think supports Israel? Who do you think wants Israel there? Of course I never got a reply, and as I understand, he never replied to anybody."

Moidel said that because she resigned from the TDSB, the Yiddish course she has been teaching at Beth Emeth on Tuesday mornings, which the TDSB sponsored until her resignation, is no longer being offered by the board.

The 10-week course was the only Judaic course offered by the TDSB.

However, Moidel will continue to teach the class, which is attended by people from ages 50 to 80, thanks to Beth Emeth, which offered to make the course part of the shul's programming. It begins Sept. 19 and requires that students read, write, and speak Yiddish

Sid Ryan

In an interview with *The CJN*, Ryan said he wasn't aware of Moidel's letter.

"It wasn't brought to my attention in my office. It's not unusual because during this whole period of time, there was a strong lobby by the Canadian Jewish Congress, by B'nai Brith, by the [Friends of the] Simon Weisenthal Center, who were having people send me e-mails, so it is very possible that she sent one in and it got lost in the shuffle," Ryan said.

Despite the fact that Ryan never saw Moidel's letter, he defended CUPE Ontario's anti-Israel stance and accusations that, he said, "were cleverly put out by the Israeli lobby."

Moidel and others have argued that the resolutions against Israel were passed on a Saturday, when observant Jewish CUPE members could not attend, and that the members were not properly notified.

"I mean, they took that vote in Ottawa on a Saturday when the mainstay of their people didn't even know about it," Moidel said.

Ryan said that almost 900 delegates, who represented 220,000 union members, took part in the vote and that a notice about the resolution was posted 75 days before the convention was held.

The argument that the convention was purposely held on a Saturday to deter Jewish members from attending is "complete baloney," he added.

"CUPE is a secular union. We would never be able to conduct business or organize ourselves along religious lines. We'd be saying we can't have meetings on a Sunday because the Catholics need to go to mass, we couldn't have it on a Friday because Muslims need to go to the mosques – we'd never be able to have a convention. We are a secular union and we don't bring religiòn into our proceedings," Ryan said.

"To suggest we're being anti-Semitic… that's just playing pure politics with an issue that deserves a lot more credible debate."

He added that the argument that Israel was singled out by CUPE Ontario while countries that are guilty of human rights violations were ignored was another clever argument put out by pro-Israel groups.

"[CUPE] implemented a peaceful boycott… and we use that as a tool to bring attention to the problem. The lobby went to work and tried to make it out to be that this was anti-Semitic because we were only singling out one country, but then the war happened in Lebanon and in Gaza and the world got to see for themselves just exactly what CUPE Ontario was talking about," Ryan said.

"They saw the collective punishment, the overreaction, initially, to the capture of one soldier in Gaza. The world is now condemning the actions of Israel… human rights organizations are condemning them, countries around the world are condemning them."

Moidel, who is a supporter of Israel, felt that she couldn't be a part of an organization that speaks out against Israel on her behalf.

"[Ryan] doesn't know me from a hole in the wall, but I reacted as though he personally attacked me. I took it that personally," she said.

"I'm in a bind because I don't want to chastise the Toronto District School Board, because it is really not them. The argument is not with TDSB, but with CUPE," said Moidel, who took an advanced Yiddish course at Oxford University in 1992 and taught Yiddish at the University of Toronto for seven years.

"Should Sid Ryan rescind what he has said, I would consider coming back. He owes the community an apology," she added.

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# Stopping Iran

These words were written before the Aug. 31 United Nations Security Council deadline for Iran to suspend all "uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development," of its nuclear energy program. But the Islamic regime in Tehran has already announced it will not be moved by last month's Security Council Resolution 1696. Nor will it discontinue its uranium enrichment activities.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said categorically that Iran will not suspend its uranium enrichment. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has made its own decision, and in the nuclear case, God willing, with patience and power, will continue its path," Khamenei said.

During a visit to Malaysia earlier in the month, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad confirmed his supreme leader's edict. He said he would ignore the Aug. 31 deadline, adding ominously that countries that voted for the Security Council Resolution 1696 would "learn the hard way" about the perils of standing up to his regime. He also, once again, pronounced his perverse prescription for bringing peace to the Middle East: Israel should cease to exist.

On Aug. 19, Tehran commenced a series of military exercises in which it showcased its most modern military weaponry to an obviously interested western and Arab world. As part of those exercises, it test-fired a new submarine-to-surface missile in the Persian Gulf last Sunday. Iran is presently equipped with the Shahab-3 missile, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead with a range of more than 1,200 miles, within reach of Israel, American forces in the Middle East and, of course, the oil fields of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. Iran also recently announced the opening of a heavy water plant and the purchase of more modern centrifuges that can speed up the pace of uranium enrichment.

The categorical refusal two weeks ago by the Iranian government to abandon uranium enrichment while offering to "seriously" negotiate the issue was nothing more than their latest ruse intended to push any deadlines and true accountability for its behaviour further away and in the process, expose and reconfirm the West's timidity.

Ahmadinejad is a clever thug who, thus far, has successfully intimidated the rest of the world into meekly acceding to his secret nuclear programs. But that intimidation should stop today. The Security Council must draw a red line in the trembling Middle East sand. Consequences should be attached to Tehran's refusal to suspend its uranium enrichment and to make its nuclear program transparent to the rest of the world. The UN must impose hard-hitting, effective sanctions against Tehran.

No one should doubt that Israel will be gravely endangered if Iran acquires nuclear weapons capability. But the peril will be no less real to the West and even to the Sunni Muslim regimes of the Persian Gulf.

Canada, which has raised its voice courageously in a forceful, principled manner concerning the dangers that terrorism poses to the free world, must also be heard on the subject of Iran's nuclear ambitions. Indeed, all the nations of the West must be heard on this subject.

No threat to the peace of the world is more ominous and more imminent.

## 25 years ago in *The CJN*

Montreal Jewish day school officials were reserving judgment on a plan being considered by the Quebec government to abolish the province's Catholic and Protestant school boards and replace them with non-denominational regional school commissions.

## Editorials & Letters

Dry Bones UNFAIR
KOFI ANNAN IS ANGRY! THE IDF TRIED TO STOP ARMS SMUGGLING INTO LEBANON.
IS ISRAEL SUPPOSED TO JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY?!
AND IGNORE THE REARMING OF THE TERRORISTS?
NO! THAT'S THE UN'S JOB!
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### City supports Muslim-Jewish dialogue

In the column "Trickle-down hatred" (*CJN*, Aug. 17), Lawrence Hart writes about vitriolic speeches at a Hamilton "peace rally" on behalf of Lebanon held "in a city, remember, where a much-touted dialogue between Jews, Arabs, and Muslims was supposed to be building bridges and promoting mutual respect."

I did not attend this rally. However, due in part to the bridges and respect the Hamilton Arab, Muslim & Jewish Dialogue Committee has developed with our local media, Hamilton's mainstream media did not provide a public forum to publicize the hatred expressed by some at the rally.

An editorial did appear in a community newspaper condemning the viciousness expressed by some of those speakers at the rally and praising the committee's efforts to improve communication between our city's Arab, Muslim and Jewish communities as a model to emulate.

While some continue to spew their anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic sentiments, the majority of Hamilton's Arab, Muslim and Jewish communities support the activities of the committee.

**Lorne Finkelstein**
**Chair**
**Hamilton Arab, Muslim & Jewish Dialogue Committee**

* * *

### Vaad policy clarification

The article "Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" (CJN, Aug. 24) suggested that our organization, Vaad Hatzdokah Toronto, had established a policy to no longer certify female applicants to go door to door to solicit assistance, and that such policy was based on halachic issues.

Vaad Hatzdokah Toronto was established in 2005 and certifies applicants who come to Toronto from abroad to collect charity for Orthodox Jewish causes. In the past year, the Vaad has certified several hundred applicants. The Vaad attempts to verify the integrity of applicants within 24 hours of the receipt of an application. Such a short deadline is called for in order that the applicants not be forced to wait an inordinate amount of time for certification upon arrival in Toronto. While the Vaad has encouraged potential applicants to apply before arriving in Toronto, many have been unaware of the Vaad's existence prior to their arrival.

The Vaad's experience has been that such a deadline has been too short to complete the investigation process for some applicants, and especially for a very large percentage of female applicants. Accordingly, the Vaad has let it be known that it discourages female applicants from requesting certification if the request is not done prior to arrival. Nevertheless, the Vaad has continued to certify female applicants who pass the Vaad's investigative process.

The Vaad is very concerned and sensitive to the plight of women in distress. We are in the process of establishing an e-mail-generated appeal process that will hopefully be able to raise significant sums of support for genuine female applicants, which will spare them the unnecessary hardship and embarrassment of having to leave their families to travel to our community and go door to door to solicit assistance. All those interested in receiving such e-mails are encouraged to advise us.

**Zvi Richman**
**Chairman, Vaad Hatzdokah Toronto**
**torontovaadhatzdokah@hotmail.com**

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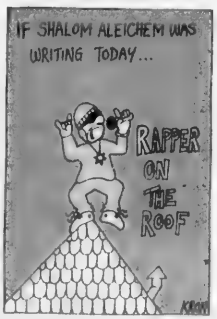


### Need multiple certifying organizations

Regarding "Toronto's Orthodox community: Is it becoming too religiously right-wing?" (*CJN*, Aug. 24), the problem is not that the Orthodox community is increasingly styling itself after horse-and-buggy Mennonites. It is that the rest of us allow ourselves to be held hostage to their definition of acceptable Jewish practice, particularly over the matter of kashrut certification.

The solution is to have multiple certifying organizations in Toronto, each granting its own hechsher. It wouldn't hurt if people had to address the question of whether eating and celebrating with their relatives was more or less important than who checked the lettuce.

This solution would allow the broader community to get on with its business while letting the haredim's internecine arguments over who is more *machmer* recede to their appropriate level of insignificance.

**Marc Grushcow**
**Toronto**

* * *

### Evangelical support not mentioned

We realize that it is impossible to mention all participating organizations in such large rallies as the recent Stand for Israel rally ( "8,000 rally for Israel in Toronto," *CJN*, Aug. 3). However, the strong Evangelical support you received from our embassy and from Canada Christian College should have been noted, especially as the college's president, Charles McVety, was an invited strong Christian voice to the podium.

Our organizations, along with others, were co-sponsors of this event and encouraged many from the Evangelical community to attend.

This was an oversight that hopefully will be corrected in future articles, as by omitting our presence you are overlooking some of Israel's best friends in your midst.

**Donna Holbrook**
**National director**
**International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Canada**

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*info@cjnews.com*

# Recognizing evil before it's too late

By ROBERT ROZETT

The 20th century was replete with superfluous wars, so much so that today many people in the West have developed a well-intentioned and deeply ingrained knee-jerk reaction against all wars.

In the age of "post" everything, an awareness of history and a recognition of the crucial role of context in understanding our world have been largely eschewed for a fragmented and disjointed approach that leads to distortion and confusion, and has greatly impaired our ability to make meaningful comparisons. Coupled with this "post" mentality, the strong strain of indiscriminate pacifism has largely blinded people to the fact that, as much as we may wish there were none, some wars are justified. In the last century, the archetypal just war was the one fought against Nazi Germany and its partners.

The Nazis, with their hate-imbued ideology, their perpetration of colossal atrocities, their overall savagery and brutality, and their plans to take over the world and remake it in their own image, have emerged as the measure for radical evil. Before the free world recognized that such a radical evil had to be fought with no holds barred, it tried to placate the beast, rationalizing some of its demands and trying to "understand" some of its early heinous acts. At the heart of this radical evil lay an anti-Semitic and racial ideology that targeted all Jews for death. It also engendered the selective mass murder, enslavement, and rapacious plunder and exploitation of countless others.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

The enlightened world paid a large price for its slow conclusion that it must fight tooth and nail against the Nazis. When it finally united and threw in its entire weight, it faced an uphill battle. The loss of human life and possession were immense before the Allies were finally able to overcome their foe. By the time the Nazis were vanquished, the Holocaust had claimed six million Jews, millions of others had died in related direct and implicit acts of murder, and millions of soldiers and civilians had perished in the war.

Numerous media reports about the Israel recent conflict with Hezbollah that were coloured by a visceral anti-Israel bias and the United Nations resolution concerning the fighting in Lebanon unmistakably demonstrate that the nations of the world have yet to unite behind an understanding that once again there is a radical evil in the world.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah

It is a two-headed hydra – the Iranian regime under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (with Hezbollah as its unmistakable proxy) and the diverse terror groups associated with Al Qaeda under Osama bin Laden – rooted in twisted versions of Islam.

It is not by accident that the hydra, in both of its manifestations, blames Israel and the Jews for the ills of the world, and has targeted Israel for destruction. Ahmadinejad, who has been deemed by the world's more perceptive politicians as the new Hitler, has publicly and unequivocally threatened Israel on several occasions. As Hitler demonstrated 70 years ago, threats made by such leaders must be taken seriously.

The current menace is not identical to Nazism: first and foremost, it's rooted in a different set of values. But it does have similarities. Like Nazi Germany before it, the Iranian state officially sponsors anti-Semitism, although it has added the newer seasoning of Holocaust denial.

The most current expression of Iran's ardent Jew-hatred is the newly opened exhibit in Tehran of cartoons mocking the Holocaust. Since the end of World War II, other states have sponsored anti-Semitism, both officially and obliquely, but none before Iran have ever made explicit declarations about their intentions to destroy the Jews, nor has any other state invested such a great effort to gain the means to turn their threats into actions.

In addition to targeting Jews for genocide, Islamic fundamentalism stands firmly against the values held dear by the free world and, like the Nazis, the hydra evinces no normative moral considerations whatsoever.

Hezbollah's cynical use of civilian populations as human shields and its intentional targeting of civilian targets in Israel, including fellow Muslims living where it sent its deadly rocket fire, all too clearly demonstrate its total dearth of time-honoured moral concerns.

That the rest of the world has allowed Hezbollah to survive does not bode well for the future. The very fact that it still exists will strengthen its resolve and the resolve of those who stand behind it. Terrorist cells, some linked to Iran and others linked to bin Laden, will undoubtedly continue to try to carry out unmitigated acts of terror, like the plan to explode at least 10 airplanes headed from Britain to the United States. Ahmadinejad, Hezbollah's godfather, retains his unrepentant desire to attain nuclear capabilities and continues his unrelenting march toward this goal.

Alas, the world has begun its response to radical evil slowly and weakly, just as it did in the time of the Nazis. Will it eventually come around and take decisive and appropriate action, despite the unavoidable heartbreak of war, or will it do too little, too late? The key lies in recognizing and understanding the extent of the threat, and acting with courage, conviction and unswerving determination until that threat has been extinguished.

*Historian Robert Rozett is the director of the Yad Vashem Libraries, author of* Approaching the Holocaust: Texts and Contexts, *and co-editor of* The Holocaust: Frequently Asked Questions.

Haifa residents with remains of a Hezbollah missile that landed in the northern Israel city. [Isranet photo]

Opinions

# The fist of Israel

At the height of Israel's war against Hezbollah, Thomas Friedman, the distinguished *New York Times* columnist and author, described the weakness of Lebanon as its inability to make a fist. Its various factions could not come together to form a cohesive and effective unit. The poisoned and poisonous finger of terrorism had paralyzed Lebanon's hand and rendered its government powerless. This is the cause of the pain inflicted on Lebanon's population.

*Rabbi Dow Marmur in Toronto*

Friedman said that the same is true of the elected government in Iraq. For all its apparent good intentions, it cannot bring together the ethnic and religious groups and their warlords. The result is the seemingly insoluble political and military quagmire.

Dictators such as the leaders of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia could make fists out of disparate groups, but they were artificial creations that fell apart as soon as the regimes imploded. For a fist to be effective, it must be part of the arm of democracy and built on popular consensus.

That is the strength of the fist of Israel. Despite all of Israel's internal ethnic, religious and political divisions, when it really matters, its citizens know how to come together to defend the country and to support each other.

Though criticism has been voiced in Israel from the outset about the conduct of the government and its military leaders, the fist remained intact and effective because of the extraordinary maturity of the population. Even though Israel's success was nowhere nearly as spectacular as it had been in the Six Day War or at Entebbe, it did substantially weaken Hezbollah's terrorist infrastructure, despite the enemy's claim to the contrary. Israelis have shown once again that it's possible to stand up to the ferocity and cunning of terrorism in order to secure the integrity and the survival of the Jewish state.

The same unity that prevailed in Israel has also been evident in the Diaspora. Whatever internal divisions may exist among us, when it really mattered, we set them aside to stand together to help Israel make the fist. The exemplary and effective response of Canadian Jewry is a case in point.

For the fist to remain effective, however, it must also be opened as soon as circumstances permit. Criticism must not be stifled, for that would impede the health and well-being of the body that is Israel. Though total peace is still beyond our reach, even the uneasy truce must make room for scrutiny of politicians and generals alike. It's the only way to make sure that the fist will be even more effective should it be needed again.

Loyal Zionist critics, among whom I am proud to count myself, are motivated and guided by this conviction.

# Do you really need that $15 binder?

August is a busy month for students. It's when, with mixed feelings, students and their financial backers go shopping for the "necessities" of school (a word banned from our household during the summer). Magazines, flyers and TV commercials advertising "back to school" sales flood our mailboxes. The weight of the average newspaper triples, as does the rate of back injuries among newspaper carriers.

I remember being excited by back-to-school shopping when I was young(er). Choosing notebooks, binders and pencils, as well as a pencil box, scissors (both items that for some mysterious reason needed replacing every year), glue sticks and coloured pencils was so much fun that it almost offset the fact the supplies were for school. How wonderful life was when all I needed to decide was what colour my pencil sharpener would be, or which superhero would adorn my backpack.

Sadly, everything has changed.

Way back when, pencils came in either yellow (regular ones) or black (mechanical ones). Now the list of different types, brands and prices makes me dizzy. There are now 50 brands of pencils to choose from, ranging from very inexpensive to ridiculously overpriced. Erasers used to be pink, and they tore the paper if you used them. Now there are white vinyl erasers, eraser pens, liquid white-out with a brush, liquid white-out with a sponge tip, white-out rollers, and white-out pens. Like cars, disposable stationery products now come in a variety of sizes and types, from economy to luxury.

*Gershon Richter in Winnipeg*

As well, the primary purpose of a pen is not what it once was. Today, a student must take into account not only how well a pen writes, but also how he or she looks when holding said pen and how many features it has. Is it erasable? How many colours can it write in? Does it have a comfy grip? Does it sparkle? Is it gel, ball or fountain pen? Does it check your spelling? Is the ink of non-fading archival quality? Does it taste good?

School supplies are now as much elementary school status symbols as are the cars of parents waiting in the parking lot. Parents have been suckered into buying $15 binders, $7 notebooks, and $30 calculators, all of which will be thrown out at the end of the year, if they make it that far.

Today, binders no longer hold just paper. They must also have 15 pockets that you will never use, as well as be hermetically sealed, colour-coded and made to withstand small nuclear weapons. And calculators no longer simply calculate. They need 15-line displays and five million functions that you'll never use, all packed into a piece of plastic so small that you need tweezers and a microscope to manipulate the buttons (which sounds surprisingly like my cellphone), or so large that weight training is required to handle it.

Lined paper refills are always important, because you can never have too much paper. Every year, we buy the maximum amount of paper – usually eight packages of 200 sheets each day for a week – while it's on sale. We never use it all, but it's good to have it, "just in case." I believe the paper we're using now is vintage 1996. It was a good year.

As you progress upward in your education, so do the prices of supplies. Back-to-school sales now include laptop computers that, of course, laptop computer makers have decided are a "necessity" for any student. Like pencils, they are sold with so many different options that only a trained computer engineer can tell them apart. Ranging in price, configuration, quality and weight, the most important function of these laptops will be to play computer games and to watch movies in class. This has been happening in universities for quite some time.

This year, as you make hard choices about which "necessities" to buy, make sure to think about last year's supplies and how many of them made it to this year. Think about what else you could buy if you spent $2 on a binder instead of $15 (that's roughly a week's worth of coffee, a real "necessity"). Ask yourself if you really need the most expensive pens known to man, or a calculator so complex that it comes with a 1,500-page manual. Pick simple school supplies and get them in any colour you'd like. Don't cave in to blatant consumerism.

Ooooh, look! Halloween candy!

# A summer in Germany

Greetings from Halifax! As *The CJN*'s new student columnist here, I look forward to sharing my thoughts and experiences with you over the coming months. I am entering my fourth year at the University of King's College, majoring in contemporary studies and German. When I mention this second major to people, and Jewish people in particular, awkwardness inevitably ensues: "Oh… German… that's interesting." It is interesting, and quite complicated.

*Mordechai Wolfish in Halifax*

I began studying German a little more than a year ago, when I was on a seemingly endless quest for a second major, a requirement at King's. A professor suggested that I take German, the language of many of the great philosophers I study. As the grandson of Holocaust survivors and someone who takes the Holocaust and its lessons very seriously, I began studying German with much trepidation – a feeling that has still not left me.

I have been continually struck by how different it is to learn a new language in university than when one is a baby. As babies, we take a beautiful journey from innocence to knowledge. Every step we take is a move forward, allowing us to understand and express more about the world. But for me, German is packed with so many negative associations that every step forward also seems like a step backward into a dark place.

I got a chance to face these feelings directly by spending part of this summer in Berlin. I was on a program with students from all over the world who had come to Berlin to learn German and experience life in the city. But I found there was a chasm between my experience and theirs. In a sense, the way they related to Berlin reminded me of the baby learning a language: it was pure intake. Each day, they discovered another great thing about Berlin, which gave them an overall picture of the city as a very fun place. For me, however, life in Berlin was anything but straightforward. For every fun place that I discovered, I found at least one trace of the horrific past: a former Nazi compound, a deportation site, a destroyed Jewish graveyard. The fun and the tragic are piled on top of each other.

I think it's fascinating how this is reflected in the memorials throughout the city. You don't need to make a special outing to visit a memorial in Berlin. They are built into the everyday fabric of the city. The main Holocaust memorial, completed just one year ago, is located on a central boulevard in Berlin, making it hard to avoid. In addition to that impressive structure, there are dozens of smaller memorials. At a number of subway stations, monuments remind passengers that the train tracks taking them to work each day were once used to deport Jews and other victims to concentration camps.

To me, the most impressive memorial project is *Stumbling Stones*, an ongoing project by sculptor Gunter Demnig. He places gold stones where Jewish homes once stood before the war. The stones state the person's name, date of deportation and year of death. People literally stumble over these stones, discovering individual traces of the past in places they thought were pure.

Though these memorials are everywhere, I realized that it takes some effort to notice them. I'm sure that only some people spot them on their daily commutes. The same goes for my fellow students. One day, I was talking to a friend about our previous day's activities. I visited Mitte, which was once a Jewish neighbourhood but is now one of most popular areas of Berlin's renowned nightlife. I saw a graveyard on Grosse Hamburger Street that had been completely ransacked by the Nazis. My friend informed me that he had partied all night at a great club on that very same street. A feeling of intense discomfort came over me as I wanted to tell him that he was partying on the graves of my ancestors.

I find that studying German and visiting Germany has given me an important opportunity to deal with these issues on a personal level. I am determined to keep reminding myself that learning German allows me to better understand both great philosophy and sickening Nazi propaganda. I will probably never completely give up my aversion to the language, nor do I want to. And I don't want people to stop questioning my choice of language to study.

The Kirshner File

# War scuttles Olmert's 'convergence' plan

Two months ago, shortly after assuming his post as Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert visited France to promote his widely touted "convergence" plan for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. After holding talks with French President Jacques Chirac, Olmert declared, "Convergence is unstoppable. It will be implemented."

*Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto*

But in the wake of the recent 34-day war in Lebanon, which ended inconclusively for Israel and was hailed as a victory by Hezbollah, the future of convergence is uncertain at best. Indeed, Olmert himself questioned its relevance when he said last week that it was no longer at the top of his government's agenda and that speculation about it would be inappropriate due to the urgent tasks facing Israel after the war: the rebuilding and rehabilitation of towns and cities in the Galilee, which were damaged by almost 4,000 Hezbollah rockets; the pullout of the Israel Defence Forces from southern Lebanon as the Lebanese army and international peacekeepers fill the vacuum in the border region; and the safe return of three kidnapped soldiers separately abducted by Hezbollah and Hamas on July 12 and June 25, respectively.

Convergence is based on the assumption that Israel must unilaterally redraw its borders in the absence of a credible and trustworthy Palestinian partner. It was put to the test last summer when the Israeli army ceded the Gaza Strip and four isolated settlements in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority.

Convergence is the polar opposite of engagement with the Palestinians. The man who popularized it, Ariel Sharon, the former prime minister, embraced the concept after finally recognizing the central argument of his opponents on the left.

Citing statistics and projections, they warned that, due to higher Arab birthrates, the number of Palestinians between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River would soon surpass the number of Jews. By this criteria, Israel could not remain both a democracy and a Jewish state while ruling a large, hostile Palestinian population. Eventually, under internal and external pressures, Israel would be forced to enfranchise Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Bereft of its Jewish majority, Israel would morph into a binational state dominated by Arabs, and the Zionist dream would die, undermined and destroyed by the sheer force of demography.

The way to avoid this national disaster, the proponents of convergence noted, was to separate from the Palestinians by building a security fence, ceding much of the territories and acquiescing to a two-state solution.

Sharon believed that negotiations were futile because the Palestinian leadership was simply incapable of delivering the goods: stopping terrorism and creating a situation whereby Israel and a Palestinian state could coexist in reasonable harmony. He doubted whether Yasser Arafat, the first president of the Palestinian Authority, could be trusted, and whether his well-meaning but ineffectual successor, Mahmoud Abbas, could rein in rejectionist elements hell-bent on sabotaging a putative peace agreement. With Hamas on the rise after its triumph in last January's legislative elections, convergence seemed all the more alluring.

Still, it was mercilessly skewered by Israeli critics on the left and right. Leftists said that unilateralism would undermine Palestinian moderates willing to sign a permanent status accord on the basis of the 2003 "road map" peace plan and would set back the chances of creating a stable Palestinian entity. As well, they were wary of an imposed solution, the acme of convergence.

Rightists, notably the leader of the Likud, Benjamin Netanyahu, complained that convergence gave Israel nothing in return, except the faint hope that the Palestinians would be content with a free territorial prize, and would leave Israel with no bargaining chips.

Though paying lip service to the idea that engagement was ultimately better than unilateralism, Olmert – who was elected on a platform extolling convergence – basically dismissed these arguments and held fast to convergence despite two unpalatable facts. Israel withdrew unilaterally from southern Lebanon in 2000 and from Gaza in 2005, yet was continually shelled by Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Resistance Committees and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

But neither Katyushas nor Qassams fazed Olmert, who was of the opinion that last summer's partial pullout from the West Bank should have been more extensive, and that further withdrawals from the West Bank should not be carried out in piecemeal fashion but in one broad swoop.

Nor was Olmert discouraged by surveys that suggested most Israelis opposed convergence. A poll released by Hebrew University on June 26, just a day after the soldier Gilad Shalit was kidnapped, showed that 50 per cent were against the proposal while 46 per cent supported it. Previous surveys, taken by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and New Wave Research, also indicated that the majority of Israelis wanted engagement rather than unilateralism.

Olmert, who supposedly convinced Sharon to adopt convergence as an alternative to talks with the Palestinians, portrayed it as a scheme by which Israel could establish internationally recognized borders and maintain a Jewish majority for decades to come.

In fleshing out the plan, he explained that Israel would relinquish settlements beyond the separation barrier, evacuate settlers from the rest, retain only settlement blocs such as Maale Adumim, Ariel and Gush Etzion and keep an armed presence in the Jordan Valley.

After winning approval for his coalition government on May 4, Olmert said, "The borders of Israel that will be formed in the coming years will be significantly different from the territories under Israel's control today. We have to maintain a strong and stable Jewish majority in our country."

**Ehud Olmert**

Asserting that he would set Israel's new boundaries by 2010, Olmert nevertheless raised the possibility of talks with the Palestinian Authority, but warned, "We won't wait forever."

On a trip to London in mid-June, Olmert suggested that his envisaged pullout from the West Bank would encompass about 90 per cent of its territory.

But convergence got a fairly rough ride, even from Israel's allies.

U.S. President George W. Bush diplomatically described it as "bold", but said that his "preferred option" was "a negotiated settlement." British Prime Minister Tony Blair called instead for "a negotiated two-state solution," while Britain's foreign secretary, Margaret Beckett, said that convergence was "very much second best." In Paris, Chirac urged Israel to renew talks with the Palestinians, making no mention of convergence.

Far from embracing it, the Palestinians have denigrated convergence. Abbas has pronounced it as unacceptable and Mohammed Dahlan, a key Fatah leader, has said that it will bring Israel neither peace nor security. Hamas has condemned it as a "hostile" policy and "a declaration of war."

Rumblings about convergence have also been heard in Olmert's Kadima party. More than a week after Israeli tanks rolled into Gaza in a limited invasion in June, Meir Sheetrit, the minister of housing and construction, said starkly, "I do not believe in unilateral disengagement." Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni warned that a hasty unilateral withdrawal would not be in Israel's interests.

Even as Sheetrit and Livni cast aspersions on convergence, Olmert remained adamant. "I am absolutely determined to carry out separation from the Palestinians," he said on July 11, claiming that it was an "inevitable historic process." On Aug. 2, Olmert went further, saying that the fighting in Lebanon would create a "new momentum" for a unilateral withdrawal.

But on Aug. 12, two days before the United Nations ceasefire – brokered by the United States and France – went into effect, Olmert abruptly changed his mind. Referring to Israel's unilateral pullout from Gaza, he said, "Did we win even one minute of quiet? What did it get us? A barrage of Qassam missiles fired at peaceful settlements and the kidnapping of soldiers." And in a barbed reference to Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Olmert talked of the "enormous terrorist infrastructure" Hezbollah had established in co-operation with Iran and Syria.

Interestingly, Olmert made these comments a few days before a government committee submitted a bleak report warning that Israeli cities, presumably Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, could be targeted by rockets in the event of a major Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

Netanyahu claims that the doctrine of convergence has proven to be "a failure," and he may be correct. But can Israel blithely continue to occupy the West Bank and still preserve its identity and integrity as a democratic and Jewish state?

It is doubtful, and therein lies Israel's dilemma.


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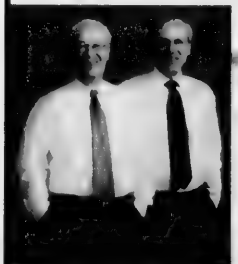

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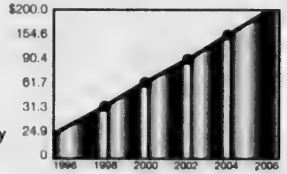


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Special Report

# Summer camps offered refuge from the war for northern Israeli children

## *UJA Federation helped thousands of kids to get away*

*Recently, UJA Federation's Editorial Manager Dan Horowitz visited summer camps for children from the northern Israel war zone and toured the northe This story was written on the last day of camp.*

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

Just two days after the first katyusha rockets landed in northern Israel over six weeks ago, vulnerable Israeli youngsters were already being whisked away to safer climes in the country, many to summer camps quickly organized by The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and supported by North American Jewish Federations including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

During my recent fact-finding trip to Israel I paid a visit to one of these havens for Israeli youth as they were packing up, readying to return to their homes the next day, and the benefits of this respite were clearly etched on the faces of these happy campers.

Situated on the Beit Yannai beach, just north of Netanya, the Haddassah Neurim Youth Village was quickly transformed into a five-week summer camp for 230 new immigrants from Ethiopia, ages 8 to 18, who had been residing in northern Israeli absorption centres.

The village, which sits atop a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean, includes dormitories, a swimming pool, a therapeutic horseback riding ranch as well as full soccer, basketball and track and field facilities.

"I love to run; it makes me feel good and not afraid," said Asmara, 15, who has been living in a Tzfat absorption centre since he and his family arrived in Israel nine months ago. "I love mathematics and English, too. With G-d's help, I plan on becoming a doctor some day. Although I miss my parents, I am so happy we ran away from the war and came here."

Asmara's surprisingly good English was a testament to the special tutors brought in by the youth village. Haddasah Neurim also brought in social workers and psychologists to help the children deal with their fears. Volunteers from Israel and abroad all lent their time and skills to make this initiative so successful.

"I'm sorry that we were given the chance to host these wonderful children under such circumstances, but I am proud to have provided a helping hand, and to find a solution for at least these evacuees," said Nachum Katz, manager of the youth village and a former Israel Defence Forces artillery colonel who has spent many years in Lebanon defending Israel. "I hope that these children return home with good memories fro their time here."

"It has been fun here, just like a big summer camp," said Yossi, 12, also from a Tzfat absorption centre. "We were all here together – all friends from the absorption centre – and that is most important. We took trips, went to the pool, and we all felt good, almost like we were at home; maybe even better because there is no beach in Tzfat."

*More than 230 Ethiopian refugees to Israel say goodbye to the new friends they made at the Haddassah Neurim Youth Village on the last night of the 5-week summer camp organized by The Jewish Agency For Israel (JAFI).*

*(Photos by Nir Ben Shoham, UIA Federations Canada, Israel.)*

Shula Mizrachi, a 40-year-old mother of two, and a graduate of the Hadassah Neurim Boarding School, knew exactly where to take her kids when the war broke out.

"I took my kids – parted from my husband who had to still work in the fire department on the Lebanese border, and came here," she said. "I knew they would be safe here; everybody was so nice and kind. Really, look around you; it could be heaven here if we didn't have to worry about the war."

# Surprise birthday gift benefits Israeli community

A funny thing happened to Torontonian Sara Gorman following her grandson's bar mitzvah in Jerusalem earlier this month – and neither Sara, nor Israel's youngsters could be happier!

Having made the decision to go to Israel despite the war, the extended Gorman family and many of their friends traveled to the Old City for grandson Jesse Sadja's bar mitzvah which would be followed by a busy itinerary which included touring, volunteering, and visits to various UJA Federation projects in the area. A part of that itinerary included a stop at Toronto's twinned community of Kfar Gvirol, located just southwest of Rechovot.

Adopted by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in 1983 as part of its Project Renewal initiative – Rechovot has been the beneficiary of many improvements funded by Toronto including the Menachem Begin Elementary School, an early childhood centre, a community centre, a senior citizens home, and other facilities which have transformed Kfar Gvirol into an up-and-coming middle class neighbourhood.

As the bus came to a stop adjacent to a newly planted garden, Sara, thinking she was there for a quick overview and community update, got the surprise of a lifetime. Stepping down from the bus, a banner was suddenly unveiled announcing the dedication of the new Sara Gorman Community Park – a surprise birthday gift from husband Harry, in honour of his wife's 80th year and made possible by UJA Federation.

Suddenly, the Gormans were joined by a flood of friends, town residents, and community officials including Gabi Golan, chair of the Kfar Gvirol residents committee and Shuki Forer, mayor of Rechovot, as the family members – which included three generations - placed their hands in cement; a permanent reminder of their "hands-on" philanthropy.

"This was just overwhelming; it just blew me away," said a shocked and delighted Sara, as countless neighbourhood kids flocked to enjoy the new facility. "We came for Jesse's bar mitzvah and, yet, this has turned into so much more. I hope Jesse remembers his bar mitzvah, and what a special time this was; not just for him and us, but for the beautiful youngsters who live in this area."

"To me, this is proof that miracles really do happen; because the miracle is that I was able to keep this surprise from my wife for a whole year," joked Harry. "Turning 80 is so special, and we thought there was no better way to pay Sara tribute than to have others benefit from her good fortune. Being able to sit outside and enjoy the beauty of this park and this garden is something Sara wants everybody to enjoy."

"We had thought about canceling our trip to Israel because of the war, but, thankfully, we didn't give in to the terrorism, we're so happy that we decided to do what we set out to do," said a delighted David Sadja, Jesse's dad. "I can't express just how crucial it is to everyone else that they go to Israel, support Israel, and don't be scared off. Israel needs us more than ever, and it's our responsibility to be there for them."

"To have a bar mitzvah is so special by itself, but to have it in Israel is amazing, and to have it as part of a special surprise for my bubbie is just incredible," said the bar mitzvah boy, Jesse. "My bubbie grew up poor, and she didn't have money to go shopping, or even to go to the movies when she was sad, so she would go to parks or to the beach which didn't cost her anything. She always felt that people should be able to enjoy themselves; and to enjoy the outdoors, regardless of whether or not they had money. That's why dedicating this park to her is so perfect. She'll love the fact that so many little kids – and their families - will be able to enjoy it."

*(pictured left) Harry Gorman looks on as wife Sara cuts the ribbon of the newly dedicated Sara Gorman Park in Rechovot.*

*(Photo by Stephen Epstein)*

Any questions concerning information or photos that appear on these pages should be directed to jewishtorontonews@ujafed.org

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ISRAEL EMERGENCY EDITION - Jewish Toronto

# Northern Israelis try to resume their lives

## *UJA Federation campaign focuses on recovery*

***Just 5 days after the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, UJA Federation Editorial Manager Dan Horowitz toured northern Israel for a first hand look at the devastation caused by terrorist rockets.***

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
UJA Federation

As my driver Nir and I made the three-hour trek from Jerusalem to Kiryat Shmona and other northern Israeli towns, the effects of the month-long war were clearly evident, transforming much of this breathtaking countryside into an obvious war zone with damaged buildings, burnt out cars, and miles of once beautiful greenery reduced to black, lifeless reminders of the carnage.

*Shachar Shani holds a piece of the Katuysha that hit her home.*

Haaretz reports that more than 2,000 apartments in Kiryat Shmona were damaged with about 50 completely demolished by direct hits. Also, three kilometers of water pipes were destroyed, 45 craters have damaged roadways, and over 100 graves were blown apart. Businesses and factories were also hit, as were twelve schools, two of which won't be open in time for the upcoming school year.

Deputy mayor Sami Malul says it will take more than a year before the city can restore is infrastructure. Throughout all of Israel, Hezbollah attacks caused billions of dollars in damage.

### HELPING NORTHERN ISRAEL RECOVER

To that end, the focus of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign is now geared towards reconstruction and recovery, with funds committed to, among other initiatives, trauma care and counseling; temporary housing for the uprooted; vocational counseling for the newly unemployed; specialized assistance for new immigrants, the elderly and those with special needs; and re-equipping community facilities.

*Hagit Ward*

The Campaign – chaired by Ariella Rohringer and Fred Waks - has raised close to $13 million so far over and above the regular campaign total.

Through the UIA Federations Canada office in Jerusalem, UJA Federation has already sent five million dollars in campaign funds to organizations leading the emergency relief efforts in northern Israel.

UJA Federation's initial five million dollar allocation leveraged an additional ten million in relief funds from the Sacta Rashi Foundation, Great Britain's United Jewish Israel Appeal and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

To date, UJA Federation has funded, among other initiatives, summer camps in central and southern Israel for northern Israeli children, week-long trips away from the war zone for northern families, caring for vulnerable immigrants, activities for children in bomb shelters, emergency programs for disabled children, emergency help for the elderly and food packages.

### BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

"We are in the process of trying to build a better future for our citizens; the war put a stop to everything. It stopped our lives," said Menachem Shavit, manager of Kibbutz Amir, part of the Regional Council of Kibbutzim of the Upper Galilee. "There was a lot of damage not only to some of our homes here, but to the agriculture of this area, and our entire infrastructure. We lost many trees and forests; we also had some of our horses and cows killed by katyushas. It's been very hard on the economy. We've lost a lot of money because the summer is our tourist time. Our members – old and young – have had a hard time psychologically because of the war."

*An Israeli man looks at the damage in his house after it was hit by a rocket, fired by Hezbollah terrorists from neighboring Lebanon, at the northern Ismeli town of Kiryat Shmona. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)*

### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF WAR

One of those members who is dealing with the psychological and emotional effects of the war is 12 year-old Shachar Shani. Her house was directly hit by a katuysha during the first week of the conflict, sending her father to the hospital with head injuries.

"This is terrible; we've had to spend almost all of our time in bomb shelters since the rocket hit our home," said Shani, holding a piece of the rocket in one hand, while clutching a stuffed animal with the other. "When we weren't running to the shelters we had to live like immigrants ourselves, forced to stay in other places that weren't our home. This is not a good way to live."

Shachar's neighbour at the kibbutz, Hagit Ward, along with her husband and three children, also felt first-hand the devastating impact of this war.

"My theory was always that no matter what happens, we will not let them drive us from our homes; that we will stay put no matter what," said Ward, whose house was also hit by a Katuysha, a house which, coincidentally, was also struck by a missile 40 years earlier during the Six Day War. "But, war changes things; it can change one's resolve, as it did mine. We decided to take the kids for a mini-vacation for a weekend in Tel Aviv. While I was on the beach there, I got a call on my cell phone that my house had been hit. We came back to quite a scene. There was glass everywhere; it was mixed in with my kids' toys. It took us two days to clean it up."

Another stop on my mission was the beautiful town of Metulla, located on Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Home to 2,000 residents, Metulla - which was rocked by close to 200 katyushas - is also home to The Canada Centre, built through funding from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto donors and other Jewish Federations contributors to improve the quality of life on the northern frontier.

### CANADA CENTRE HELPS ISRAELI SOLDIERS

According to Metulla mayor Kobi Katz, The Canada Centre, with Israel's only Olympic skating rink, played a key role in the war.

"We had thousands of our soldiers stay in the Canada Centre overnight during the war. One night alone, we had 650 soldiers sleeping there," said Katz. "Canada Centre was one of the first public places to open its doors to our soldiers letting them shower, sleep, rest and eat in proper conditions. They also spent much time there planning their strategy for the next day."

Volunteers from Metula brought close to 200 hot, fresh meals to the soldiers every day.

"This war has been so tough on all of us in the north. It's been very hard psychologically, as well as physically for our soldiers, like my son, who was injured in Lebanon," said Katz. "We're trying to get back to a normal life, but this ceasefire is like putting a Band-Aid on the seriously wounded. In terms of agriculture and tourism and the damage to our infrastructure, we've lost tens of millions in revenue. I hope things will return to normal soon. People here are trying to get on with their lives, but northern Israel needs help; the help of her own citizens, as well as the help of others."

## Stars of the North reunites friends and neighbours

Over 1,500 people from northern Israel communities gathered together in Tel-Aviv recently to take part in Stars of the North, an initiative of northern regional municipalities, made possible by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Aside from the social benefits of the program, Stars of the North also gave 100 social workers the opportunity to evaluate the mental and emotional effects of this war on children and youth who lived on the front lines of the war with Hezbollah. Throughout the day therapeutic activities took place including arts & crafts and others involving animals and music.

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# Israel can't be destroyed, ex-Mossad director says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
*Staff Reporter*

Israel is indestructable, claims the former director of the Mossad, Israel's fabled foreign intelligence agency.

"Israel's existence is not in question," Efraim Halevy said in a talk last week at the Windsor Arms Hotel, after describing Iran's nuclear ambitions and its enmity toward Israel. "It's impossible to destroy Israel – take it from me."

"Israel is indestructable for a variety of reasons," he added. "Israel can't be eradicated. Whenever Israel has identified a threat [to its existence], Israel has been able to take care of it."

Halevy, who was in Toronto to promote his newly published memoir, *Man in the Shadows* (St. Martin's Press), said Israel has adopted measures to ensure its survival.

"All threats today, including Islamic radicalism, will be overcome."

Halevy, the head of the Mossad from 1998 to 2002 and its deputy director from 1990 to 1995, spoke extensively about the recent war in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah.

"I'm not sure either side understood what it was getting into," he said. "Both sides slipped into it by accident. It was not premeditated, and both sides made a mistake of assessment."

Israel and Hezbollah both suffered setbacks and neither achieved its objectives, he noted, saying, "Israel has reached some kind of stalemate with Hezbollah."

Yet Israel destroyed most of Hezbollah's long-range rockets and gave Hezbollah a "bloody nose."

Taking note of the fact that Hezbollah, along with Lebanon and Iran, requested a truce only four days into the war, he said, "He who asks for a cease-fire is losing something precious."

Halevy, who is currently director of the Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies at Hebrew University, suggested that the conflict was but "the first act" in a drama that may yet lead to "a second round."

He added, "The next time, we'll have to do much better, and I think we will."

In his judgment, the war would have lasted much longer had Israel demanded the prompt release of the two soldiers who were kidnapped on the first day of the conflict.

Halevy, who was Israel's ambassador to the European Union before assuming the directorship of the Mossad, claimed that Iran's influence in Lebanon has been damaged by the recent war.

Efraim Halevy

He also criticized France for apparently reneging on its promise to send thousands of peacekeeping troops to Lebanon to augment the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

According to Halevy, Syria, with its antiquated army, fears a war with Israel. Even if Syria fires missiles at Israel, Israeli artillery can shell Damascus at will.

Asked whether Israel should resume peace talks with Syria or engage Hamas in negotiations, Halevy replied that the Israeli government should keep all options open.

When asked how well informed Israel is about internal developments in Syria and Iran, he said, "Israeli intelligence knows much more than you can imagine and much less than it would like."

Although Iran considers Israel an enemy worthy of destruction, Israel should try to open channels of communication with Tehran, Halevy said.

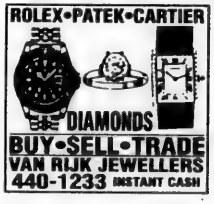
"If we play it right, we can find a way to talk to Iran," he commented, pointing out that Israel has no territorial dispute with Iran.

Halevy noted that Hamas and Al Qaeda look upon each other as adversaries, despite their common Islamic radical outlook, and that rivalry should be exploited.

As he put it, "There is a potential for gain here."

Halevy, who was born in Britain and immigrated to Israel with his family in 1948 at the age of 14, remarked that Israel's public relations efforts have fallen far short of the mark.

In an implicit dig at Israel's current corps of PR people, he said, "Maybe the first thing to do is to present spokespersons who speak grammatical English."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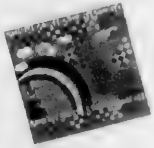

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# Beit Halochem raises $50,000 for Israeli soldiers

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

To help build a new rehabilitation centre in Israel for soldiers wounded in battle, 500 people gathered at a fundraiser at the home of Saul and Toby Feldberg.

Debbie Osiel and Jonathan Kirshblum, with the help of a team of sponsors and volunteers, co-chaired the event held on Aug. 20, and managed to raise $50,000 for Beit Halochem, an Israel-based organization that aids and rehabilitates more than 50,000 disabled Israeli war veterans and victims of terror.

The event, called Courage, which was planned for people in their 20s and 30s to raise awareness for Beit Halochem among the younger generation, was held at the Feldbergs' mansion, where guests were treated to an evening of live entertainment, with DJ, percussionist, hors d'oeuvres and open bar.

"It was a very high class, but not a high-price party, only $50 a ticket," Osiel said, adding that not only did the event sell out, but there was a waiting list of about 200 people.

"It's meant to make our generation aware of the cause. It's usually our parents who support this cause, and this is a way to bring the younger generation into it."

Osiel, who is 26, said that although ticket sales accounted for about half of the total amount raised, much of the credit goes to the individual sponsors within the Jewish community. The funds, she said, will help wounded Israeli soldiers continue to benefit from the rehabilitation services Beit Halochem centres offer.

"The money goes to keeping the centres funded because the victims themselves don't necessarily have the money," she said.

Currently, Beit Halochem Canada supports four facilities. There are three Beit Halochem Rehabilitation, Sport and Recreation centres – in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem – and a Rest and Recreation Centre for Zahal's Disabled Veterans and Families in Nahariya.

At the centres, members receive physical therapy and medical treatment, and have access to sporting equipment and cultural activities to aid them with their physical and social rehabilitation.

"I was inspired by the cause," Osiel said. "Israel is part of my soul. I had been on a birthright [israel trip] and for me to see the soldiers who are so young and to envision something, God forbid, happening to them, or to the civilians that live in Israel, it is just such a touching cause. They are like my brothers and sisters."

She said that since the party was unintentionally timed to coincide with the end of the war with Hezbollah, getting people to become involved with the cause wasn't difficult.

"It was a natural sell. People our age have a vested interest now in this. This was something they were passionate about," Osiel said.

Zohar Sharon, 54, best known as the blind Israeli golfer, is a member of Beit Halochem.

He served as a sniper in the Israel Defence Forces and reportedly lost his vision after he was sprayed in the face with a chemical substance 25 years ago.

Although he speaks only Hebrew, Sharon thanked the audience for their support through a translator.

"Let me speak to you freely. We are all Jews here. I come from Israel and you are here, but your country is just like mine. I think that everyone has to do for Israel what they can. Together, we will turn Israel into a very strong country," said Sharon, who travels with Dylan, his mixed Labrador/Golden Retriever seeing-eye dog, and Shimshon Levy, his caddy and friend.

Debbie Osiel and Jonathan Kirshblum

"In exactly two weeks, I'm going to be again in Scotland," he said, referring to the World Invitational Blind Champion Golfer tournament held in Scotland, which he won in 2003.

"I think I'll win and I will play with a kippah on my head," Sharon added.

Toby Feldberg, the president of Beit Halochem Canada, also addressed the audience to thank them for their support in Israel's time of need.

"We need your support, not only financially, but morally and spiritually. Do whatever you can for Israel," Feldberg said.

"We bring our wounded back to a 'normal' life. We support four centres. We want to build another one, as, unfortunately, the need is great. We have many more wounded soldiers who will be joining us. We are the only organization that does not solicit new members, but they come to us."

For more information, please visit http://www.advi.ca/beit_halochem.htm.


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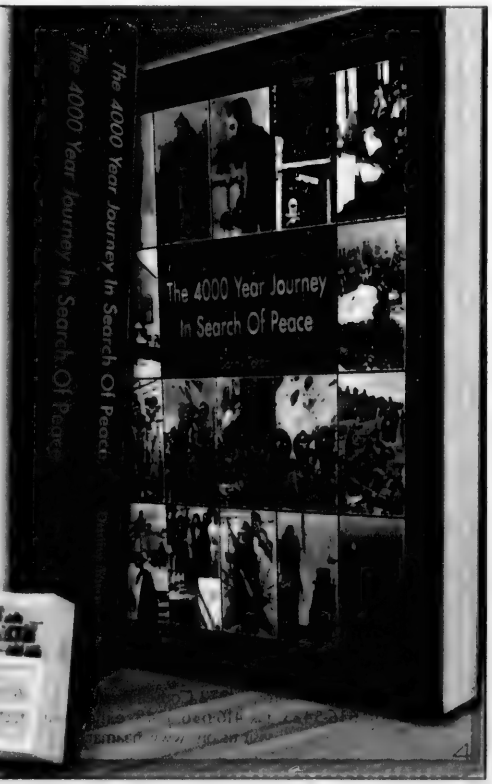


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**Toronto:** Reception and Book signing: Sunday, September 10, 2006 from 1 to 9 p.m. at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, in the "Loggia Room", 4588 Bathurst St.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until September 29th, 2006. (416) 636-1880

**Hamilton:** Reception & Book signing: Thursday, October 5, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the "Ruth Sherman Centre" at the Shalom Village, 70 Macklin St. N.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until October 12, 2006. (905) 528-5377

**Windsor:** Reception & Book signing: Monday, October 16, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Windsor Jewish Community Centre in the "Harry Zekelman A & B Rooms", 1641 Ouellette Ave.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until October 19, 2006. (519) 973-1772

**London:** Reception & Book signing: Sunday, October 22, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the London Jewish Community Centre, in the "Harris Room", 536 Huron St.; Sale of Books and Exhibit of Photographs on display until October 26, 2006. (519) 673-3310

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**Notice to Visitors to Pardes Shalom Cemetery**

Arrangements have been made by Pardes Shalom to provide complimentary transportation to the cemetery during the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on **Sunday, Sept. 10, 17** and **Oct. 1**.

A bus identified by a sign **"PARDES SHALOM"** will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

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Jewish Life

# Israel truly pulled together

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

On Friday afternoons, sirens are sounded in Israel to announce the imminent arrival of Shabbat. Buses soon stop running, businesses begin to close and last-minute preparations become hurried. But over the past several weeks, no sirens have been sounded, because they were causing acute trauma among people who had taken refuge in central Israel from the missiles raining down on the north. Instead of sirens, merry folk music played on the system.

This, of course, was but a minor note in what proved to be perhaps one of the greatest social statements in the history of modern Israel.

With one million citizens displaced, and hence a large part of the population in need of accommodations, Israelis outdid themselves in playing host to them. Newspapers carried daily listings of families and individuals in need of shelter. In response, offers were immediate and overwhelming. People living in apartments that could easily fit in a typical North American family room opened their tiny spaces to refugees from the north. The refugees were total strangers: entire families, often immigrants, or the poor, widows and widowers who were living in fear and alone, with no family to turn to and speaking little or no Hebrew.

Yeshiva dormitories that were vacant for the summer quickly filled up. Kitchens, staffed by volunteers, got busy preparing and distributing thousands of meals each day. Transportation was provided at no cost to shuttle children and families to amusement parks and activities. Supermarkets and corner grocers alike offered their food at cost.

Israeli philanthropist Arkadi Gaydamak singlehandedly set up a "city of tents" in Nitzanim for 6,000 people, complete with lodging, food services, amusement in the form of musicians and performers, and teams of counsellors for the anxious. The cost to Gaydamak: about $500,000 a day.

And since the hostilities had virtually cancelled all summer weddings in the north, Jerusalemites planned a mass wedding in their city for more than 40 couples. For this event, all funding – from food to fashion, and even gifts for the newlyweds – was provided by donors. Caterers signed up to provide food, and wedding gowns, suits and every conceivable need was to be provided to the couples free of charge. But unlike a similar donor-finance mass wedding in Tel Aviv, in which some 50 couples got married on the first day of the ceasefire, the Jerusalem event was cancelled by the end of the conflict, and the couples returned to their hometowns to resume their life and plans.

One can only compare this crisis to that of Hurricane Katrina or the tsunami that hit Southeast Asia, where co-ordinated help took weeks to arrive – and, indeed, for some, it never arrived at all.

Here in Israel, during this latest crisis, one thing was eminently clear: despite everything else, the spirit of compassion, brotherhood, concern, and of giving and caring, remains. And may I add that it remains unparalleled and unmatched in the entire world.

# Chevrutah learning catches on at Havergal College

By ERIN O'FARRELL AND KIMBERLEY STEPHENS
*JTA*

Guest Voice

**TORONTO** — As we prepare the course materials for the 10th-grade English classes we teach beginning every fall semester at Havergal College, a private high school for girls in Toronto, we find ourselves fixated on the Hebrew Bible and the talmudic study method known as chevrutah.

We learned the chevrutah technique, which calls for two study partners to wrestle with a passage of Torah by reading it aloud, raising questions, and offering individual interpretations of the text, at a summer institute sponsored by the Curriculum Initiative, a New York-based Jewish educational organization that serves private, non-Jewish schools.

Although our school is named in honour of Frances Ridley Havergal, a 19th-century poet and writer of Anglican hymns, we have been long committed as much to cultural diversity as to academic excellence. It should surprise no one that the Hebrew Bible is being taught as literature here.

But teaching at such an institution using a method generally found only in yeshivas and synagogue study groups is, perhaps, a bit unusual.

Our students are a notably cosmopolitan bunch and represent just about every imaginable cultural and religious background. No one is likely to mistake us for a yeshiva any time soon. Nonetheless, traditional yeshiva students would surely recognize the chevrutah techniques that we've adapted to the requirements of a preparatory school for young women.

The usual chevrutah study configuration is pairs. At Havergal, to introduce the students to this method of study, we've modified that arrangement by having the "pair" made up of the teacher as one study partner and the entire class of students as the other.

Eventually, as students become familiar with what we are doing, they are paired in twos and encouraged to study in a manner more in keeping with traditional chevrutah.

Because it engages students and teachers alike with the texts they are studying on an incredibly intimate level, and does so in a remarkably short period of time, chevrutah is an outstanding technique for teaching a wide variety of topics, not just Talmud.

By focusing on the words themselves rather than the historical background or literary theory behind them, chevrutah allows students with little or no familiarity with these texts to dig right into them and achieve a level of understanding usually found only in more advanced course work.

Consider the story of Pandora's Box. Traditionally, this cautionary tale about the dangers of ignoring taboos in order to satisfy one's curiosity is taught as an example of the values and traditions of the ancient Greeks.

While that is all well and good, it can take several sessions of valuable class time to bring students up to speed with the historical and cultural background required to understand the importance of the Greek myths, both as artifacts of an ancient religious system and as a cornerstone of our modern literary tradition. But chevrutah speeds up the process by an order of magnitude.

What normally would take months takes mere hours. Students cut right to the chase, identifying themes, concepts, and relationships that are startlingly sophisticated. Why is the story about a woman? What is the importance of assigning blame? Are humankind's worst impulses really matters of fate that are beyond our control?

Now, move on to the story of Adam and Eve and the fall from Eden. How are the stories similar? How different? Compare them both to Anita Diamant's best selling novel *The Red Tent*. How does her retelling of the biblical story of Dinah update the themes found in the older texts? What does the novel have to say about woman's role in determining the fate of humankind?

Chevrutah sparks the minds of our students in such a way that they can grapple with these questions like literary masters. And they love it because they feel, as one student remarked last year, "so smart."

We love it, too, because chevrutah helps them realize that they are smart. The chevrutah method gives students permission to ask questions and offer opinions that they might otherwise find difficult to express. It frees them from feeling abashed by their lack of authoritative knowledge. This is especially true when teaching the Hebrew Bible, which can be intimidating to students who have little personal experience or knowledge to draw from.

And yet they come away from their encounter with a deep respect not only for the text but the Jewish traditions that inform it. Chevrutah doesn't only make students smarter, it makes them more open to diverse ways of thinking and unfamiliar value systems, not in a passive and acquiescent way, but, rather, in a mode that is fully engaged with the world of ideas.

This, of course, is the very essence of a true liberal arts education.

*Erin O'Farrell and Kimberley Stephens teach English at Toronto's Havergal College.*

Jewish Life

# A recommended reading list

***1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die*, general editor Peter Boxall, Universe Publishing.**

**Books**
***Bernard Baskin***

There is a story – perhaps apocryphal – about Lord Rodesdale, Nancy Mitford's father. He was supposed once to have announced, "I have only read one book in my life, and that is *White Fang*. It's so frightfully good I've never bothered to read another."

About this astonishing confession someone wrote, "Apparently his addiction to literature was quite limited." Certainly Lord Rodesdale would have been dismayed by a volume that recommends 1001 books to us.

It is possible to read that many books? It depends when you start. Keep in mind this basic reckoning. The average reader, when dealing with material of medium difficulty, can absorb about 300 words a minute. In 15 minutes, this comes to about 4,500 words. Fifteen minutes a day over a year gives us 1,512,000 words, the equivalent of 20 books averaging 75,000 words each. Just 15 minutes a day over a period of 50 years of sustained reading means that we can read 1,000 books in our lifetime.

I know some confirmed readers who make it an unfailing habit to read for a brief period past their regular retiring hour, no matter what the time or where they find themselves. There should be no trouble for most of us to set aside at least a half hour every day for serious reading. Such an unfailing and disciplined regimen is the only way to do it.

Once, when Benjamin Franklin was dining out in Paris, a friend posed the question: "What condition of man most deserves pity?" Each guest proposed an example. When it came Franklin's turn, he said, "A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read."

The volume under consideration is made up of brief reviews from more than 100, largely British, contributors. The entries come to about 300 words each. The book's editor writes that what these entries seek to do is neither to offer a full critique of each title, nor to give us flavour of the prose, not even simply to provide a canned plot synopsis, but to suggest why each book is compelling and why one "absolutely needs to read it."

Of course, in a list of this kind, there are always omissions and unlikely emphases. For example, Margaret Atwood has six entries, but there is no mention of Margaret Lawrence, Mordecai Richler, Robertson Davies or Alice Munro. One wonders why 11 works by J. M. Coetzee should be recommended, seven by Wyndham Lewis, 10 by Samuel Beckett and 10 by Salman Rushdie when many other fine novelists that come to mind have been passed over. There are comparatively few titles from Asian, African or Latin America writers.

What about Jewish authors? Saul Bellow and Philip Roth are well represented. But where are Aharon Applefeld, Bernard Malamud, Amos Oz, I.B. Singer and Cynthia Ozick?

One splendid feature of this bulky tome of 960 pages is pictorial. Almost every page contains a photograph of an author, often in striking colour, and there are 600 illustrations of creative book jackets, posters or well-chosen works of art. This is an admirable volume for browsing and reference – from *Aesop's Fables* to Zeno's *Conscience*, from Achebe to Zola.

There is little time to lose, get started now. Make your own choices. Love of books lasts when most other pleasures pass. Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. Books are not just lifeless pieces of paper, but minds alive on our library shelves.

# The Jewish calendar, Part 1

**By MARK MIETKIEWICZ**

When's Rosh Hashanah this year?

That simple question can be answered by checking your fridge calendar. But to really understand how the dates of Jewish holidays are set and how the Jewish calendar came about is a story that stretches back thousands of years and combines faith with a profound understanding of astronomy. You can begin to unravel the mystery of the Jewish calendar thanks to the great sites on the web.

Determining Rosh Hashanah wasn't always as easy as picking up a calendar. Originally, Jews figured their calendar the month, the year and the festivals – by the testimony of witnesses who had observed the new moon. Later, astronomical calculation was instituted in connection with the calendar, but the Jews were not certain of its exactness and witnesses were still called on. For a good introduction to the evolution of the Jewish calendar, see the entry at Wikipedia. **[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_calendar]**

The date of Rosh Hashanah and all the other Jewish holidays are directly related to the date of Passover. The Torah commands us to observe Pesach in the month of Aviv. But with a strictly lunar calendar, the observance of Passover would slip a few days every solar year so that we might find ourselves eating matzah and maror in the winter, fall or anytime at all. **[http://tinyurl.com/mavkj]**

So to keep the seasons in line, Hillel II established in the fourth century a fixed calendar based on mathematical and astronomical calculations. Hillel's calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months over the course of a 19-year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years. You can find a more detailed explanation at the Jewfaq website. **[www.jewfaq.org/calendar.htm]**

(I was fascinated to come across a website for the Karaites, the sect that follows the written Torah but rejects Jewish Oral Law and Jewish texts such as the Mishnah and the Gemarah. Karaites still adhere to the tradition of actually witnessing the appearance of the new moon over Jerusalem and now file their reports via the Internet. **[http://tinyurl.com/nsr23]**)

If you really want to get down to the nitty-gritty of Jewish calendars with all its oddities and exceptions, then you must take a look at Remy Landau's Hebrew Calendar Science. Landau answers questions you never knew you had. For example, this site tells you how often the Jewish-calendar cycle perfectly repeats itself (no, not every 19 years but every 689,472 years.) Landau has even calculated how often the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on a Saturday – as it does this year (28.6 per cent). Two more Rosh Hashanah facts: nowadays, the holiday cannot occur any earlier than Sept. 5 nor later than Oct. 5. **[www.geocities.com/Athens/1584/]**.

The calculations can get quite arcane and extremely complicated. As I browsed through Irv Bromberg's massive site on the Jewish calendar, I was introduced to terms such as "mean synodic month," "Metonic cycle" and "Tekufat Adda," and quickly found myself more than a bit lost. **[http://tinyurl.com/qrtkd]** Then I was really put to shame when I read that Maimonides wrote that "the method of the fixed calendar is one which an average schoolchild can master in three or four days." **[www.jewfaq.org/calendr2.htm]**

But the Jewish calendar is far more than just calculations and computations. It governs how we act and think of ourselves as Jews. Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh explains that time is so fundamental to Jewish life and that "both the written and the oral Torah open with a distinct awareness of the significance of time. The written Torah begins with the words, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'; the oral Torah begins with the words, 'From what time may one recite the evening *Shema*?'" **[www.inner.org/times/calendar.htm]**

As the weeks approach toward Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Ginsburgh explains the sanctity of time and how we make use of it. To be a Jew means "to assess life and make decisions from a Jewish point of view, beginning with how one schedules his affairs in his personal appointment book. Then, and only then, can one know 'where' he is in life, and how he can succeed in bringing himself and his portion of the world to their proper and ultimate fulfilment."

*Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@magma.com*


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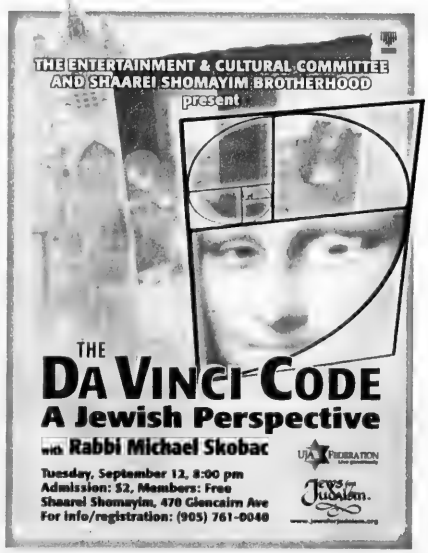




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Avinu Shebashamayim, Rock and Redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, with its promise of redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our Holy Land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the Land with peace, and its inhabitants with lasting joy.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007
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Canadian Council for Reform Judaism
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ARZA Canada is organizing a solidarity mission to Israel in October.
Please call the synagogue 416-449-3880 or the CCRJ 416-630-0375 for details.

Greater Toronto Area

# New AHS principal returns to roots

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Kathy Friedman started her career in education as a preschool volunteer at Associated Hebrew Schools about three decades ago.

As of August 1, she is back at the school's Kamin Education Centre in Thornhill, where she is the new principal of Judaic studies/associated principal.

The mother of two adult children and grandmother of a six-month-old boy, Friedman, 53, worked as a buyer for retail clothing company Dylex before her children were born.

"I never saw myself going into education, and after I started, I could never see myself doing anything else," she said in a recent interview in her new office at AHS.

Her volunteer experience prompted her to pursue a bachelor's degree in education at the University of Toronto. She returned to Associated to teach in the preschool and Judaic studies department until 1993, and for the past 13 years was an administrator at United Synagogue Day School, first as a principal of Judaic studies and later a campus principal.

Friedman – who earned her principal's certificate from the Day School Leadership program of the William Davidson School of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York – said she's "been blessed with requiring very little sleep, about three hours a night," explaining how she juggled work, studies and motherhood.

Also, she added, in the early years, it helped to have her children – who were AHS students – on site, particularly if she had to stay late.

Kathy Friedman

Now she also teaches classes for the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Board of Jewish Education and its Midrasha L'Morim, as well as conducting teachers' workshops at conferences throughout North America.

Being back at Associated feels good, she said. Much of her focus now, in addition to a school-wide emphasis on Israel and environmental awareness, is on "making the school a community.

"I think if we don't help the kids feel they're part of the community, they get turned off – like that," she said, snapping her fingers. She believes in maintaining an open-door policy with students and teachers, and a plate of Hershey's kisses was on her desk awaiting visitors last week. "I believe in creating an environment where people want to work together."

Returning students will likely notice the poster she has placed on the school's main door. It says, "At this school, we value kids; their thoughts, their feelings, their troubles and their triumphs. And we promise to do all that we can to prepare them for their futures."

Because the school has a culturally diverse Jewish community – including students of Mexican, South African, Russian, Israeli and Indian origin – there will also be an increased focus on meeting the needs of individual students and validating different cultural practices, Friedman said.

As well, there will be outreach in the form of a moms and tots group, set to launch in September, and curriculum-related family education – an area in which Friedman has much experience, both at USDS and at supplementary schools. "We're very excited about that," she said.

And for the first time the school's 700 students, from nursery through Grade 5, will have an animal centre, complete with a bunny, turtle, fish, guinea pigs and degus (Chilean mountain squirrels). The centre will be part of the new student government's responsibility, she added.

"Children are amazing with animals, and it's a good way for them to show responsibility," said Friedman.

A native of Hungary, Friedman spent six years of her childhood in Israel before moving to Toronto, where she attended Eitz Chaim Day School and Forest Hill Collegiate before moving on to U of T to study languages and political science.

She wants Associated to be "an all-encompassing experience.

"There's more to school and to Judaism than just the pages of a book."

Greater Toronto Area

# Bialik gets new director of education

By FRANCES KRAFT
*Staff Reporter*

Shana Harris, the new director of education at Bialik Hebrew Day School, regrets that she never had the opportunity to attend Jewish day school when she as younger.

A native of Witbank, South Africa – a small town about 100 miles outside of Johannesburg – Harris, 56, received her Jewish education at a four-day-a-week Hebrew school. The town, with about 100 Jewish families, was home to a small but "very active" Jewish community.

Shana Harris

As an undergraduate student at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where she met peers who had a day school education, she realized what she'd missed, she said.

Harris said Jewish education is her passion. This summer, she returned to the Lookstein Centre for Jewish School Leadership at Israel's Bar Ilan University to serve as a mentor to other Jewish day school administrators as part of a year-long project.

At Bialik – where she has been an administrator for 20 years, most recently as principal of general studies, beginning in 1999 – Harris is just about settled in her new office, which was occupied by Uri Korin until his recent retirement.

In Harris' previous office next door, Benjamin Cohen, formerly of Albany, N.Y., has taken over as general studies principal.

In an interview last week, Harris said it's too early to speak about any changes she might implement at the school. "I don't believe in change just for the sake of change… I truly believe that Bialik is a good school, and my challenge is to make a good school even better."

Referring to the school's Labour Zionist philosophy, she noted how "validating" it was to run into about half a dozen former students in Israel recently and hear them credit the school for their decision to travel there.

On a personal level, she strives to balance being "open to listening" to people, with being "true to [Bialik's] philosophy and consistent in what we hold as our values."

She said she values interaction with students, including visiting their classrooms, and makes a point of being outside in the morning to greet them and their parents.

She doesn't want to interact only with students who "get into trouble or do something spectacular. All the other children are as important."

A believer in "unconditional respect," Harris deals with disciplinary issues by "talking very calmly and quietly to [students], because I want to model that for them. You want to de-escalate [any] anger. Sometimes… there's a lot of anger and frustration [on the child's part]."

Harris began her career as a Latin and English teacher in South Africa in 1971, and became a vice-principal 10 years later.

In 1986, during a stint at the South African Board of Jewish Education, where she served as co-ordinator of general studies, she took the late Rabbi Irwin Witty – then executive director of Toronto's Board of Jewish Education, who was in Johannesburg on a fundraising mission – on a tour of the board's King David schools.

At the time, Harris and her husband had already decided to emigrate with their two young sons. Toronto was appealing because of its Jewish community, although – apart from a cousin – Harris had no close personal connections here.

"Sometimes things are bashert [meant to be]," she said. Rabbi Witty took her resume and passed it on to Bialik. Three months later, the school contacted her, and within a few months, Toronto was her family's new home.

New Canadian friends helped the family acculturate and understand the linguistic differences, she said. When one of her sons required a Duotang for school, she recalls, she had no idea what to look for.

Going back to school herself also familiarized her with Canadian culture. Pursuing a master's degree in educational administration at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) was "a wonderful experience" that helped her learn more about Canadian education. She completed the degree in 1992, and received her principal's certification at OISE two years later.


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# Elite Academy offers free high school in Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
*Staff Reporter*

A recent newspaper ad changed the course of Orit Giterman's high school career.

The ad about Elite Academy, a free high school program in Israel, "just caught my eye," says the 15-year-old, who has never been to the country.

The program, for students entering Grade 10, is run under the auspices of the Jewish Agency for Israel's department of immigration and absorption and Israel's Ministry of Education.

It offers three years of study, free airfare, full tuition (including room and board), medical insurance, telephone expenses and pocket money.

Potential students – four are leaving this year from Toronto and one from Winnipeg – must undergo an interview and pass a written exam. They study at local schools, boarding schools or kibbutz regional schools, and choose between state or state religious education.

Orit, who spent Grade 9 at Westmount Collegiate Institute in Thornhill, says her parents Sophie and Joe, who are Israeli – her grandmother is Rachel Halawani of Rachel's Cafe at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre – were reluctant at first about her decision, but they "saw I really wanted to go. Now, they're happy but unhappy that I'm going."

Having just returned from a summer at Canadian Young Judaea's Camp Kinneret in Quebec, Orit says Israel's recent conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon did not cause her to change her mind.

**Orit Giterman**

"If the school [northwest of Tel Aviv] thought there was a problem, they would have postponed [our trip]. Everything is going ahead as planned, though. They put safety first. I am a little nervous, but I know they'll look after us.

"I speak Hebrew and I have lots of family in Israel, so I know I'll be fine."

Although Orit says she's taking "one year at a time," Dina Gidron, outgoing regional director of the Jewish Agency's Israel Aliyah Centre, says the majority of Elite students – it started out as a program for youth from the former Soviet Union and South America – stay for the full three years of the program, and 95 per cent go on to university.

"It's a good school academically, and there is a full schedule, but these kids are used to working hard. That's why they have been chosen."

The process begins in the aliyah office, says Gidron, "where I meet the student and both parents. I knew right away Orit would be a good candidate, and her parents supported her decision. That is very important."

She stresses that the program is not for youth at risk or for those seeking to escape a harsh family life.

"It gives students an opportunity to become connected to Israel," Gidron says.

"[When they arrive,] they are beginning a process of 'aliyah in stages.' There is no commitment for them to make aliyah, but they have the choice of staying in Israel when they graduate. That is why our office is involved."

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**MUSEUM OPENS: Mark Goldstein, left, stands beside a picture of his late father, Harry Goldstein, at the recent opening of the Harry Goldstein Museum on Zionism, at Camp Gesher. The camp honoured the elder Goldstein, a founder and key financial benefactor of Camp Gesher for his enduring commitment and support.**

Greater Toronto Area

# 3 grain salad always better the second time around

The following recipe was inadvertently cut off in the Aug. 24 edition of *The CJN*:

**3 GRAIN VEGETABLE BARLEY SALAD WITH CILANTRO CREAM DRESSING**

1 cup long-grain brown rice
⅓ cup pearl barley
¼ cup wild rice
2½ cups vegetable stock or water
1 tbsp. virgin olive oil
2 small yellow zucchini – diced
2 small green zucchini – diced
2 peeled seeded cucumbers -- diced
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice

**CILANTRO CREAM DRESSING**

⅓ cup tahini (sesame-seed paste)
¼ cup water
3 tbsp. chopped cilantro leaves
1 small seeded serrano chili – chopped
1/2 tablespoon light sesame oil
salt and cayenne pepper – to taste

Combine rice, barley and wild rice in a saucepan; rinse under running water and strain until water runs clear. Drain well and then return the barley and rice to the pan. Cover them with the stock, add the oil and let sit for 10 minutes. Bring the liquid to a boil, cover and reduce heat to low. Cook until liquid has been absorbed, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 10 minutes. Fluff the mixture with a fork and cool to room temperature. Meanwhile, blanch the zucchini in boiling water 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to strainer, rinse under cold water and drain. Add the zucchini, cucumber and lemon juice to the grains; toss to mix. Just before serving, add Cilantro Cream to the salad and gently toss to mix. Makes 8 servings.

Note: May be prepared a day ahead, covered and refrigerated.

**CILANTRO CREAM:** Combine the tahini, water, cilantro, serrano and oil in a blender or food processor; process until creamy. Add as directed.


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# Family Moments

only from The Canadian Jewish news

## Mazel Tov to...

**Mazel tov Dr. Leora Bar-el who received her phD in linguistics. Love from proud parents Shirley & Avihu and brother Dan.**

**Danica, daughter of Pia Brown & Marty Herman, married Anthony, son of Lois & David Wolch of Winnipeg. Grandparents: Lou & Donia Brown and Min Herman.**

**Harvey & Adena Glasner (Toronto) and Emil & Vera Yagudin (Boston) are thrilled with the marriage of their children Ian & Natty on June 11.**

**Edie & Jackie Marcus and Rebecca & Marvin Mecklinger are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Melanie & Jay. Proud grandmother Toby Tintner.**

**Happy 84th Birthday Ruth Cherns. Love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

**Happy fourth birthday to Erica Lyla Fisher on Sept 1. You are truly a special little girl, and such a blessing. Love, Mom and Dad.**

**Happy first Birthday to my dear grandson Joshua Ryan Saigh. With much love, Safta Violet and family from Israel. We love you!**

**Levi Axel Meshwork celebrates his first birthday with his bubbie.**

## SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

**Label the back of all photos (25 words or less) and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to: The CJN, Family Moments, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, ON. M3B 3K4**

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By REBECCA NADLER

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**What's New deadlines: PLEASE NOTE SUMMER DEADLINES. Thursday, Aug. 31, is the deadline for the Sept. 14 issue and Monday, Sept. 11, is the deadline for the Sept. 21 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

## Sunday, Sept. 3

**SINGLES WALKING GROUP**

Walk and Talk Etc. explores the streets of Rosedale including a historic North Toronto railway station. Meet at 9:30 a.m. under the clock tower of the LCBO, 10 Scrivener Sq. For information and registration, contact walkandtalketc@hotmail.com.

## Monday, Sept. 4

**KOSHER DINNER & CRUISE**

Join Beth Jacob Congregation for an evening cruise of food, fun, music and fireworks on Lake Ontario. 6 p.m. $50. To reserve, call 416-638-5955 or visit www.byad.com.

## Other News

**STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**Mekorot Institute of Torah Studies for Women** full-year courses begin the week of Sept. 10. Talumd: Kiddushin with **Rabbi Shlomo Gemara**, Sundays, 8-9:30 p.m. at Or Chaim Yeshiva; Jacob and Esau: The Blessings, with **Shoshana Zolty**, Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Or Chaim Yeshiva and Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation; Samson: Holy Man or Thug with **Rabbi Moshe Shulman**, Wednesdays, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Sephadic Kehila Centre. To register, visit www.mekorot.ca or call 416-877-2050.

**Beth David Continuing Education Classes** resume with **Aaron Nussbaum**'s weekly lecture on the Book of Joshua, Thursday, 9:15-10:15 a.m., beginning Sept. 7; **Norman Shelson**'s weekly classes: Mondays, parshah of the week in summary including midrash, and Tuesdays, current events with an emphasis on Israel. Both 9:10-10 a.m. Call 416-633-5500 for information and registration.

**EMBRACING ELUL**

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women presents Embracing Elul: Four Thursdays in September, an opportunity to explore ideas that can make the High Holy Days more meaningful in an informal atmosphere. "My Most Precious Son: Relinquishing Children in the Torah and Haftorah Readings of Rosh Hashanah" with **Ilana Sober** (Sept. 7); "Sovereignty, Remembrance and Shofar: Musaf of Rosh Hashanah" with **Rabbi Joseph Kanofsky** (Sept. 14); "Tshuvah and Soul Transformation in Second Temple Judaism" with **Hindy Najman** (Sept. 21); and "What Is the Destination of Our Tshuvah Journey?" with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** (Sept. 28). 9:15–11:15 a.m. Series $36, $10 each. For locations and registration, call 416-877-2050 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

**BBYO EVENTS**

Join BBYO for upcoming events including opening program barbecue, Wednesday, Sept. 6; BBYO floor hockey Tuesday, Sept.11; fall convention at Camp Northland, Sept. 15-17. For information and registration, call **Debbi**, 416-398-2004, ext. 221.

**NEW GROUPS FORMING**

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, is looking for women who are interested in making new friends, listening to dynamic speakers and making a difference in our community. Women of all ages, married or single, are invited to call for information on NCJW programs and on being involved in one of the new groups. Call **Rita** or **Flo** at 416-633-5100 or e-mail info@ncjwc-ts.org.

**SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE**

Adath Israel Congregation hosts

**Continued on page 23**

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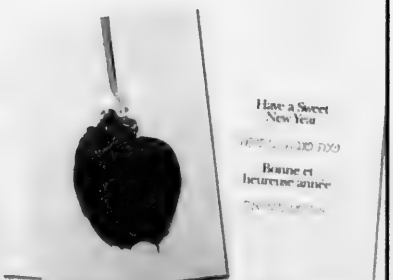


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Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies presents:

*The Lasting Impact of War*

**Why the Conflict in the Middle East must be won**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2006**
**7:30 p.m.**
Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue (BAYT)
613 Clark Ave. W, Thornhill

***Barry Rubin***

Barry Rubin is Director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center, and a professor at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC). He has taught at Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and Georgetown University. His co-authored book, Yasir Arafat: A Political Biography, (Oxford University Press) is now available in paperback and in Hebrew. His latest book, The Long War for Freedom: The Arab Struggle for Democracy in the Middle East, was published by Wiley in September.

**FREE TICKETS: Phone: 416-864-9735 ext. 29 Fax: 416-864-1083 E-mail: jhacker@fswc.ca**

DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is sponsoring this speaking event as a public service for the general public but is not and shall not be responsible for the subject matter that is discussed by the speaker for the content of the speaker's remarks. Any and all remarks, comments and opinions made by the speaker are those of the speaker only and not of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies. The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies hereby disclaim any and all liability or responsibility for the subject matter and content of the speakers' comments and opinions.

What's New

**Continued from page 22**

**Baruch Schwartz**, of Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on the weekend of Sept. 9-10. He delivers a sermon during services Shabbat morning on "Why Does the Torah Tell Stories: How We Are Taught Mitzvot" and speaks again at 6 p.m. on "Messengers of God: The Task of the Prophet in Biblical Thought." On Sunday, Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m., Schwartz speaks on "Who Wrote the Torah: Human or Divine." 416-635-5340

**CFHU FAMILY FUN DAY**

Join Canadian Friends of Hebrew University for their fourth annual alumni and friends family fun day, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Camp Robin Hood, Markham. Enjoy fun and entertainment, kosher barbecue, lunch, petting zoo, sports, raffle and more, all in support of pediatric medical research at Hebrew University. $20, family pass $95. Call 416-485-8000 or visit www.cfhu.org.

**BOOKS & BAGELS**

Beth Emeth Sisterhood Books & Bagels discusses *Your Mouth Is Lovely* by **Nancy Richler**, Sunday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friends and husbands welcome. For information, call **Rosemary Cohen**, 416-633-9092.

**UNLIKELY NATURE OF GOD**

Temple Kol Ami Adult Education presents **Rabbi Jerry Steinberg** on "The Unlikely Nature of God" Sunday, Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Israeli Source, off Yonge St. just north of Steeles Ave.

**KADIMA OPEN HOUSE**

Kadima Centre, the social-recreational program for developmentally handicapped adults, meets at Beth Emeth Synagogue on Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m., and on Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Kadima hosts an open house, dance and registration on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. To volunteer or for information about programs, call **Suzanne Agasee**, 416-635-6800.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

Circle of Care invites the public to its volunteer recognition and general meeting celebrating 40 years of Kosher Meals on Wheels, Monday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue. 416-635-2860

**AUDITIONS NOTICE**

Teatron Toronto Jewish Theatre, now in its fourth season, is seeking actors for *The Last Night Of Ballyhoo*, Jan. 24-28, 2007, and *The God of Isaac*, March 21-25, 2007, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. General auditions for both plays take place Sept. 12 and 14, call-backs Sept. 19 and 21. For audition, bring one comedic and one dramatic monologue, two-minute maximum. To book an audition, send a resumé and photo by e-mail to teatron@sympatico.ca or call **Ari Weisberg**, 416-781-5527.

**MEDICATION SAFETY**

Join **Dr. Paula Rochon**, geriatrician and senior scientist, **Monica Lee**, research pharmacist, and **Radmilla Nikolic**, pharmacist, for an information session on medication safety and older adults. Following the presentations there will be questions and discussion. Monday, Sept. 18, 2-3:30 p.m., Wortsman Hall, main floor of Baycrest Hospital. For information and registration, call 416-785-2500, ext. 3374.

**JEWISH 411**

Jewish Information Service of Greater Toronto has information on community events, holidays, shuls, camps, kosher restaurants and more. Call JIS 416-635-5600 or visit www.jewishtoronto.com and click on Doing Jewish In Toronto.

**RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS**

If you are a caregiver looking after your spouse or parent at home and would like some time off, call **Sharon**, respite co-ordinator at the Bernard Betel Centre, 416-225-2112, ext. 118.

**JF&CS GROUPS**

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration, 416-638-7800, or www.jfandcs.com.

Successful Parenting of Children with ADHD: A six-session program for parents. Thursdays, Sept. 14-Oct 19, 6:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St. Space is limited. Please register early. Contact **Diane** at ext. 246.

Birthdays, Hockey Games and Holidays – Making It Work After Divorce: A workshop for parents facing issues around their children's life-cycle events . Monday, Sept. 18, 7-9 p.m. at Promenade Mall, #313. To register, call **Shawna**, ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate What to Tell the Kids: A workshop for parents about to separate or in the early stages of separation. How and when to tell the children as well as ideas and strategies to best meet your child's needs will be discussed. Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, #313. To register, call **Shawna**, ext. 215.

**JIAS TORONTO**

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jiastoronto.org. To register, volunteer or for information on these programs, call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada are invited to practise speaking English in a casual and friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Offered in two locations: BJCC and Bathurst and Steeles.

JIAS Toronto offers programming for newcomer children and teens. For information, call **Allison** at ext. 28.

## FOR SENIORS

**Beth Tzedec Congregation Haverim Programs** present a video and slide presentation, "Palaces and Imperial Pleasures of St. Petersburg, Russia," with **Corey Keeble**, curator of antiquities at the ROM, Monday, Sept. 11, 1:30 p.m. $2.

**Earl Bales Seniors In The Club House In The Park**. Sunday dance, Sept. 3; Casino Rama, Thursday, Sept. 14; mah-jong, Mondays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; bingo, Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Hebrew conversation, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre Trip, Oct. 26. Call Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 416-395-7881

**LZA Seniors Cultural Club** meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444

**Aluma Canadian Israeli Club** meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-631-5574.

**BERNARD BETEL CENTRE**

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Open computer lab with new equipment, drop-in: $1.50/hour or $10/10 hrs. Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Boost Your Memory, Thursdays at 11 a.m. Free.

Spend the Day at Betel, Thursday, Aug. 31, "Stories from the Heart" at noon; "Fun with Yiddish" at 1 p.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

"World and Local Issues" with **Doug Haddow**, Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $2, non-members $4.

Israeli Etrog Club for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. All welcome. Call **Dvora**, 905-763-2728.

Join the Bernard Betel Centre for High Holy Days services with cantor **Ron Graner**, tickets $75/$85, add $15 for reserved seating.

**WAGMAN CENTRE**

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Book and Munch Club meets every Wednesday, 12-1 p.m. in the volunteer lounge. Short stories are read aloud by group members and a discussion follows. Bring your lunch. Call **Monica**, ext. 2273.

Visit the Terrace/Wagman Library for a good selection of large-print books. If you would like to hear a story, the library also has a selection of talking books. The library is open Monday to Thursday, 1:30-3- p.m., and is located on the lower level. For information, contact **Rivka**, ext. 2272.

## BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Koffler School of Music Rock Band, Broadway All-stars Vocal, Boogie Babies & Jammin' Tots with Deborah, Opera Is Cool for Kidz with Judy, brass ensembles, cello ensembles, band. For information, call ext. 228.

Arts Limited Theatre Group shows for the entire season are on sale now. Call ext. 235.

Tickets on sale now for the 55-plus annual variety show.

Mah-jong, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. Starts Sept. 13.

Bridge, Tuesdays: beginner, 12:30-2:30 p.m., and intermediate, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Starts Sept. 12.

The Koffler School of Music presents The Travellers with a retrospective of **Pete Seeger**, Tuesday, Oct. 24, and **David Broza**, Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, call ext. 228.

## MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org.

Hebrew Marathon for those who don't know their aleph from their bet, or once knew and have forgotten. This two-day marathon will teach basic reading skills and reading Hebrew prayers. Sundays, Sept. 10 and 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Members $110 plus GST, non-members $140 plus GST. Call ext. 0 for information and registration.

Beginners Hebrew, Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Members $162, non-members $192.

Conversation Hebrew, Thursdays, beginning Sept. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. Members $121, non-members $144.

Intermediate Hebrew, Mondays, beginning Sept. 18, 7-8:30 p.m. Members $121, non-members $144.

Jews and Language: Study Yiddish, theories of its origin, the emergence of modern Jewish culture in eastern Europe and the contemporary world. Mondays, Sept. 18-Nov. 6, 7-8:15 p.m. Series $75, $15 per lecture.

***SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32***

To place any other family related notice, please call at least 10 DAYS prior to the issue date

# Obituaries
## and Related Notices

To place an unveiling notice, please call at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling

### BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dr. Herbert Adler | Aug 11/06 | 80 St. Clair Ave East |
| Belle Birken | Aug 12/06 | 7620 Bathurst St |
| Doris Baker | Aug 12/06 | 31 Gibson Ave |
| Marion Medad | Aug 13/06 | 3 McAlpine St. |
| Sidney Landen | Aug 14/06 | 7825 Bayview Avenue |
| Bootie Goldhar | Aug 14/06 | 126 Ava Road |
| Fae Schwab | Aug 14/06 | 19 Tournament Drive |
| Allen Stein | Aug 15/06 | 3680 Keele Street |
| Reva Caplan | Aug 16/06 | 7420 Bathurst Street |
| Anatolii Vorobev | Aug 16/06 | 60 Pavane Linkway |
| Philip Mandelbaum | Aug 17/06 | 10 Senlac Road |
| Etty Zigler | Aug 19/06 | 7601 Bathurst Street |

HEBREW BASIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Linda Gula | Aug 16/06 | 16 Rock Fern Way |
| Hilda Katz | Aug 17/06 | 105 Burnside Drive |
| Gertrude Helfand | Aug 17/06 | 2 Neptune Drive |
| Leon Bernstein | Aug 18/06 | 423 Yonge Street |

### Steeles Memorial Chapel

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Berman, Pearl | July 28, 2006 | |
| Seder Szabolcsi, Ilonka | July 29, 2006 | |
| Elek, Elizabeth | July 31, 2006 | |
| Shneer, Faye | July 31, 2006 | 265 Maxwell St. |
| Markin, Jean | August 3, 2006 | 9 Stonedene Blvd. |
| Edwards, Henry | August 4, 2006 | Private |
| Weinstock, Fanny | August 4, 2006 | 21 Danby Ave. |
| Hurowitz, Betty | August 4, 2006 | 3560 Bathurst St. |
| Maurer, Anne | August 4, 2006 | 8 Covington Rd. |
| Kapner, Klara | August 4, 2006 | 5 Fisherville Rd. |
| Milner, Jakov | August 4, 2006 | 4300 Bathurst St. |
| Lightstone, Arthur | August 4, 2006 | 26 Rosseau Rd. |
| Dougherty, Helen | August 5, 2006 | 9800 Yonge St. |
| Kaszas, Borbala | August 6, 2006 | Private |
| Mauer, Lionel Conrad | August 6, 2006 | 525 Lawrence Av W |
| Fiedler, Berta | August 6, 2006 | 429 Walmer Rd. |

THE TRANSNISTRIA SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

deeply mourn the passing of our friend and President

**ETTY ZIGLER** ז"ל

*Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister & sister in-law*
*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**PEARL "PERELA" SHULMAN** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, September 10th, 12:15 p.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Bathurst, South of Steeles. Apter Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**BERNICE MARCUS** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 10th, 10:00 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Beth David Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**DENISE FREEDMAN** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 10th, 11:30 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Stashover Young Men's Society Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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The family of the late

**ISAAC PLOTKIN** ז"ל

wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our family and friends for your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy. Your comforting support during this difficult time will always be remembered.

*Goldie Plotkin, Paul & Cheryl Plotkin, Susan & Gary Shienfield, Fern Weinper, Sonia Kaplan and family*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**ROSE BERKAN** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, Sept, 10th, 10:30 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Beth Emeth Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**JOSEPH (JOE) KIRSHEN** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 3rd, 10:00 a.m.**
**Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park**
Stashiver Young Men's Society Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

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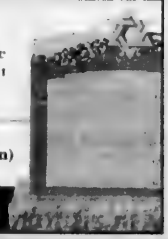

**Alef's Fairlawn Monuments**
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**416-784-5268**

QUALITY MONUMENTS... FACTORY PRICES

The family of the beloved late

**JODI KORMAN** ז"ל

wishes to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our relatives and friends for all their support and kindness during our time of loss.

***Saul and Myrna Korman and family***

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**RUTH LUKOFSKY** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1:00 p.m.**
**Mount Sinai Memorial Park**
986 Wilson Ave
Shaarei Tefillah Section
*Relatives and friends are invited to attend*

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

**IZY STERN** ז"ל

will take place
**Sunday, Sept, 10th, 11:30 a.m.**
**Pardes Shalom Cemetery**
Beth Emeth Section

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# *Famed Jewish genealogist coming to Toronto*

**By BILL GLADSTONE**
*Special to The CJN*

A generation after his best-selling book *From Generation to Generation* was first published, legendary American writer and genealogist Arthur Kurzweil is coming to Toronto to give a lecture on "Jewish Genealogy As A Spiritual Pilgrimage: Why and How to Trace Your Jewish Family Tree."

Kurzweil, whose talk is scheduled for Sept. 17 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, is considered a pioneer of the modern Jewish genealogy movement, having written one of two early books on the subject. The first edition of *From Generation to Generation* appeared in 1980 and has since gone into several printings. Sales of about 60,000 copies have given it the status of a towering best-seller in the world of Jewish publishing.

Arthur Kurzweil

"It's a source of great satisfaction and pride to me that I was involved at the beginning in helping to get this thing [the Jewish genealogy movement] started," he said in a telephone interview from New Jersey.

He called the Internet "the major tool for Jewish genealogy" and recalled that it didn't exist when he started doing family tree research in the 1970s, and that most Jewish research facilities back then weren't geared for family-tree researchers.

A former director of the New York-based research institute YIVO "used to shake his finger at me and say, 'You're the one causing all the trouble,'" Kurzweil recalled. "I was publicizing YIVO as a source of information and they weren't ready for the army of genealogists that would come to use their collections. They were prepared to help professional historians and graduate students in Jewish history, but not amateur Jewish family historians who didn't know what questions to ask, what collections were available, or how to use them."

For Kurzweil, genealogy led him to greater knowledge of his ancestors, and then to a desire for greater knowledge of his Jewish faith. A central theme of his upcoming talk is that doing genealogical research can lead to a greater spiritual connection.

"There's an immigrant historian – [Marcus Hansen] – who is famous for saying, 'What the children of immigrants want to forget, the grandchildren of immigrants want to remember,'" he said. "The grandchildren of Jewish immigrants to North America are part of that phenomenon. When our grandparents and great-grandparents came to this country, they were by and large cut off from their Jewish lives and their Jewish past. Their assimilation was rapid and quite effective, but it left their grandchildren and great-grandchildren disconnected from a spiritual heritage that sustained us and nourished us for centuries."

A former senior editor at Jason Aronson, a now-defunct publishing house that brought hundreds of Jewish titles into print, Kurzweil is presently publisher of a spiritually themed magazine called *Parabola*. For the last 25 years, he has also served as an occasional chauffeur for Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz whenever the esteemed Israel-based talmudist comes to New York. Kurzweil's book, *On the Road with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz*, was due to be published this month by Jossey-Bass. (Another manuscript, *Kabbalah for Dummies*, is due out this fall in the popular "dummies" series.)

A frequent lecturer, Kurzweil has been infatuated with magic tricks "since Grade 3" and performs a 90-minute one-man show titled *Searching for God in A Magic Shop*.

"I had a realization about magic tricks and Judaism, and I can say it succinctly. The reason magicians are able to fool the audience is that the audience doesn't see everything. If the audience saw everything, they'd understand what was going on. The same notion exists in Jewish theology. The reason that people are often confused about life is that we don't see everything.

"There's an expression from the Talmud, '*Gam zu le-tovah*' – 'this too is for the good.' It's a euphemism that everything is for the best. We have to cultivate that attitude even though it often doesn't seem that way when you turn on the news. We're supposed to try to change and improve the world, but ultimately, the theology that our sages taught is that God knows what He's doing and the reason we don't understand is that we don't see everything. Each of us is just a speck in a vast universe."

Kurzweil is scheduled to speak at the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's Sisterhood Hall, on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. The lecture is hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, and admission is free for members and $5 for non-members. Seating is limited.


*AFTER HALF A CENTURY OF KOSHER CATERING AT BETH TZEDEC*

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**YOUTH DIRECTOR**
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A Conservative synagogue in mid-Toronto is seeking a creative, enthusiastic, and dedicated part-time Youth Director. Candidates for this position should be dynamic, have a working knowledge of Conservative Judaism, excellent communication skills, and be able to relate well to children, young adults, and adults.

You will be responsible for overall maintenance of 2 groups – Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8, as well as planning and organizing age appropriate and group specific cultural, educational, social action, and social programming.

The successful candidate must have prior experience and a willingness to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and overnights.

Please submit a resume and covering letter to
Barbara Berke, Executive Director, barbara@bethsholom.net

**Confessions of a Former Terrorist**

**The Incredible Journey of Walid Shoebat**

**Also featuring on the 5th Anniversary of 9.11:**
**"Living in its' Shadow" with Rabbi Ahron Hoch**

*In 1978 Walid Shoebat was sent on a mission with a bomb to kill Jews. Today he is speaking out in their defense. Join us as he shares his remarkable journey from PLO Terrorist to a pro-Israel activist.*

**Sunday, September 10 @ 8 pm**
Leah Posluns Theatre
4588 Bathurst Street, North York

**Advance Ticket Purchase by Thursday, September 7:**
**$18 general admission / $36 Gold reserved-seating***
**At the door: $25 General Admission ****

* Gold reserved-section is in the front-centre orchestra section of the theatre.
** At the door tickets may be purchased at 7 pm on September 10. First come, first served. These tickets will not be available if the event is sold out prior to September 10.

aish25

**For tickets call 905.764.1818 or visit aishtoronto.com**

# WHO SAYS THE E

**For more than one million beleaguered residents of north terrorist rockets devastated the area. It's the struggle to s jobs and essential social services.**

Photos courtesy of AP Worldwide & Nir Bar-Shalom, UJA Federations Canada, Israel

## What we accomplished

With your help, millions of UJA Federation Emergency Campaign dollars provided the following services, among others, during the war:

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Special Report

# The ideal is 'the golden middle path'

**Continued from page 3**

rabbis in early 2005. Especially troubling to them are Rabbi Slifkin's assertions in *The Science of Torah* that the world was created not in six days, but over millions of years.

The young rabbi's profile remained relatively low in Toronto until his visit to the city this past winter to speak at an event sponsored by Torah in Motion, a Modern Orthodox educational organization that hosts lectures and programs.

Yossi Adler

At that time, Rabbi Shlomo Miller of Kollel Avreichim issued "a letter of admonishment" stating that Rabbi Slifkin's opinions on the six days of creation were "definitely heretical," even "boorish."

A book ban, such as the one imposed on Rabbi Slifkin, is "not something I would do, but I understand the rationale as to why that's being done, even if I don't agree with it," said Rabbi Tradburks, whose synagogue also hosted Rabbi Slifkin as a speaker when he was in Toronto.

* * *

Jonathan Ostroff, a computer science professor at York University who was authorized by Rabbi Miller to speak on his behalf, said that Rabbi Miller had no connection with the original ban on Rabbi Slifkin's books and that he only issued his own condemnation of his work after he was asked for his opinion on the subject by members of his own community. The letter was intended only for his followers, and not for the general community, Ostroff said.

He also told *The CJN* that Rabbi Miller distinguishes between "operational science" and "origin science." Operational science, which Rabbi Miller accepts, examines how things work in the universe, while origin science looks at what caused things to begin.

Ostroff stressed that there is a difference between disagreeing with someone, and hating or looking down on them. "We object to his views, not to him as a person," Ostroff said. In fact, he said, when Rabbi Slifkin came to Toronto to speak at the Torah in Motion event, he was invited to speak to Rabbi Miller and Ostroff, but was "unresponsive."

"We would still be willing to talk to him anytime," Ostroff said.

He added that, for a time, he was involved in dialogue with Rabbi Slifkin, both via the Internet and other means. "I wanted to continue the dialogue, but he cut it off. I don't believe he wants to discuss substantive issues."

When contacted by *The CJN*, Rabbi Slifkin said he had been advised by two Canadian rabbis against meeting with Rabbi Miller, because the rabbis felt the purpose of the meeting would be to try to change his views and not to have an open discussion of the issues.

Rabbi Slifkin added that he stopped his online communication with Ostroff "when the pressures of the ban began." He said that at that time, his posts on an online discussion group were being passed on "to non-participants in order to stir up opposition to me. I have absolutely no idea what Dr. Ostroff means when he says that I don't want to discuss substantive issues. I have done nothing else for the last few years!"

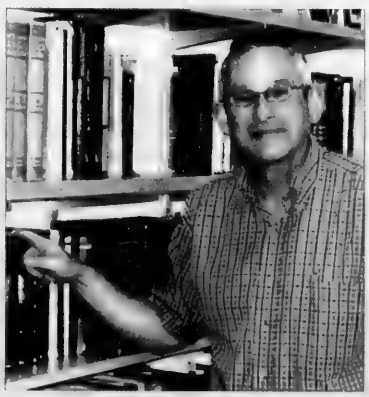
* * *

What makes the Slifkin affair unique, according to Yossi Adler, a Toronto lawyer who wrote about the controversy in a *CJN* column in January, is that in similar past cases, other people have retracted the material that was deemed offensive, "and everything [was] fine and dandy."

Not only did Rabbi Slifkin not retract his assertions, Adler said, but rabbis who condemned his work went beyond banning his books to condemn him personally.

"It's censorship," said Adler, who fears that if someone like Rabbi Slifkin, who is part of the haredi community, can be singled out, then everyone is "potentially a target."

To a lesser extent, Adler was singled out for his *CJN* column by some Orthodox Jews who criticized him for airing the issue in public. "They don't understand that this is a significant issue that merits discussion and analysis," he said, adding that the response he received to his column was overwhelmingly – perhaps 95 per cent – positive.



Martin Lockshin

The naysayers are "creating an environment where debate is non-existent or only discussed behind closed doors, and that's regrettable," said Adler.

He also noted that some haredi Jews feel he and others are "right-wing bashing" out of enjoyment, an accusation he denies. "We came from that world. We feel an affinity to that world, and we care about its direction."

The bans are increasing in number and seriousness, says Adler, who was raised in the "yeshiva world" but has moved toward what he terms "centrist" Orthodoxy. "I prefer the more centrist [community]," he said. "They're less likely to build walls and to exclude what modernity has to offer. They're more interested in secular education, and more Zionistic.

"As each group has become more confident, they feel they can live independently. I feel a significant disrespect [on the part of the haredi community toward] non-Orthodox and less Orthodox Jews."

A lot of the haredi "suspicion" toward the outside world stems from a perceived breakdown of morality, as exemplified by societal changes that include same-sex marriage and sexual promiscuity, Adler explained.

"They will exclude media from their households. A lot of stuff in the media today is very trashy. At the same time, I think they're throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

"It was probably like that before," he admitted, "but not to the same extent, and they weren't as bold in the way they impose certain rules in the community."

Rabbi Miller "has a brilliant mind and is well versed in the sources," said Adler. "No one's willing to stand up and say that [what he is saying] is not acceptable, or that this is a stringency going beyond what the community requires."

Adler said that, as a result, "there are people who have considered walking away from Orthodoxy."

* * *

Not all rabbis were as forthcoming as Rabbi Tradburks when asked to be interviewed for this article. One said he didn't even want to be quoted as saying that he declined to comment.

When asked repeatedly about the issue of possible repercussions for people who might challenge the growing influence of haredi religious leaders and practices, Ostroff's only comments had to do with the reaction that Rabbi Miller has received for publicly expressing his own views.

"He has had repercussions for defending Torah Judaism. Should not a Torah teacher stand up for Torah? That's what he did. Should he allow people to wallow in ignorance?"

Ostroff added that Rabbi Miller expected that he would face consequences for speaking out, just as anybody who comments publicly on any issue would. "But you have to protect your children, and you have to protect the truth of Torah."

* * *

Martin Lockshin, a York University professor who is an ordained Orthodox rabbi, remains sanguine about the current environment in the Orthodox world.

The former director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies says he still feels at home in most places in the Orthodox community and is heartened by the presence of Modern Orthodox institutions in the city, citing the examples of Netivot HaTorah Day School, and Bnei Akiva's Ulpanat Orot and Or Chaim high schools.

"I see something like Torah In Motion, which tries to do intellectual types of things, as a positive force in the city," he said.

"I know there are people I see as kindred spirits who I can talk to, who unabashedly call themselves Modern Orthodox."

Rabbi Immanuel Schochet

However, he noted, "it may be a well-placed concern that congregational rabbis find themselves in the difficult position – the modern centrist liberal kinds – worried about losing their bona fides because of a possible attack from the ultra-Orthodox."

At his own synagogue, Congregation Bnai Torah, which has a more right-wing philosophy than his own, the rabbi "has been very tolerant of me," Lockshin said.

* * *

Rabbi Immanuel Schochet, a retired philosophy professor at Humber College and a leader of the Lubavitch movement in Toronto, said the Jewish community has been inundated with dissent and anger, as well as stringencies that go beyond halachah in an attempt to protect tradition.

"We live in a society where under the guise of political correctness, all systems are go. Moral boundaries which were observed by everyone are being trampled," he said by way of explanation. In today's "permissive, licentious society," observant Jews try to take precautions, he added.

Like immunizations, "we may inject kids with poisons to protect them" – in other words, expose them to the non-Jewish world so that they are equipped to deal with it. Or, he added, observant Jews may try to defend tradition by creating more closed enclaves and putting up behavioural fences such as not allowing television or Internet in the home, in an effort to circle the wagons around the community's children. "It's not foolproof, but it's an attempt to protect kids and the young from being corrupted."

The ideal, he said, is "the golden middle path," though he admits this path is hard to find.

Rabbi Schochet added that there is "great hostility" within the Orthodox community, which he said comes from divisions that are more about ego than personal ideology.

**Continued on page 29**

Coast to Coast

# Body of Toronto man found on Lake Nipissing

By SHIRA SCHWARTZ
*Special to The CJN*

**NORTH BAY, Ont.** — Scores of volunteers assisted Ontario Provincial Police last week in an intensive search for two Toronto-area Jewish men who went missing on Lake Nipissing.

Richmond Hill, Ont., resident Heine Mondrowitz, 56, and his son-in-law Eli Horowitz, 30, of Toronto, had been vacationing with their families at a lodge on the south shore of the lake when they rented a 19-foot boat to go fishing and swimming on Aug. 21 at about 3:30 p.m., police said.

Their empty boat drifted ashore in nearby North Bay later that afternoon, but the men failed to return.

Last weekend, Mondrowitz's body was found on the shore of Lonely Island on Lake Nippising.

The discovery came after the OPP conducted searches of islands and along the shoreline, as well as underwater and from the air using helicopters. As *The CJN* went to press, the body of Eli Horowitz had not yet been found. However, he is presumed drowned.

"At this point, it's going to be a body recovery," OPP Sgt. Joe Striba in North Bay told the *Toronto Star*. "We've exhausted our land search and air search for a rescue."

More than 30 people had volunteered to help police, and three civilian helicopters took part in the search. Many more volunteers came to the North Bay area to help in the search.

Police were asking lakeside residents and boaters along the south shore of Lake Nipissing to report anything unusual.

A busload of high school and university students affiliated with the National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) arrived last Wednesday to help, but because there weren't enough OPP officers to accompany them, they couldn't join the search.

***NCSY students help comfort the families***

Instead, the youths spent their time praying, reciting psalms and comforting the distressed Horowitz and Mondrowitz families and their friends, who were also among the volunteers who could not be used for the official search parties.

"Doctors and surgeons have the opportunity to save a life almost every day," Rabbi Binyamin Pinkus, assistant regional director of NCSY Canada, told the NCSYers.

"It isn't often that we get the chance to do such an incredible mitzvah. Even if we aren't part of the search, we are making a contribution just by being here… coming all this way, even if just to say Tehillim [Psalms] and to show that we care."

Rabbi Pinkus stayed overnight with some of the students to help with the search the following morning.

Special Report

# *'You condemn the act, not the person doing it'*

**Continued from page 28**

There is a fight over "my gedolim [rabbinic sages] vs. your gedolim – my way or the highway," he said, adding that this is not what the pursuit of Torah means. "You have to realize that you aren't God's policeman."

There is nothing wrong with having a difference of opinion, so long as the discussion is kept to the issue and avoids the personal, he said. You condemn the act or action, not the person doing it, he added.

For instance, different schools serve different parts of the Orthodox world, but they should still be conscious of the bonds between them. "I may not send my children to schools whose views I disagree with. But show hostility to them? No."

Rabbi Schochet said he disagrees with the approach of those who banned Rabbi Slifkin's book.

"The answer is not to ban a book – that just gives publicity, and popularizes it, the opposite of what is intended. The answer is to discuss, and to question, to say why you think he is wrong."

You don't argue with a Jewish heretic, said Rabbi Schochet, speaking hypothetically, and "banning went out with the dodo." The rabbis who banned Rabbi Slifkin's books have "moved beyond what society needs. They shot themselves in the foot."

"Not that I necessarily disagree with their views, just their methods."

As to whether the Orthodox community will ever be united in the future, Rabbi Schochet said he "won't place any bets on it. But then, that's one good reason to hope for the coming of Moshiach."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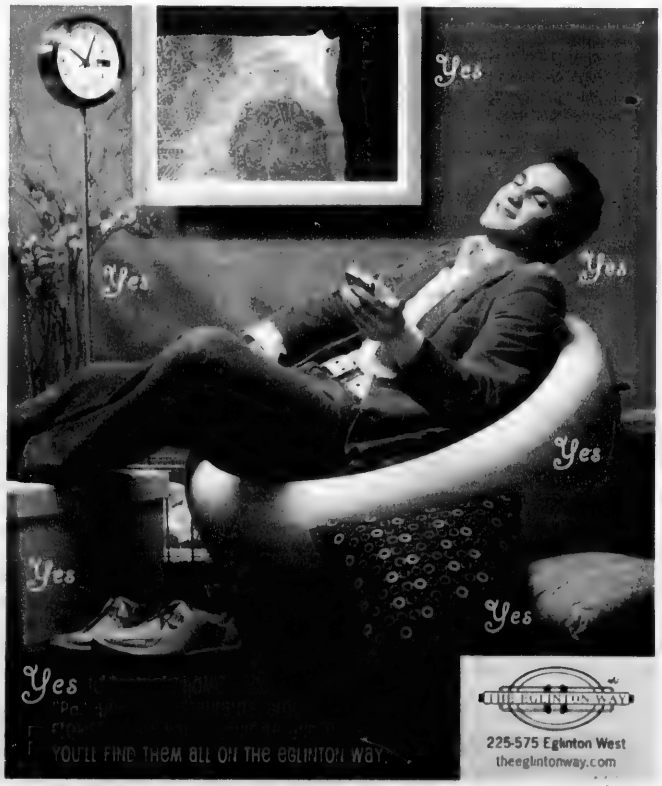

# Winnipeg's top givers raise $2 million for Israel

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Israel's recent conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon has spurred an outpouring of support for Israel in Winnipeg's Jewish community that hasn't been seen here since the Six Day War.

Not only have there been two well-attended rallies – the most recent reportedly attracting about 1,200 people – but the community has raised close to $2 million for Israeli reconstruction.

Winnipeg Combined Jewish Appeal executive director Elaine Goldstine said that members of the community contributed $142,000 to the Crisis Fund immediately after the rally in early August. Another $1.4 million was raised at a kick-off evening for 60 top CJA donors that was held Aug. 16 at the home of Joe and Gina Guertin, co-hosted by Gina's parents, Arnold and Myra Frieman.

"It was like an old-time fundraising evening," said Moe Levy, executive director of the Asper Foundation, which pledged $1 million to the Israel Crisis Fund.

"We were the largest donor," he added, "but there were also substantial contributions from many others. Israel is going to need a lot of money to rebuild after what the country has just been through."

Those attending the event were given a report on recent developments by retired Israel Defence Forces colonel Kobi Marom, who was a commander with the Hermon Brigade in South Lebanon before his retirement from the army in 2000.

Although this year's Winnipeg CJA campaign goal had been set at $5 million before the conflict, Goldstine noted that the management team – consisting of her husband, Ian Goldstine (a past president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg), as well as Tova Vickar and Hope Morry, the co-chairs of CJA's Women's Division campaign – has not set a goal for the Israel Crisis Fund, which is being run in addition to the regular campaign.

"We don't want to put limits on the Crisis Fund campaign," Goldstine said. "We will raise as much as we can. Israel's reconstruction costs are in the billions of dollars."

She said that Super Sunday – the start of the CJA's big community-wide fundraising push – will be held this year on Sept. 14.

The campaign kick-off is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 7, at a downtown Winnipeg nightclub, where campaign workers, volunteers and supporters will be treated to an evening of theatre and music arranged by former Winnipeg Jewish Theatre artistic director Kayla Maister.


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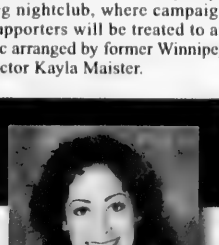
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## גידי קורן וחברים

**אחרי שוק הקרבות**

מיום ליום מתבררים פרטים יותר ויותר מביכים על רמת התפקוד והתפעול של צה"ל, רמת הציוד והנשק שניתנו לאנשי מילואים, חוסר התכנון בעורף, דברים מביכים מאוד שדורשים תשובות קשות.

דיברתי אישית עם איש מילואים שאישר באוזני חוסר מים, התייבשות חיילים, הצורך לשתות מי בארי דלוחים בכפרים לבנונים, לקיחת מימיות של אנשי חיזבאללה הרוגים, טנקים שיצאו ממחסני חידום ולא תיפקדו, טנקיסטים שיצאו למלחמה ללא מצפנים, ועוד כהנה וכהנה סיפורים קשים. חיל הים הופתע מזה שהאויב מסוגל לירות טיל ולפגוע בספינת טילים. איפה המודיעין הישראלי המפורסם מסרטי שפילברג? ממש לא יאומן ומפחיד מאוד.

ומי אשם? ממשלה שכיהנה חודשים אחדים, או קודמתה? ברור מאוד שצמרת צה"ל פישלה בגדול ושלחה חיילים, ובעיקר אנשי מילואים ללא ציוד ונשק מתאימים. אם ועדה אובייקטיבית תאשש את הפרטים הללו כנכונים ונרחבים- עלולים קצינים ופוליטיקאים רבים להיות נתבעים על ידי משפחות החללים.

**דברים בשם אומרם**

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"רבין היה פותר את הבעייה בשחרור אלף מבוקשים, אבל אנחנו הרי חכמים מרבין. לכן רצחנו אותו" (עוז זך)

"כשנדע כי שמונה חיילים נהרגו בקרבות בבינת גביל, וסכרתי את פי בכף ידי, שאלתי את עצמי למה לא הגבתי כך כשנהרגו שמונה אזרחים במפרץ חיפה..... משהו לא בסדר פה, משהו הפוך ולא נורמאלי" ( מירה קדר)

בנהריה,
בחצר אחורית של הבית של יואל,
נפלה קטיושה,
נפלה,
נתקעה באדמה הטובה ולא התפוצצה.
באו מומחים,
באו מהנדסים,
באו חבלנים,
ניסו, ניסו, ניסו
ולא הצליחו לחלץ אותה.
כשסיפרתי על כך למירי, חברה,
היא אמרה:
יופי עכשיו באביב
יצמח להם עץ קטיושות.
או אנחנו מצפים לאביב:
שילבלבו אגס וגם תפוח,
קטיושה כבר יש לנו.
וחוץ מזה שום דבר לא בסדר" (אלונה פרנקל)

**מת יחיה**

קראתי מספר עיתונאים ישראליים שהזמינו לקוראיהם שלכל אורך מלחמת לבנון השניה לא נשקפה סכנה קיומית לישראל. יש לדעתי טעות חמורה בהשקפה השטחית הזאת. אם מליון ישראלים שמתגוררים בצפון הארץ הופכים לפליטים חייבים לברוח- זהי סכנה קיומית שלא היתה קיימת אפילו במלחמת השחרור. ופרץ לחניה שלא מעטים מתושבי הצפון ישקלו היטב אם להמשיך להתגורר שם, להשקיע , להסתכן, כשהצבא אינו יכול להגן עליהם בצורה יעילה.

# Root causes, real and imagined

**According to Reports**

By PAUL MICHAELS

The problems facing Israel under the tenuous UN-brokered ceasefire with Lebanon were explored by Lysiane Gagnon in "A lose-lose situation for Israel" (*Globe and Mail*, Aug. 21).

Gagnon writes: "On Israel's northern frontier, durable peace can occur only if Hezbollah is disarmed."

However, "Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah made it clear that his militia has no intention of surrendering its arms. And Lebanon [sic] President Emile Lahoud bluntly said that his government intends to contravene the UN Security Council resolution upon which the ceasefire was based: 'It is disgraceful to demand the disarmament of the national resistance while the blood of martyrs is still warm. How can they ask us to disarm the only force in the Arab world who stood up to Israel?' he said last week."

The upshot, Gagnon notes, is that "[n]o country, not even those who vaguely volunteered for Lebanon, is willing to tackle Hezbollah." Thus, "[t]here is not the slightest guarantee that Hezbollah, whose stated aim is the destruction of Israel and which is under the patronage of Iran (whose president also wants Israel to be wiped off the map), will not resume its attacks on Israel."

Meanwhile, Gagnon said, the fact that Israel did not score a decisive victory against Hezbollah "is a tragedy, not just for Israel, but also for the world, since one of the terrible lessons of this war is that it is nearly impossible for the regular army of a liberal democracy to combat a hardened and media-savvy guerrilla force that hides amid civilian populations."

She concludes: "Israel lost the public-relations war and the moral high ground with air strikes that killed many Lebanese civilians. However, if it had focused on ground attacks, it would have sent many of its young conscripts to slaughter while also killing civilians. It was a lose-lose situation."

Gagnon's realistic view of the current situation is a refreshing change from the usual blame-Israel analysis that is repeated *ad nauseam* by some liberal and Arab pundits alike.

For example, in "Hijacking the minds of young men" (*Globe and Mail*, Aug. 14), *Beirut Daily Star* editor-at-large Rami Khouri writes that "Israeli atrocities in Lebanon" and "Israel's American-supported assault on the Palestinians" are largely responsible for the "spike in terrorism," including "homegrown" terrorists, such as the recent case of "24 men in Britain who allegedly planned to blow up numerous planes over the Atlantic Ocean."

Similarly, in "Talk is mightier than the tank" (*Globe and Mail*, Aug. 18) Paul Heinbecker, a former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, argues that "[p]eace will come from removing the root cause of the conflict… That will mean resolving the issues that have bedevilled diplomacy for decades – the West Bank settlements, the status of east Jerusalem and the rights of the refugees."

Both Khouri and Heinbecker adroitly ignore decades of regional hostility, including the invective in the government-controlled media and school systems, toward the very idea of a Jewish state. There is no acknowledgment that Islamic extremist organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad and countries such as Iran are not interested in a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Rather, their goal is to eliminate Israel and establish an Islamic state in its stead – before going on to conquer the rest of the modern world.

Even the *Economist*, not known for its sympathy toward Israel, acknowledges that Israel is not an impediment to peace. As its lead editorial ("Nasrallah wins the war" Aug. 19) observes: "Since the 1980s, at least two [Israeli] prime ministers, Yitzhak Rabin and Ehud Barak gave their all in the search for peace… Even the hawkish Ariel Sharon budged. He pulled Israel out of Gaza and knocked the legs from under Israel's settlement movement. The trouble for Israel… today, as in the 1940s, [is that] Israel still has some neighbours who continue to deny its very right to exist as a Jewish state.

"This is not to say that Israel is blameless. It has made mistakes aplenty down the years… But peace does not depend only on Israel." Indeed not.

*Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.*


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Coast to Coast

# MP resigns post over Hezbollah remarks

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

The dismissal of Borys Wrzesnewskyj as Liberal associate foreign affairs critic over comments about Hezbollah points to serious disarray in the Liberal Party, said Canadian Jewish Congress president Ed Morgan.

"I think the Liberals appear at the moment to be rudderless when it comes to the issues that are important to the Jewish community," he said.

Morgan welcomed Wrzesnewskyj's dismissal as did Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Canada-Israel Committee. "Caucus has reaffirmed its position about Hezbollah and characterized it as a terrorist organization that couldn't be split into a political and military wing," Fogel said.

Wrzesnewskyj landed in hot water during a recent visit to south Lebanon when he called Israel a terrorist state and suggested Hezbollah be removed as a banned terrorist organization. He later denied calling for the de-listing of Hezbollah, saying he had merely suggested Canada re-evaluate its anti-terrorism legislation to permit it to negotiate with listed groups.

Wrzesnewskyj toured Lebanon along with New Democrat MP Peggy Nash and Bloc Québécois MP Maria Moureni on a fact-finding mission organized by the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations.

Nash told the *Globe and Mail* the visiting MPs "spoke to leaders of [Lebanon's] opposition parties who said they felt it was important that Hezbollah be drawn into the democratic process and they supported continuing that process. I think that's important. I'm not here to say whether Hezbollah should or shouldn't be a terrorist organization. Our government has made that decision. It's not the point of the mission."

The Liberals moved quickly to distance themselves from Wrzesnewskyj's comments. Interim Liberal leader Bill Graham said, "Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and should be treated as such under all applicable Canadian laws."

The Liberal Party continues to support keeping Hezbollah on the list of terrorist entities. "Any suggestion to the contrary does not reflect the official position of the party," he said.

The controversy over Wrzesnewskyj's remarks drew further attention to the party's apparent lack of a coherent position on the Middle East and Hezbollah.

Quebec MP Denis Coderre, a former cabinet minister, marched recently (along with Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe) in a rally in Montreal that included Hezbollah supporters carrying the Hezbollah flag. Coderre later distanced himself from the Hezbollah supporters.

And Thomas Hubert, the party's youth leader in British Columbia, recently wrote on an Internet blog that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. History will remember Hezbollah as an organization that stood up to the most vile nation in human history."

Shortly afterward, Hubert resigned his position as youth wing leader.

Gerard Kennedy, the Liberal leadership candidate Hubert and Wrzesnewskyj support, responded to the blog statements, saying, "You can't sanction violence. We have to operate according to principles, and one of the principles is not to acknowledge bodies that will not abide by basic human rights and international law."

***Liberal Wrzesnewskyj calls Israel a terrorist state***

Hezbollah was added to the roster of banned terrorist organizations in 2002 by the Liberal government of the time, but only after much prodding by opposition MPs and the Jewish community. At the time, Graham, who was then foreign affairs minister, resisted its inclusion on the list, saying Hezbollah had a political wing that participated in Lebanese elections and provided valuable social assistance to the Lebanese people.

Conservative MP Jason Kenney, parliamentary secretary to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, referred back to those comments and noted the Nazis also offered social services and participated in Germany's political process.

Harper later backed Kenney's position, saying, "Both Hezbollah and the Nazi Party stand for the elimination of the Jewish nation. So I think that's pretty fundamental and in that sense I don't think it's an unfair [comparison].

"I think those who associate themselves with Hezbollah in this country are operating beyond the pale, and they're frankly operating in defence of an organization that's an illegal criminal organization in this country," he told CanWest News.

Senator Jerry Grafstein said recent statements by prominent Liberals calling for an even-handed position on the Middle East and criticizing Israel show the party is losing touch with its roots.

"There is a fundamental problem in the Liberal caucus which I despair about," said Grafstein, a Toronto Liberal. "It's a knee-jerk anti-American reaction so that anything [U.S. President George W.] Bush does, it's got to be wrong.

"I think we've lost our way with sloganeering."

Grafstein said the party agreed at its recent Vancouver caucus meetings to set up a committee to examine its position on the Middle East.

Traditional Liberal policy has not been "even-handed," as many in the party now claim, he said. Instead, it has lined up behind fellow democracies like Israel and countries that were the victims of aggression.

In the past, the party aligned its foreign policy "based on Liberal values – liberty, freedom and democracy," he added.

Fogel said the comments by Hubert and Wrzesnewskyj are likely not representative of the Liberal grassroots. Rather, "it reflects what a rump group in caucus [believes], but not normative Liberal Party policy," he said.

All four federal party leaders back Hezbollah's inclusion on the terrorist list. "All articulate the same message about terrorism and Hezbollah's role. That's reflective of a pretty strong consensus from all quarters of the political spectrum," he said.

Morgan said, "Each [Liberal] leadership candidate is saying something different on the Middle East… None have abandoned Israel, but none are solidly or unequivocally behind it. That's always been the case with Liberal policy" going back to the governments of Jean Chrétien and Pierre Trudeau.

"I don't think the Liberals are far off where they've always been. Now we have a Conservative government to compare them to," he said.

Morgan questioned why some Liberals believe "Canada has to have a dialogue with Hezbollah… Knowledgeable people know there is nothing to talk to Hezbollah about.

"The Druze, Sunnis, Christians [of Lebanon] have not been able to negotiate Hezbollah's disarmament. If Hezbollah won't listen to their fellow Lebanese, why do we think they'll listen to any Canadian politician?" he asked.

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# Mayor stands by Nazi analogy

By JANICE ARNOLD
*Staff Reporter*

**MONTREAL** — The mayor of a small town southwest of Montreal who is also a television and radio host refused to backtrack on his comment that "Israelis are the Nazis of modern times."

Huntingdon, Que., mayor Stéphane Gendron made the remark in an interview published in the Quebec City daily *Le Soleil* Aug. 21.

He said later that the criticism was directed at the Israeli government, not the people of Israel, but he didn't withdraw the Nazi analogy.

Gendron was asked to clarify the remark by TQS, the TV station where he co-hosts the talk show *L'Avocat et le Diable*. On his Montreal radio show *Le Couvre-feu*, on 98.5FM, Gendron stated that, "When we speak of the Israelis, it is directed at the government," and he criticized Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert for "not respecting the ceasefire" with Hezbollah.

He claimed excellent relations with the Jewish community and didn't want to be accused of being an anti-Semite.

In a followup interview with *Le Soleil*, Gendron repeated his comparison of the Israeli government to the Nazis. "When Israel does not withdraw from the countries that it occupies illegally, no one dares to speak. Meanwhile, we are picking up dead children on the side of the road."

TQS management wasn't satisfied with his response, and asked him to further clarify his remarks on *L'Avocat et le Diable*. "Stéphane Gendron has the obligation to be as precise as possible, and to not attack a particular people. We must guard against hateful remarks," a TQS spokesperson told *Le Soleil*.

The controversial Gendron, 38, a lawyer by training, was last year elected mayor of Huntingdon, a town of 3,000 in the southwest corner of the province, which launched him into a media career.

The Jewish community has become increasingly concerned by the coverage and commentary, particularly in the francophone media, since the hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah began.

The criticism of three Quebec politicians, especially Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe, for taking part in the massive Aug.6 anti-war protest, which was strongly anti-Israel and included Hezbollah supporters, touched off a continuing flood of reaction in the media and on the Internet.

Two *National Post* columns by Barbara Kay, in which she dubbed the province "Quebecistan" for being soft on Hezbollah, and sharp criticism by Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker of Duceppe for taking part in the march have intensified the discourse, much of it highly critical of Kay and Baker.

Even Premier Jean Charest called the term Quebecistan a "grossierete" (a rude or coarse remark). Charest, who called for a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah as early as Aug. 4, has neither defended nor denounced Duceppe and Parti Québécois leader André Boisclair for their participation.

Duceppe announced last week that BQ member André Bellavance will visit Israel Sept. 4 to 12 at the invitation of the Canada-Israel Committee, shortly after another BQ MP, Maria Mourani, returned from a trip to Lebanon organized by the National Council of Canadian-Arab Relations.

Meanwhile, federal Liberal MP Denis Coderre, who joined Duceppe and Boisclair at the anti-war protest, said last week that Israel reacted with excessive force to Hezbollah attacks.

During his party's caucus meeting in Vancouver, the former immigration minister said: "We support the right of Israel to defend themselves but that doesn't mean carte blanche… it was totally disproportionate the way they acted."

Coderre did not get back to *The CJN* after a request for an interview.

# Asper Campus renovation on hold

By MYRON LOVE
*Prairies Correspondent*

**WINNIPEG** — Planned renovations to the nine-year-old Asper Jewish Community Campus that were scheduled to start this summer have been put on hold due to a shortage of funds, despite a three-year campaign that has raised more than $7 million to date.

Larry Hurtig, chair of the "Building on Success" campaign and the immediate past president of the Asper Campus' board, cited a higher-than-anticipated cost for raw materials and labour for the construction delays.

He said the campaign needs to raise between $700,000 and $1 million more than the $7.2 million raised to date (out of its original $7.5-million goal) in order to realize the original renovation plan.

The money raised was not all earmarked for capital improvements. Hurtig said that $2 million of that figure was to be used to pay off the campus' lingering debt, and another $2 million was to be set aside to double the size of the campus' endowment fund to better help pay for future maintenance costs.

The original renovation plan was mainly centred around enlarging the Rady Jewish Community Centre fitness area and locker rooms. But proposals were added to expand the area for the Aleph-Bet Child Life Enrichment Program day care and move the Kaufman/Silverberg Resource Centre (Jewish Public Library) from its location in the basement of the Gray Academy of Jewish Education (the space to be filled by the day care) to the site that had been the Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada.

The new tentative construction timetable would see work start on the Rady JCC locker-room renovations in late winter, with the expansion concluded by late next summer. In the meantime, the day care will rent classroom space over the coming year from Gray Academy.

Hurtig said campus management hopes to be able to present a revised renovation plan by mid-September.

One new wrinkle in the plans is the decision to leave the children's library in the Gray Academy and only move the adult part of the library. Originally, all of the library was to be moved into what is now the museum.

# CRTC won't block hate sites

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

The CRTC has turned down a request that it issue an interim order that would permit carriers of Internet content to block two U.S.-based websites that threaten the life of an Ottawa human rights activist.

In a decision announced late last week, the telecommunications regulator ruled that such an unprecedented request would require notice to Canadian carriers and other interested parties, steps that were not taken in the "ex parte" application filed earlier in the week.

"The commission (CRTC) considers that the type of interim relief sought in the application raises serious and fundamental issues of law and policy relating to the mandate and powers of the commission pursuant to the [Telecommunications] Act. The commission therefore considers that all interested parties should be afforded an opportunity to provide their views on these important issues," stated a two-page letter from CRTC secretary general Diane Rhéaume.

Canadian Jewish Congress, which had joined lawyer Richard Warman in applying for the interim order, said it was disappointed with the ruling. "In our view, the content on these websites clearly breaches Canada's Criminal Code and we are deeply disappointed that the CRTC did not accept its responsibility to respond to a private citizen's complaint," said Congress president Ed Morgan.

In their written application, Warman and Congress jointly asked the telecommunications regulator to allow carriers such as Rogers and Sympatico to block two "blogs" (web logs, or Internet journals) operated by Roanoke, Va.-based neo-Nazi Bill White.

White, who heads an organization called the American National Socialist Workers' Party, allegedly called for the murder of Warman, who has initiated several legal challenges to remove white supremacist materials from the Internet.

The application states material on the websites encourages "violent action" against

**Continued on page 34**


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# Hillel to be proactive about Israel advocacy

By SHERI SHEFA
*Staff Reporter*

With the expectation that campuses across North America will face an increase in anti-Israel sentiment, in large part because of the Israel-Hezbollah war, the Israel affairs director for Hillel of Greater Toronto said Hillel will be proactive in creating a safe space for Jewish students, while continuing to focus on Israel-positive programming.

"We are expecting and bracing for increased tension on campus," said Tilly Shames.

"The first thing we've done to prepare for that is take advantage of the quieter time in August to set up meetings with campus security and administration. What we are trying to do is express the concerns and needs of Jewish students before any tension begins."

She said that two main focuses for Hillel is to provide a safe space free from intimidation on campus, and to get campus security and administration to understand that the promotion of Hezbollah-related activity or waving Hezbollah flags would create an environment of fear and intimidation.

"We are always having meetings with our campus administration, but this is the first time we've asked for specifics such as addressing the issue of Hezbollah flags," Shames said.

She wants Jewish students to understand that although Hillel is making a point of being proactive about speaking out against anti-Israel sentiment, Israel-positive programming will not suffer because of this initiative.

"It is important for us to put our focus on promoting Israel at this time," Shames said.

"We are also using this as an opportunity to say we want to work with others on campus to create a safe environment for all students.

"Our hope is that at the beginning of the school year to approach other faith-based student groups and cultural groups to find a common understanding of our need for a safe space free from intimidation on campus for people of all faiths."

Shames added that she will take on a new responsibility this year to build stronger partnerships with other student groups to work on common causes.

"One of the things is a major two-week Holocaust and genocide awareness program. This is the kind of programming we feel that people are interested in and will come together to… learn from Jewish history and apply it to genocide today."

Devora Schwartz, the Tzedek Hillel director, also wants students to understand that "life goes on here," and said that Hillel is in the midst of starting a new partnership with Jewish Family and Child Service.

"We want to see if our students… would go once a week after school and help children, who are clients of the agency, with their homework," Schwartz said.

"We're also looking to partner with Hillel in Uruguay, by taking students there for reading week."

She explained that they would help build homes in areas that weren't necessarily hit by a natural disaster, but in poverty-stricken areas.

"We're building from scratch. It will be a volunteer-focused trip, but the other side of it is to spend some time with the Jewish community there."

Schwartz said she also plans to continue working on raising awareness about the genocide in Darfur, and given the recent war in Israel, she anticipates that students may want to do something to help Israeli victims.

"I'm sure that once the students are back in September we'll do a Tzedek program around the issue [of the Israeli war], whether it be raising money for, let's say, a children's program, or something like that. Down the road, I'm sure we'll take students on a Tzedek volunteer trip to Israel as well," she added.

Hillel of Greater Toronto has also hired new staff who will be working toward improving Israel's image on campus, and providing Jewish students with a safe place to hang out, Shames said.

Among the new additions, Rebecca Woods Baum will work with Hillel students on advocacy issues. Dafna Regev, an Israeli shlicha, is also joining Hillel.

"We are very excited about [Regev] joining our Hillel team because she brings an Israeli perspective," Shames said.

She stressed the importance of keeping their sights set on positive programming, but understands the need for Hillel to stand up for the Jewish population on campus.

"We have to stay focused on our agenda," Shames said. "[But] for students to know that there is an active voice standing up against anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activity on campus is very important for our students. I think people feel comforted by that."


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# Collaboration launched between Israeli school and U of T

**Continued from page 5**

"We are considered the most pluralistic university in Israel," she said.

Biro said the university's reputation was always one of standing up for minorities, pluralism, freedom and democracy and that makes naming the proposed institute after the Compers a perfect fit.

CFHU recently launched a collaboration between the Israeli school and the University of Toronto faculty of social work, which will see academic and student exchanges as well as joint research projects. That initiative came at a time when academic institutions in Britain and elsewhere were considering boycotting Israeli universities, he noted.

A few months ago, CFHU announced creation of the $2 million Amira Dan Doctoral Fund to support doctoral studies in the humanities, Biro added.

For tickets to the Nov. 19 fundraising dinner, call 416-417-2611.

*With files from Sheri Shefa*

# Google has already removed blog

**Continued from page 33**

Warman and publicizes his home address. It also calls for the overthrow of the Canadian government and for streets to "run red with the blood of Jews."

In a parallel move, Warman asked web giant Google to remove one of White's blogs from its weblog service, Blogger. Google complied. "We want Blogger to enable free expression, including the hosting of views that are unpopular," Google spokesperson Steve Langdon told Canadian Press. "However, advocating violence against a person is not acceptable."

Google's removal of the blog came before the CRTC ruling on Warman's and Congress' application. Mark Goldberg, a telecommunications industry consultant and a Congress executive board member, said under Canadian law, carriers of Internet data are not permitted to tamper with web content unless given specific permission to do so by the CRTC. The application asked the CRTC to permit, though not necessarily require, the carriers to block web content. "As good corporate citizens and to limit civil liability, we expect they'd respond and block the content," Goldberg said.

A second part of the application asked the CRTC to provide direction on a process that would allow the regulator to order final approval for removal of sites. "That has not been done before," Goldberg said.

Goldberg discounted suggestions that an interim order, if granted, would in effect censor the web. "This is a call to murder a Canadian citizen and provides his home address." That kind of communication is illegal in all democracies, he said, adding the Internet should not provide a digital exemption to Canadian law.

The CRTC decision, however, rested on procedural grounds. "In the commission's view… it would be inappropriate to consider granting the interim relief sought in the application on an ex parte basis… Such a public process would allow for consideration of the broader policy and legal issues regarding the scope and appropriate use of the commission's powers," the CRTC ruled.

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## 'Ahmadinejad would sacrifice half of Iran to eliminate Israel'

By DAVID HOROVITZ
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, if he ever became the supreme decision maker in his country, would "sacrifice half of Iran for the sake of eliminating Israel," says Giora Eiland, Israel's former national security adviser.

At present, Eiland told the *Jerusalem Post* last week, the ultimate decision-maker in Iran is Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 67, who, he said, is "more reasonable." But, Eiland added, "if Ahmadinejad were to succeed him – and he has a reasonable chance of doing so – then we'd be in a highly dangerous situation."

The 49-year-old Iranian president, Eiland said, "has a religious conviction that Israel's demise is essential to the restoration of Muslim glory, that the Zionist thorn in the heart of the Islamic nations must be removed. And he will pay almost any price to right the perceived historic wrong. If he becomes the supreme leader and has a nuclear capability, that's a real threat."

In dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions, Eiland said, the United States has three possible courses of action, "all of them bad," and that a decision could not be postponed for too long, "since delay, too, is a decision of sorts."

The first option is to accept that Iran is going nuclear and try to make the best of it. By "making the best of it," Eiland said, he meant "isolating Iran economically, politically and internationally in the hope that this will eventually prompt an internal push for regime change."

This might also give other nations the sense that the political price of going nuclear is too high, and might deter nations such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Algeria and others from seeking to emulate Iran and causing the full collapse of the nuclear non-proliferation era.

Washington's second option is to make a last-ditch effort at diplomatic action, he said. At this stage, a mixture of sanctions and bonuses would not be sufficient to deter Iran altogether, but it might persuade Teheran to suspend activity for two or three years.

"In return, the U.S. would have to open direct engagement with Teheran, with full recognition of the regime. This would boost the regime's credibility and standing at home and allow it to say it was voluntarily suspending the program for awhile," he said.

The advantage for the Bush administration would be that President George W. Bush "could then say, 'They didn't go nuclear on my watch, and it's up to my successors to keep things that way.'"

The third option, Eiland said, is a military operation, resulting from the sense that the diplomatic process would not work and that there could be no compromise with an axis-of-evil power. However, internal political realities and public opinion in the United States are not conducive to this, he said, nor is international support readily available. Furthermore, "this would be action that would have to be taken within months."

If such action is not taken, and if Iran continues enrichment, it will complete the research and development stage and have a proven ability which it can then duplicate at numerous sites. And at that point, it could not be stopped by military action. Six months or 12 months from now, would be too late, he said.

Tellingly, Eiland noted, it seems to him that the difficulties facing the Bush administration over that third course are increasing.

As the crisis with Iran deepens, meanwhile, some Israeli sources believe the United States has acted foolishly in spurning opportunities for international diplomatic co-operation against Iran in recent years, and that Israel mistakenly encouraged this course of action.

The United States might have had more success isolating Iran two years ago, when Bush and French President Jacques Chirac were stronger, Iran was weaker and the situation in Iraq looked better, the sources said.

As recently as a few months ago, on a trip to Ukraine, which is a vital Russian sphere of influence, U.S. Vice-President Richard Cheney criticized the record of Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime with regard to democracy, the sources pointed out. Against that backdrop, the United States should not be surprised now, therefore, to find Russia less than willing to fully co-operate with its Iran strategy.

Israel, the sources added, realized early the danger posed by Iran's nuclear drive but erred in supporting the United States in hanging tough rather than pushing it toward co-operation.

As for Israel's military options, these sources spoke of a dilemma for the government. They noted only that Israel is not as strong militarily as the United States and mused about what might happen if a military action proved unsuccessful in thwarting the nuclear program. Iran might then complete its nuclear drive and, branding Israel a preemptive aggressor, claim legitimacy for a strike of its own against Israel.

## U.S. may want to avoid confrontation

**Continued from page 1**

One senior source, asked whether he thought the Israel Defence Forces could take on Iran alone, said it was not necessarily a matter of choice. A nuclear Iran represents an existential threat, he warned, and Israel might have no choice but to prepare for long-range missile attacks from Iran.

Another official warned of the consequences that would result from having a nuclear Iran, even if Israel was not bombed. "We would have our hands tied," the official said. "They would constantly be threatening us with their nuclear weapons, and we would not be able to initiate military operations against Hamas in Gaza or Hezbollah in Lebanon."

Military analysts say the United States, whose military is finding it more and more difficult to assemble the forces needed in Iraq, would prefer to avoid a military confrontation with Iran. At the same time, a new report compiled by the U.S. House of Representatives' intelligence committee suggests that the U.S. lacks sufficient intelligence on Iran's intentions and nuclear abilities.

This week, the United States decided to call 2,500 marines back to active service, to fill the troop shortfall in Iraq.

The United States has not formally ruled out military action against Iran if negotiations fail to put an end to Tehran's nuclear program, but senior administration officials have been stressing for months the need to focus on diplomacy, and the U.S. is putting all its effort into building an international coalition that would act diplomatically against Iran.

The House of Representatives' report made public last week stresses that if Iran is allowed to arm itself with nuclear weapons, Israel might have to take Iran on militarily.

"A nuclear armed Iran would likely exacerbate regional tensions. Israel would find it hard to live with a nuclear armed Iran and could take military action against Iranian nuclear facilities," the report states.

It also says that "a deliberate or miscalculated attack by one state on the other could result in retaliation, regional unrest and an increase in terrorist attacks."

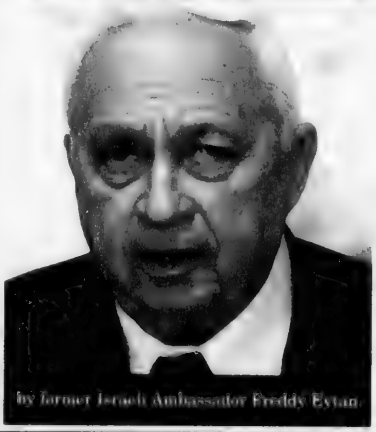
The report pointed to "significant gaps" in the information the United States has on Iran and its nuclear ambitions and called on the American intelligence community to improve the quality of the information about Iran it provides to policy makers.

"The United States lacks critical information needed for analysts to make many of their judgments with confidence about Iran and there are many significant information gaps," the report reads. It pointed to weapons of mass destruction and Iran's support for terrorism as issues on which the U.S. should have better intelligence.

"American intelligence agencies do not know nearly enough about Iran's nuclear weapons program," the report concluded. It calls on U.S. intelligence agencies to acquire more information from sources in Iran and to recruit more Farsi speakers to try to decipher Iran's intentions and capabilities.

Such criticism, especially in light of America's intelligence failures in Iraq, may further dissuade U.S. policymakers from taking military action against Iran if the diplomatic track proves unfruitful.

SHARON
*A life in times of turmoil*

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## Israel Briefs

***Soldier killed in Lebanon by Israeli mine***

An Israeli soldier was killed and two officers were wounded last Wednesday in southern Lebanon, apparently by an old Israeli mine. One soldier was injured seriously, the other lightly when their tank hit a mine probably planted in the past by the Israeli army, initial investigations showed. It was not clear if their unit had reached the area by navigational mistake or if the mine field had not been marked on army maps.

***British group to work for Israel's image***

Israeli media carried a report that a group aiming to improve Israel's image in the British media is set to launch in September. The Jewish Media Network is the creation of four British Jewish advertising executives who founded the group StandUp4Israel, which campaigns to "promote Israel's cause in the British media." The network will launch with a dinner and speech by Marc Cave, co-founder of StandUp4Israel and the brains behind several of Britain's most prominent advertising campaigns.

***Major Israeli writer dies***

Writer Yizhar Smilansky, an Israel Prize-winner better known by the pen name S. Yizhar, died on Aug. 21. One month shy of his 90th birthday, Yizhar died of heart failure. Known as a major innovator of Hebrew literature, he wrote prose, poetry and children's literature. He also was well-known for his essays, which gained attention at the beginning of the war in Lebanon in 1982. His writing, which often challenged the Zionist narrative and the morality of the army, was the subject of intense controversy.

***Iran wants Italy as go-between on soldiers***

Iran wants Italy to help negotiate the release of two Israeli soldiers kidnapped in Lebanon. Italy has been told the soldiers are alive but not in "great condition," said Sergio de Gregorio, head of the Italian Senate's defence committee. Ali Larijani, Iran's national security chief, told de Gregorio that he would ask Hezbollah to conduct negotiations through Italy. The reservists, Eldad Regev, 26, and Ehud Goldwasser, 31, were kidnapped July 12.

***Air Force commander to oversee Iran threat***

The head of Israel's air force was chosen to oversee Israel's military preparedness in case of a confrontation with Iran. Maj.-Gen. Eliezer Shkedy will co-ordinate Iran-related operations among the Mossad, military intelligence and other branches of the Israeli army. In the case of war, he would oversee battle plans and fighting. Shkedy's appointment was made before the war in Lebanon began, *Ha'aretz* reported Friday.

***Polls: Israelis moving right***

Israelis seem to be shifting to the right following the war in Lebanon, recent surveys report. A poll broadcast last Thursday on Israel's Channel Two, for example, showed Likud and the Israel Beiteinu Party winning the most seats in the Knesset if elections were held today. The poll showed both winning 24 seats, with the ruling Kadima party dropping to 14 seats and Labor to nine. Other polls showed a similar rise in support for the right.

***Chirac says 15,000 troops in S. Lebanon 'excessive'***

France's president said a UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon did not need 15,000 troops. The 15,000-troop figure outlined by UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the Israel-Hezbollah war, is "excessive" because of the small amount of territory in question, Jacques Chirac said Friday. A day earlier, Chirac announced that France would commit 2,000 troops to the force. Belgium also announced that it would send nearly 400 troops.

*- With files from JTA.*

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# Israel must use public diplomacy as a tool of war

By RAANAN GISSIN
*Jerusalem Post*

Analysis

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and his patrons in Iran have successfully integrated the ABCs of public diplomacy into their long-term strategic war doctrine.

Nasrallah ordered his men to remove their uniforms, blend in with the Lebanese population and continue to fight from that position. This way, when Israel attacks Hezbollah, it is seen as moving against what appears to be a civilian population, even though rockets fired from these villages are striking Israel. Attacks on what look like civilian targets can then be called "crimes against humanity" and "war crimes."

Raanan Gissin

Israel now faces the "special forces" of the Iranian military, the best of the guerrilla warfare units, in front-line positions. The whole concept of how these forces operate on the battlefield and in public diplomacy is directed by Iran. Over the last 25 years, Iran has gradually created a global network, first forming an axis with Syria and then building up Hezbollah, with Lebanon serving as a regional theatre, part of Iran's global design in its confrontation with the West.

Israel had been operating on the assumption that Hezbollah was a terrorist organization like Hamas or the PLO that had to be neutralized in order to bring about stability. But these are not merely terrorist gangs. This is an army – a well-trained, well-organized and ideologically indoctrinated guerrilla army – and Israel did not make that point strongly enough at the beginning of the war, neither to the world nor to itself.

From the minute Israel left Lebanon in May 2000, Iran began to implement its plan for a takeover of Lebanon by Hezbollah. First, it got into the political system and tried to take it over from within.

Public diplomacy for any country, not just Israel, has gone global. While the conflict may be determined in the local arena, such as Israel's fight against Hezbollah, the ramifications of the action itself are global in nature. Therefore, public diplomacy must be geared toward the global scene.

Ever since 9/11, we have been in a different type of war. We were exposed for the first time to a global network of terrorist organizations, sort of a multi-national corporation of non-state actors.

On the Lebanese scene, through the careful manipulation of evidence, the theatre of war has turned into a crime scene. Every action that Israel takes in Lebanon – with its densely populated villages where Israel must operate because that's the only way it can uproot the terrorists within creates an opportunity for the other side to use public diplomacy with global ramifications. Thus, instead of the war being about Israel's right to self-defence, Hezbollah was able to turn it around so that the issue on the international agenda became Israel's destruction of Lebanon and Israel as the cause of world instability. The victim becomes the criminal.

Another way to change a theatre of war into a crime scene is by developing Hezbollah positions in close proximity to those of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Then, there is always an opportunity for a potential mishap, where Israel will hit the UNIFIL position by mistake. Or Hezbollah may provoke an Israeli attack by firing from a specific location and ensuring that a human shield of innocent civilians will be present at the site.

The globalization of a local conflict has important implications for public diplomacy. What happens on Israel's northern border will affect what happens on its southern border with the Palestinians in Gaza. And the overall situation in the north and the south is going to determine the overall impact on the Arab world, and to what extent stability will be threatened in regimes like those in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan that fear the rise of Hezbollah.

The kidnapping of two of its soldiers enabled Israel to pre-empt before the Iranians had completed their buildup. The Iranians did not want a full-scale war yet. They wanted to put pressure on Israel, but Hezbollah made a mistake in its assessment of Israel's response. The end result was a "premature" war that has put the Iranian terrorist threat on the global agenda of public diplomacy, alerting the West before Iran was completely ready.

Hezbollah was also prepared with its public diplomacy. It had planned for this war for a long time. It had spokesmen speaking fluent English who would escort reporters to the designated "crime scenes." Hezbollah knew Israel would launch attacks on Beirut and that there would be scenes of destruction.

This war was a symptom of Israel's inability to prepare strategically with public diplomacy as a tool of war. It would be useful to learn and follow what Hezbollah has done in terms of its preparations to meet the requirements of a proactive public diplomacy strategy.

Hezbollah invests $15 million to $20 million a year in its own TV station, Al Manar. That's more than the overall *hasbarah* public relations budget of the State of Israel. Al Manar's broadcasts are pure propaganda, but they are professional and carried worldwide via satellite and cable.

We need to recognize that the media are a tool that can serve as a weapons system. Hezbollah is 10 years ahead of Israel in the ability to use and manipulate the media for its strategic purposes. I don't want to underestimate the limitations that a democracy has in instituting a coherent long-term public diplomacy strategy, but we must start thinking about this as a strategic issue.

The threat Israel faces is not just Hezbollah, it's Iran, and we should alert the rest of the world to that, as we alerted the world to the Iranian nuclear program. Israel is on the front line of Iran's war against the West. This may sound alarmist, but the best way to conquer fear is to tell people the truth. Tell them what we are facing, and then mobilize the world as well. Military action alone is insufficient.

The Iranians are coming, and we better read the writing on the wall. It is not in Arabic; it is in Persian, and it is still not too late to learn.

*Raanan Gissin is a former senior adviser to prime minister Ariel Sharon and a leading Israeli spokesman on security and strategic issues and the peace process. The above was produced under the auspices of The Institute for Contemporary Affairs, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.*

Israel & the Jewish World

# Gaza caught in anarchy and thuggery

By KHALED ABU TOAMEH
*Jerusalem Post*

**GAZA CITY** — "When you walk in the streets of Gaza City, you cannot but close your eyes because of what you see there: unimaginable chaos, careless policemen, young men carrying guns and strutting with pride and families receiving condolences for their dead in the middle of the street."

This is how Ghazi Hamad, spokesperson for the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority government and a former newspaper editor, described the situation in the Gaza Strip in an article he published on Sunday on some Palestinian news websites.

The article, the first of its kind by a senior Hamas official, also questioned the effectiveness of the Qassam rocket attacks against Israel and noted that since Israel evacuated the Gaza Strip, the situation there has deteriorated on all levels. It holds the armed groups responsible for the crisis and calls on them to reconsider their tactics and to stop blaming Israel for their mistakes.

"Gaza is suffering under the yoke of anarchy and the swords of thugs," Hamad wrote. "I remember the day when Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip and closed the gates behind. Then Palestinians across the political spectrum took to the streets to celebrate what many of us regarded as the Israeli defeat or retreat. We heard a lot about a promising future in the Gaza Strip and about turning the area into a trade and industrial zone."

Hamad said the "culture of life" that prevailed in Gaza has since been replaced with a nightmare. "Life became a nightmare and an intolerable burden," he said. "Today I ask myself a daring and frightening question: 'Why did the occupation return to Gaza?' The normal reply: 'The occupation is the reason.'"

Dismissing Israel's responsibility for the growing state of anarchy and lawlessness in the Gaza Strip, Hamad said it was time for the Palestinians to embark on a soul-searching process to see where they erred.

"We're always afraid to talk about our mistakes," he added. "We're used to blaming our mistakes on others. What is the relationship between the chaos, anarchy, lawlessness, indiscriminate murders, theft of land, family rivalries, transgression on public lands and unorganized traffic and the occupation? We are still trapped by the mentality of conspiracy theories – one that has limited our capability to think."

Hamad admitted that the Palestinians have failed in developing the Gaza Strip following the Israeli withdrawal and in imposing law and order. He said about 500 Palestinians have been killed and 3,000 wounded since the Israeli pullout, in addition to the destruction of much of the infrastructure in the area.

By comparison, he said, only three or four Israelis have been killed by the rockets fired from the Gaza Strip over the same period.

"Some will argue that it's not a matter of profit or loss, but that this has an accumulating effect" he said. "This may be true. But isn't there a possibility of decreasing the number of casualties and increasing our gains by using our brains and making the proper calculations away from demagogic statements?"

The Hamas official said that while his government was unable to change the situation, the opposition was sitting on the side and watching and PA President Mahmoud Abbas was as weak as ever.

"We have all been attacked by the bacteria of stupidity," he remarked. "We have lost our sense of direction and we don't know where we're headed."

Addressing the various armed groups in the Gaza Strip, Hamad concluded: "Please have mercy on Gaza. Have mercy on us from your demagogy, chaos, guns, thugs, infighting. Let Gaza breathe a bit. Let it live."

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# Israel rejects Amnesty International criticism

By HILARY LEILA KRIEGER
*Jerusalem Post*

**JERUSALEM** — The Foreign Ministry slammed an Amnesty International report published last Wednesday charging that Israel had deliberately destroyed civilian infrastructure in Lebanon and demanding an international investigation for what it termed war crimes.

The 20-page report, the first comprehensive one issued by the human rights organization on the subject of the recent war, accused Israel of "indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks" that displaced one-quarter of the civilian population.

The report alleges that Israel's destruction of thousands of homes and strikes on numerous bridges and roads as well as water and fuel storage plants, was an integral part of Israel's military strategy in Lebanon, rather than "collateral damage resulting from the lawful targeting of military objectives."

That strategy, in Amnesty's assessment of Israeli official statements, was carried out in part in order to turn civilians against Hezbollah. The report noted that any Hezbollah use of civilians as a means of shielding their activities constituted a war crime. But, it said, "under international law such use does not release the opposing party from its obligations towards the protection of the civilian population." It calculated that more than 1,000 civilians died, some 7,000 strikes had been carried out by the Israeli Air Force, 15,000 residences had been destroyed and at least two hospitals wiped out.

The report concluded by calling for an impartial international investigation, saying that Lebanon had never been known to carry out a review of allegations of war crimes, while Israeli efforts had "fallen short of the standards required."

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Regev rejected the assertions contained in the report, saying that Israel steps were taken in self-defence and that the civilians areas were also being used by Hezbollah, making such attacks "very clearly" legal according to international law.

"It's not serious," Regev said of the report, "because you have to discuss the scope of the attacks on Israel." The report does not devote any of its several sections to Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel or any of its other actions, though Claudio Cordone, senior director for research at Amnesty, said those subjects would be addressed in future reports. He added that by Israel's argument about acceptable civilians targets, one could suggest that Hezbollah attacks on northern Israel were reasonable because some roads and regions there were used by the military.

Anti-Defamation League National Director Abe Foxman, however, took issue with Amnesty's decision to focus its first major report on the conflict on alleged Israeli abuses, when Hezbollah had started the war.

"They continue the pattern of biased, prejudiced, bigoted, one-sided judgments on the Israeli-Arab conflict. It's part and parcel of putting the blame on Israel," he said.

Cordone countered that "there is less controversy about the abuses committed by Hezbollah, whereas there hasn't been sufficient attention to this kind of attack," referring to the alleged Israeli strategy of targeting civilian areas.

Cordone added that "for those who, like Israel, have argued they've done everything according to the rules of war, they should have nothing to fear from a proper, impartial investigation, which is what we're seeking."

But Foxman said this report would create a stigma that other reports wouldn't change. Foxman, speaking during a tour of north Israel where he saw the damage of the Katyushas first-hand, charged that the approach of Amnesty bordered on the anti-Semitic.

He said the civilian losses on both sides were "tragic." But, he continued: "Who's the judge of what's disproportionate, what's overkill? Amnesty International? Give me a break," he said.

"We don't need to be scapegoated by a group that pretends to [represent] civility and justice."

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SHOW ISRAEL YOU CARE!

# Toronto brothers volunteer for Sar-el at height of war

By JENNY HAZAN
*CJN Israel Bureau*

**TEL AVIV** — When the phone rings at 4 a.m. and it's a few days after the outbreak of a war between Israel and Lebanon, you don't expect good news, particularly if you live in Tel Aviv and have friends in the north.

I picked up the receiver. It was my mom, calling from Toronto. "Is everything alright?" I asked her, breathless.

"Your father just got a plane to Israel," she said. "He's coming to volunteer for Sar-El."

It was better than any news I could have hoped for.

It's not the first time my dad, 56, has come to Israel. He's been here several times since my sister and I made aliyah three and five years ago, respectively.

**Charly, second from left, and Syd Hazan, right, pose with some Israeli soldiers.**

Nor is it his first time volunteering for Sar-El, the Israel Defence Forces program for volunteers from around the world. His first volunteer mission was in 2004, when he worked at an army base in the centre of the country for two weeks, cleaning and repairing helmets. It is, however, the first time he brought along his elder brother, my uncle Syd, 57.

My sister and I couldn't even meet their flight, because they went straight to work immediately after landing.

The next call I got was from a local cellphone: "Hi honey," said my dad, who explained that he jumped on the first plane he could after the news reported the outbreak of war with Hezbollah.

"I left behind my wife, a lot of projects I have on the go for my synagogue, and a lot of work," said my dad, whose name is Charly. "But I felt that coming here was more important. Helping Israel is a priority for me, especially when there's an emergency, and it's clear that there is a real need for help."

My Uncle Syd, a retiree from Richmond Hill, Ont., echoed that sentiment: "I had been thinking about joining Sar-El for some time," he said. When he found out my father was returning to the program, he decided it was the perfect time to check it out. "With Israel at war, I figured I could do a lot of good for a country that I really love."

The brothers couldn't have been more right. During the war, there were widespread food shortages among soldiers in southern Lebanon, and the Sar-El volunteers played a critical role in preparing emergency food boxes for them.

"On our first day, we worked all the way through to midnight," my dad said. He and Syd spent their first week volunteering on an army base near Tel Aviv, on an assembly line with 60 other volunteers from Canada, the United States, France, Switzerland, England, Holland and Argentina. Together they filled boxes with cans of pickles, hummus, pineapples, peaches, and corn, as well as packages of wafers and halva, garbage bags (since the soldiers couldn't leave behind a garbage trail for Hezbollah to follow), and notes from the volunteers expressing their support for the soldiers who would receive the boxes.

**Charly, left, and Syd Hazan worked on an Israeli army base.**

"This time, volunteering was a very different experience from two years ago," said Charly, noting that previously, the volunteers stopped work around 4 p.m., took leisurely showers, and attended evening programs and educational trips as part of their experience.

"This time, there was none of that. We just worked and worked hard. The soldiers needed food and they needed it fast," he said.

"This time around, volunteering took on a whole new meaning for me. Whereas two years ago, I was repairing helmets for God knows when the soldiers would need them, this time I really felt that I was serving an important purpose."

Syd agreed. "I couldn't believe it. I arrived at 5:30 p.m. and I slugged my first case of food onto the palate at 7:30 p.m."

His job was to fill a skid, consisting of 180 full boxes of food, each weighing 15 pounds, every eight minutes. "It was very hard work, but doing it really made me feel I was making an important contribution to Israel."

During their second week volunteering, the brothers were relocated to a base in the south, where they were part of an emergency support crew for reserve soldiers preparing for tours of duty in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank. Their job was to ensure that each reservist received a properly-sized uniform, sleeping bag and other supplies.

Spending time with the soldiers was one of the major highlights of Syd's volunteer experience.

"One soldier I met was in charge of a battalion of 14 soldiers. He was so committed and said he loved and would do anything for Israel. But the most amazing thing about him is that he was only 19 years old," Syd said.

"These are the sentinels of Israel. These are Israel's protectors. These are the people on whose shoulders rest the continued existence of Jewry around the world. These are the people who need our help."

Said Charly: "If I could send a message to Jews across Canada, it would be four words: Israel needs your help.

"Jews around the world have this image of Israel as the strongest country in the Middle East, and they take for granted that it can win any war, but Israel's enemies are getting wiser, better equipped, and better educated, and it would be a mistake to underestimate them. Israel needs as much support from world Jewry as it can get."

"We can't afford to lose. This is the only country we've got. That's why if you can come, come, and if you can't come, send money," added Syd.

"If you, as a Jew, don't do anything and something, God forbid, happens to jeopardize Israel's future, you are as much to blame as those who want to destroy Israel. Indifference is as bad as hate."

Syd said he was amazed that so many of his co-volunteers – nearly one-third – weren't Jewish. "Some have come because their religion supports the existence of Israel. Others have come because the country is an essential part of their political ideology. Still others have come because they say Israel is the bravest country in the world, and they want to experience that brave environment," he said.

"Meeting these people has totally changed my perspective. Until I volunteered for Sar-El, I believed anti-Semitism was rampant," he said. "[The non-Jewish volunteers] have somehow given me a newfound hope in humanity, and really brightened my outlook on life and the world around me."

As for volunteering together, the men agreed it was an irreplaceable experience. "He's really funny and he really keeps things light," Syd said of his brother. "He's the one who motivated me to do this. He led me here, and I am really glad that he did."


City of Vaughan

2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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This notice is for anyone proposing to be a candidate in the municipal election on November 13, 2006 in the City of Vaughan

Candidates may file a registration/nomination form during regular business hours after January 1, 2006 with the last day for filing being September 29, 2006. A prescribed fee which may be refundable, in the amount of $200.00 for Mayoral candidates and $100.00 for all other candidates payable by cash, certified cheque or money order, must accompany the registration/nomination form. Candidates must not spend or raise funds for their election campaign until their registration/nomination form has been filed.

Nomination forms will be available as of January 2, 2006 in the Clerk's Department, Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan (Maple), Ontario, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Nomination Day, September 29, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

First Published December 8, 2005

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer
City of Vaughan

# Shabbat for one or two

BY SUE EPSTEIN
*Special to The CJN*

Most people associate Shabbat with a group of people sitting around a table laden with food. However, not everyone hosts crowds of people each week. Young couples, empty nesters and single people often enjoy having a quiet Shabbat for one or two.

Cooking for one or two people presents a special challenge. How do you prepare a proper meal without having tons of leftovers or having to throw away food? Most recipes make six to eight servings. What do you do with all those leftovers?

What has worked well for me is to make a "normal" size casserole and divide it into two smaller baking pans. Bake one right away and wrap and freeze the other. That way you still have just enough leftovers for perhaps one lunch, and an easy dinner for another day. Consider cooking more than one meal whenever you are in the kitchen. You may just be able to take a week off cooking if you're really efficient.

## CORNISH HEN WITH ROASTED VEGETABLES

A Cornish hen, roasted to perfection with an apple-scented glaze, is fancy enough for a special occasion, but easy enough for a simple dinner for two.

1 fresh or frozen Rock Cornish hen (about 24 oz.), thawed
¾ cup frozen baby carrots
2 tbsp. apple jelly
1 tbsp. margarine
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. marjoram or oregano leaves
¾ cup frozen peas

Heat oven to 350. Remove giblets; split hen in half. Rinse and pat dry. Place skin side up in an ungreased 12 x 8 in. glass baking dish. Arrange carrots around hen.

In 1-quart saucepan, cook jelly, butter, salt and marjoram over low heat 2 to 3 minutes, stirring constantly, until warm. Brush half of sauce over hen and carrots. Cover with foil. Bake 40 minutes. Uncover; brush with remaining sauce. Add peas; bake 20 minutes longer, brushing with pan juices once or twice, until hen is fork tender, its juices have run clear and vegetables are tender. (Makes 2 servings)

## PRIME RIB FOR ONE

No reason why you can't enjoy the treat of a prime rib dinner. For two, just double the recipe.

2½ pounds rib of beef
1 tsp. minced garlic
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 potatoes, whole

Purchase 1 rib of beef, which should weight about 2½ pounds. It must be frozen before cooking, so plan ahead! Take the rib out of the freezer, unwrap it and rub with garlic and then olive oil. Place the rib on a baking pan with two potatoes holding it upright. Roast at 400 for 85 minutes for rare, 95 minutes for medium well. Make sure to let the rib stand for 5 minutes before slicing to let the juices redistribute.

## ACORN SQUASH WITH BUTTER PECAN SAUCE

1 acorn squash
2 tbsp. margarine
2 tbsp. firmly packed brown sugar
1 tbsp. maple-flavoured syrup
¼ cup coarsely chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350. Cut squash in half lengthwise; remove seeds. Cut squash halves crosswise into 1-inch-thick slices. Arrange slices in 13 x 9-inch (3-quart) glass baking dish; cover with foil. Bake at 350 for 30 to 35 minutes or until almost tender.

Meanwhile, melt margarine in a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir in brown sugar, syrup and pecans. Cook just until sugar dissolves, stirring constantly. Remove squash from oven. Spoon pecan mixture over squash. Return to oven; bake an additional 10 to 15 minutes or until squash is tender, spooning pecan mixture occasionally over squash. (Makes 4 servings)

## CAKE FOR TWO

If you use cake mixes, this is a great recipe.

1¾ cups cake mix
⅔ cup water
¼ cup oil
1 egg

Combine ingredients in an ungreased 8- or 9-in. square pan and beat with fork until well blended. Spread batter evenly in the pan when mixed. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean.

**For Banana Cake:**
1¾ cups cake mix
½ cup miniature chocolate chips
⅔ cup water
½ cup mashed banana
2 tbsp. oil
1 egg

Mix all ingredients in a medium bowl. Pour into greased 8 in. square pan and bake at 350 for 30-40 minutes until toothpick comes out clean.


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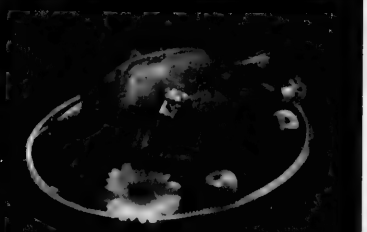

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# Quilting project keeps cancer patients warm

By JENNA ROSMAN
*CJN Intern*

The Toronto Jewish Quilting Project is showcasing one of its quilts at Casa Loma next month in an exhibit put on by The QUILT: A Breast Cancer Support Project.

"For us it's representative of how far the Toronto Jewish Quilting Project itself has come in that we can donate [a quilt]," said Eva Karpati, the Jewish quilting project's founder and organizer. "We're thrilled about that progress... The quilt we donated is a beautiful work of art."

The QUILT was established in 1999 by Carol Miller, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 1997.

Miller, who owned quilt stores in St. Agatha, Ont., Waterloo, Ont., and at her farm west of Stratford, Ont., organized the project in 1999 because she thought cancer support organizations needed more help. The QUILT has raised over $1 million so far.

More than 400 quilts are on display in exhibits in Stratford, Toronto and Calgary. The Casa Loma exhibit, in Toronto, opens on Sept. 29 for a month. Fifty of the 120 quilts at the Toronto exhibit, including *Angel Wings Takes Flight*, submitted by the Toronto Jewish Quilting Project, will be auctioned off in a live or silent auction at the Toronto Quilt Auction and reception at the Fermenting Cellar in Distillery District on Oct. 24.

The public can also bid online for any of the quilts at the official website. The highest bid, for *Angel Wings Take Flight*, is currently $400.

"We aren't involved in raising funds for research. We're involved in raising funds for people to have a place to go for free programming – whether it's yoga, reiki, whatever they need," said Miller.

"We support organizations like Wellspring [a support centre for individuals and families affected by cancer] or Princess Margaret and Mount Sinai hospitals, who have gotten together and have an outreach program for patients beyond the four walls."

The Toronto Jewish Quilting Project was established in 2004 and used a space donated by the Ministry of Parks and Recreation until last winter, when the group became affiliated with the National Council of Jewish Women.

"We got in touch with them in November 2005 and officially started in January 2006," she said. "They gave us an official home and they adopted us, which was a dream come true, because we didn't have a charitable status number [before then]."

Since its inception, the project has distributed 20 quilts to people suffering with cancer. Fabric Land and Creative Bags donate supplies for the quilts.

Karpati said most people who request a quilt for a cancer patient know of the organization through word-of-mouth.

The group, which has about 15 to 22 volunteers, ranging in age from 20 to 83, and meets for two hours every Thursday night.

"Each night we're probably working on five [quilts] that are all at various stages of completion," Karpati said. "There is a lot of work that's involved, so each night someone might be cutting, someone is sewing, someone is putting the three layers together, someone else is quilting. There's lot that goes into one quilt."

For more information about The QUILT: A Breast Cancer Support Project, visit its website at www.thequilt.com.

For more information about the Toronto Jewish Quilting Project, contact Council House at 416-633-5100.

# Engineer recognized for heart bypass technology

By DIANE KOVEN
*Ottawa Correspondent*

**OTTAWA** — Leon Katz, a biomedical and clinical engineer who was a pioneer in the use of heart-lung bypass machines during open-heart surgeries, was one of only two non-physicians to receive a "Living Legend Award" at the 16th Congress of the World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons, held earlier this month in Ottawa.

The award, which was also presented to 13 other recipients at a gala evening ceremony Aug. 19 at the National Arts Centre, was in recognition of Katz's contributions to Canadian and international health care, particularly in the area of biomedical technology and engineering in the medical world.

Leon Katz

Prior to a nearly four-decade career with Health Canada's bureau of medical devices, health protection branch, in Ottawa, Katz, a native of Montreal, worked at four hospitals in Montreal developing and using a variety of innovative medical devices.

During World War II, at age 19, Katz volunteered for service and was stationed in England. Fluent in German, he was seconded to the British Army's branch of the Control Commission for Germany, where he analyzed and decoded documents and interviewed captured Nazi officials. In recognition of his military service, he received numerous awards. On his return to Canada, he enrolled in McGill University, from which he received an electrical engineering degree in 1950.

Katz "graduated McGill during a virulently anti-Semitic period in Quebec, when Jews were restricted entry to universities, and those that were allowed entry on strict quotas required a much higher grade point average than everyone else," said his daughter, Floralove Katz.

Katz was the first graduate in engineering and physiology (his second degree) who was dedicated exclusively to clinical, biomedical, hospital-based engineering. "I am not a medical doctor, I am an engineer. I trained with the world's greatest neurologist, Dr. Wilder Penfield, at the Montreal Neurological Institute," he said.

Among his lengthy list of biomedical "firsts," Katz was the first clinical perfusionist during the first successful open-heart surgery in Canada at the Institut de Cardiologie de Montreal with Dr. Edouard Gagnon in 1957, and he was the first biomedical engineer to carry out more than 1,000 cardio-pulmonary bypass perfusions.

"The perfusionist is the person, in open heart surgery who is responsible for maintaining the life of the patient while the heart is stopped," Katz said. "How does he do this? The perfusionist removes venous blood from the patient [that's deoxygenated and high in carbon dioxide] and returns [oxygenated] arterial blood, thus keeping the patient alive during the surgery. I am an engineer. I basically became a perfusionist because I invented and built the machinery that did this, and it was so complicated and I was so adroit at operating the machinery that the surgeons insisted that I do it."

His daughter said that "hundreds of Canadian citizens are alive today" because of these groundbreaking cardio-pulmonary bypass perfusions.

Katz and the other 13 recipients of the Living Legend Award were selected from a list of 300 candidates from around the world.

He said modestly that "the other laureates were, without exception, the world's greatest surgeons and scientists." He added that receiving the award "means a lot more than just recognition for me. I was the only Jewish person of the 14 laureates. It is, in a way, a recognition of the Jewish community, and particularly the community of Ottawa."

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Books & Authors

# A museum, war art and Canadian identity

***Art or Memorial: The Forgotten History of Canada's War Art* by Laura Brandon, University of Calgary Press.**

**By NORMAN RAVVIN**

The opening of a new Canadian War Museum building along Ottawa's river drive in 2005 can be seen as the culmination of events that reach back to the midpoint of World War I. It was in 1916 that Lord Beaverbrook, the New Brunswick-born newspaper magnate, initiated what came to be called the Canadian War Records Office, whose goal, among other things, was to commission artists to record Canada's contribution to the outcome of the war.

**Norman Ravvin**

In World War I, British artists took the bulk of these commissions, though members of the Group of Seven did go overseas to paint European battlefields. Thirty-two Canadians were hired as official war artists during World War II, among them Alex Colville, Molly Lamb Bobak and Aba Bayefsky, who went on to substantial postwar careers. Almost half of the museum's war art collection – 5,000 paintings, sculptures and works on paper – were made during World War II.

Laura Brandon's *Art or Memorial: The Forgotten History of Canada's War Art* traces the development of the tradition of Canadian artists' war work, and examines what the reception – at times outright neglect – of this work reveals about Canadian identity and national culture.

A number of themes run through *Art or Memorial* that not only cast light on the history of the Holocaust but also reflect the sometimes peculiar entanglement between Canadian Jewish life and mainstream cultural trends.

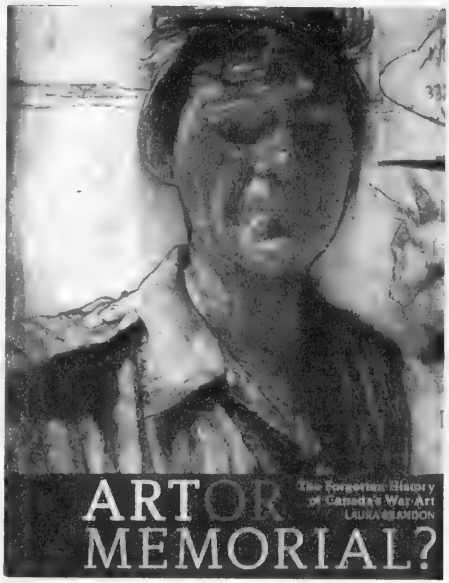
War artists portrayed a myriad of subject matter in the sketch work they did both on the battlefield and off, as well as in the watercolours and large oil canvases they completed as part of their responsibilities upon returning to Canada. World War I subjects included women making shells, the D-Day invasion, and ruined French and German townscapes. At the end of World War II, Bayefsky and Colville were among the few who entered Bergen-Belsen alongside the British liberators in early May 1945. Colville made drawings of the pits being dug for mass graves, as well as of survivors, some of whom died after being captured by him on paper.

Bayefsky was 22 when he saw Belsen, having worked earlier in the war at depicting destroyed German towns. In a 1989 interview he described what he saw at the camp as "the determining factor in everything I have done since." Unlike Colville, Holocaust imagery and themes remained at the centre of his work, culminating in a 1998 exhibition at the war museum titled "Reflections of the Holocaust."

Colville's Belsen-related work is included among the illustrations in Brandon's *Art or Memorial*, and it is shown on the websites of the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. But these are recent appearances of little-seen work by one of Canada's most prominent artists. The war art of Bayefsky and Colville, as well as the work it influenced by B.C.-based painter Jack Shadbolt, represents some of the earliest artistic response to the Holocaust. It was completed before any firm sense of how to respond to the events had taken shape or were being publicly discussed.

Another Holocaust-related issue embedded in *Art or Memorial* is the short-lived plan to include a Holocaust gallery in the new war museum building. Brandon does not delve into this fiasco in great detail, but she does note that the rejection of the plan by veterans and their organizations sealed its fate. The Holocaust, Brandon notes, in an effort to take account of veterans' motives, "was not their memory of war."

Discussions regarding the Holocaust gallery were handed to a Senate subcommittee in 1998. It interviewed 50 witnesses in the course of a week's hearings, among whom was noted historian Michael Marrus. The committee's report is remarkable for its unanimity in witnesses' views that the mandate of the war museum did not include a display related to the Holocaust. Canadian military history and heritage had no link, witnesses felt, with the Holocaust. Wilfrid Laurier University historian R.H. Roy announced, in his appearance before the committee, that "those of us joining the army in 1939 and 1940 did so for a number of reasons, none of which involved a direct desire to stop the Holocaust."




Jack Granatstein, who for two years directed the war museum and worked to highlight its war art collection, elaborated similar views in another context. The Holocaust, he argued, "was not a Canadian story." Our history, he said, "is Canadian… and in a nation that worries about its identity, our history is, or should be, critical in defining that identity."

The counter-argument to these claims was made effectively by Harold Troper and Irving Abella in their 1982 study *None Is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948*. The book's impact and staying power came of the realization it forced on its readers that by abdication of wartime responsibility, the Canadian government made the Holocaust an integral part of Canadian history. In other words, an official policy of disengagement and a lack of any ethical grounding in response to the refugee crisis created by European mass murder, made Holocaust history "our history."

In *Art or Memorial*, Brandon examines the way that Canada's war art collection has, at times, "receded from… the nation's collective consciousness." She aims to explore how "both its presence and its absence" have "helped shape" Canadian identity. Her work is suggestive of broader themes in Canadian history and culture, as well as those more specifically connected to the Holocaust and Jewish history in Canada.

*Norman Ravvin is chair of the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. His books include the novel* Lola by Night *and the story collection* Sex, Skyscrapers and Standard Yiddish. *His writing on literary themes can be found in* A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory.

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# Da Vinci Code 'doesn't give us the real story:' rabbi

By JESSICA FREIMAN
*CJN Intern*

The international bestseller *The Da Vinci Code* has generated much controversy worldwide with its conspiracy theories that question traditional Christian doctrine.

Author Dan Brown was on the right track, says Rabbi Michael Skobac, education director for Jews for Judaism, but he followed the wrong clues: the book's main allegations are based on fictions, but research is now pointing to the possibility of a bigger Church cover-up that is rooted in fact.

"A sense among many scholars is emerging that a real history of Christianity has been concealed from the beginning which has serious scholarship behind it. It's a much more interesting story than Brown's. It's not conclusive or the final chapter of the story, but many scholars are beginning to head in this direction," Rabbi Skobac said.

Rabbi Michael Skobac

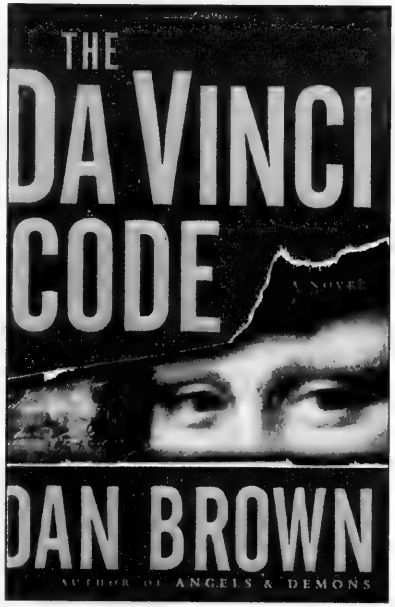
The rabbi told an audience at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation last month that *The Da Vinci Code* portrays the following as true: Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, who was later portrayed by the Church as a prostitute; their child, Sarah, became the progenitor of French monarchs and this bloodline still exists today; and the Holy Grail is not really a chalice but a metaphor for this bloodline that has been protected by an ancient organization called the Priory of Sion, and its members conceal clues about these truths in art.

The first problem with the book, Rabbi Skobac said, is that the claim on which it is based – that the Priory of Sion is a cult of secret goddess worshippers protecting secrets about Jesus' bloodline – is itself based upon a fabricated document.

In France's national library, there are documents from a group called the Priory of Sion listing its leading grandmasters in history, but journalists noticed that there was no record of who deposited these records.

In 1956, a group called the Priory of Sion – borrowing its name from a medieval Catholic Monastic order – registered with the French government, Rabbi Skobac said. It was organized by Pierre Plontard, an ultra-conservative anti-Semite obsessed with reuniting Europe under the Roman Catholic Church, which would be ruled by a monarchy descended from Jesus.

"Plontard fabricated these documents and had them planted throughout France. His co-conspirators confessed in the 1980s. Checkmate to *The Da Vinci Code*," Rabbi Skobac said.




Other historical fallacies are rampant in the book. "Dan Brown says that the marriage of Magdalene and Jesus is a matter of historical record, but there is no evidence that Jesus was married to anyone." Rabbi Skobac said.

"Next, Brown's character Teabing mentions an apocryphal gospel of Philip stating that Mary Magdalene was Jesus' 'companion.' Teabing says that the Aramaic word for 'companion' also means 'spouse.' The problem is, the gospel of Philip was not Aramaic. It was Coptic, which borrows its word for 'companion' from the Greek, which has no connection to 'spouse.'"

*The Da Vinci Code* postulates that its version of history has been obscured, yet "hundreds of scholars have not unearthed one shred of evidence to support Brown's half-baked truths," Rabbi Skobac said.

However, this doesn't mean that a real Christian truth has not been covered up for millennia, he added.

Mary's story is now being held to higher scrutiny by scholars, Rabbi Skobac said. Her status as the mother of God leads to implicit Christian doctrines like perpetual virginity – that Jesus did not have a human father.

The doctrine of perpetual virginity means that even after Jesus was born, Mary had no relations with Joseph, "painting her life as totally disconnected from how a Jewish woman would have lived 2,000 years ago," the rabbi said.

"In John 8:41, Jesus' opponents say to him, 'We were not born of fornication,' implying that Jesus was. Perhaps Jesus had an earthly father, but it wasn't Mary's husband."

In 176 CE, Rabbi Skobac said, a philosopher named Kelsus suggested that Jesus' father was a Roman soldier named Pantera. A Yeshua ben Pantera is listed in talmudic sources as having lived in the Galilee.

And a tombstone in Germany, documented in 1906, lists the name Tiberius Julius Abdes Pantera, a soldier who fought in Palestine in the first century, he added.

"Studying his name, scholars determined that this Pantera was a freed slave, certainly Semitic and possibly Jewish. He left Palestine in 9 CE. The name and date seem correct."

Another slighted aspect of Jesus' life is the historically documented existence of his brother, James. "If Mary was practically deified, James was marginalized – ironic because scholars say James is the critical link to uncovering who Jesus was. It may not be a coincidence that James is so obscured, specifically because he is the key to understanding Jesus."

The Book of Acts "practically says nothing about disciples and relatives of Jesus," Rabbi Skobac said. "It's all about Paul of Tarsus.

"Paul never met Jesus but claims that Jesus appeared to him in a vision. For Paul, Jesus becomes the message," Rabbi Skobac said. "It's not about what Jesus taught.

"As Paul's church grew, Torah observance was jettisoned and Christian doctrines became standard. Relatives and Torah-observant disciples of Jesus became an embarrassment to the Church, so they were written out of the story."

*The Da Vinci Code* claims that a story about the origins of Christianity has been concealed. "That is true," Rabbi Skobac said, "but it doesn't give us the real story. The real one is substantiable and emerges from the texts.

"Many of us feel that we are living in special times, that we are at a point of unfolding more truth in the world. I feel that this book by Brown could play a part in making people ask more questions and this would lead to uncovering more truths."

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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006

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**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

First published: August 31, 2006

John D. Leach
City Clerk and
Returning Officer
City of Vaughan

# ROM installation portrays Vashti as strong, independent

By BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Queen Esther might be the most famous female in the story of Purim, but she's not the only one. Queen Vashti, King Achashverosh's first wife, plays a small part in the Megillah – she refuses to comply with her inebriated husband's demand to appear at a party and then disappears. Her story might seem inconsequential, but one Toronto-based artist thinks differently.

"I always thought Vashti was the hero ever since I was a little kid," says Evan Tapper, an ex-Winnipegger whose audio exhibit *In Search of Queen Vashti* is currently playing at the Royal Ontario Museum.

The installation, located just outside of the museum's old front doors on Avenue Road, discusses the story of Vashti, and how she's Purim's forgotten heroine. "Vashti was a strong women who stood up for herself and chose her own path," says Tapper, who's been "obsessed" with the character for many years. "Her choice of refusing to be seen as an object is heroic even today."

Tapper first learned about Vashti in Jewish day school, but it wasn't until his mother passed away in 1999 that he realized her story was worth telling. "I've been trying to do this piece for a really long time," he says. "After my mother died I was looking through a bunch of photos, and there was a picture of me in Grade 2 and I was holding a doll. On the back of the picture, it said, 'Evan holding his Vashti doll.'"

At the Royal Ontario Museum

The picture reminded him of Vashti's story, and more specifically, about her disappearance. It was something Tapper instantly related to. "When my mom died, there was this idea of absence, the power of absence, and finding that photo, I was thinking about Vashti disappearing and how powerful that was."

For the next few years, Tapper tried to figure out how to tell Vashti's tale. He started off animating the story, doing all the narrations himself. However, the piece wasn't coming together. He stopped animating and enlisted different women to help tell the story.

"The problem was that it was me representing her," he says. "My voice, a guy's voice, wasn't the right voice to speak for her. So I decided to interview all these different women and create an audio project."

Tapper called on his female friends and acquaintances to talk about how they perceived Vashti. He also went to the The Redwood, a Toronto shelter for women and children, and talked to women – some who were hearing about Vashti for the first time from Tapper – about what the queen meant to them. The result is a 45-minute recording featuring women from all walks of life.

"A lot of people I interviewed were non-Jews," he says. "One woman was from Afghanistan, and she related it to her Afghani history. You realize we're just so connected. Women standing up for themselves and disappearing is pretty universal."

"A lot of the women in the Bible are quite strong," says one woman on the tape. "[Vashti] knew what she wanted and went for and she knew what she didn't want and went for it, so I kind of see her as one of the first feminists in the Bible."

While Vashti's strength and independence is a major theme on the recording, some women talk about how children are brought up believing that Vashti is evil. Tapper's own research, which included reading commentaries on the story, found that for no good reason, the queen was often branded as an outcast.

"Coming across the midrashim, I found that God gave her a tail, or she developed a skin disease… Looking at the text, there really is no negative to her, but what she did was still considered wrong somehow. Now we see that as independence and value."

To learn more about Vashti's fortitude, you'll have to go to the ROM, sit on a bench created by a friend of Tapper's and put on a pair of earphones that broadcasts the recording 24 hours a day. The artist, who's made a name for himself working with animation, says the response has been overwhelming. "A rabbi came up from Buffalo and someone else came from Seattle. They see it on the ROM website and then come to it."

Tapper's motivation for this exhibit wasn't solely to tell Vashti's story. He wants to shed light on the hardships so many women across the world face every day. "There's so many voices we don't hear. There are women in crisis who have fled a bad situation. Brilliant women, who went to extraordinary steps to save children and themselves and we don't hear from them. By doing this, I'm giving a voice."

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Arts & Travel

# Cruise ship stops in New England, eastern Canada

By KATHRYN KATES
*Special to The CJN*

In recent years, many people planning a vacation through eastern Canada and New England have opted for cruising on a luxury liner such as Holland America Line's ms Maasdam instead of a driving trip.

Lounging around a ship sure beats being stuck in a car where someone has to keep his or her eyes on the road while another is trying to make sense of a map. The captain of the cruise ship ensures you get from port to port and, best of all, you and your holiday buddies don't have to fight over directions.

Holland America Line (HAL) offers a number of New England/eastern Canada cruises. A popular one is the ms Maasdam's seven-day cruise that alternates departures from Boston to Montreal and from Montreal to Boston. In 2007, the company will be offering 12 seven-day cruises from May 19 to Sept. 29. Ports of call include Bar Harbor, Me.; Halifax and Sydney, N.S.; Charlottetown and Quebec City.

In addition, on June 23 and 30 and Aug. 11, the ship will be embarking on three round-trip cruises from Boston, visiting ports that include Newport, R.I., and Saint John, N.B., and places in between. For those wanting to take a longer voyage, the Maasdam will begin its spring 2007 season with a 15-day cruise departing May 4 from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Montreal and will sail the itinerary in reverse from Montreal on Oct. 6.

The ms Maasdam holds 1,258 passengers. It has 629 staterooms, from standard cabins to luxury penthouse verandah suites. It is one of the more intimate ships in the HAL fleet. The ship was dedicated in December 1993 by actress June Allyson. This past spring, the ms Maasdam went into dry dock in Freeport, Bahamas, to become the 12th HAL ship to receive the Signature of Excellence upgrades.

Cabin amenities include Euro-top Mariner's Dream Beds, flat-screen TVs, DVD players, deluxe waffle/terry-cloth robes, magnifying makeup mirrors with halo lighting, hair dryers, massage shower heads and complimentary fruit baskets – just in case you need to snack between the multitudes of meals offered during your cruise.

Some of the other on-board additions include the Culinary Arts Center presented by *Food & Wine Magazine*, where guest chefs will show passengers tricks of the trade. The Explorations Café features the largest library at sea, as well as comfortable music listening stations and Internet access. The Greenhouse Spa and Salon is an exceptional spa offering a full range of services. The recent renovation includes the addition of a thermal suite, a hydro-pool and a large fitness facility.

Passengers travelling with children can send them off to Club HAL. The fully supervised club caters to kids from ages 3 to 12. Little ones can enjoy art or play on a fun slide, while older children can play in a separate area featuring arcade games, Internet access, Sony Playstations and much more.

In addition to the wonderful activities on board, ms Maasdam offers a wide variety of port tours and excursions when you're off the ship, or you can explore on your own.

With tie-ups at airports, it is advised to arrive a day before the ship departs. Besides, it gives you time to explore the port you leave from, be it Boston or Montreal. HAL will gladly book hotel and tours for you prior or post cruise.

A great view of Boston can be seen from the Prudential Skywalk Observatory. Once you've seen the city from above, you can catch a Boston Duck Tour at the base of the Prudential Center. It is a narrated land and water tour in an authentic World War 11 amphibious vehicle that takes you on the Charles River. After being on the water, you may want to learn what comes out of the sea with a visit to the New England Aquarium and a stop at the Simons IMAX Theatre, which showcases animals and habitats too big, too rare or too dangerous to be seen in the aquarium.

A short walk from there is Faneuil Hall and the Quincy Market Building, a great place to pick up souvenirs including ones of the old TV show *Cheers*. At the Faneuil Hall location and at the original Cheers pub in Beacon Hill, you can pick up T-shirts, mugs, etc.

Bar Harbor is a quaint costal town of Maine known for the Acadia National Park. Cars are not allowed, so plan to bike, hike or take a carriage tour – you can even go by horseback.

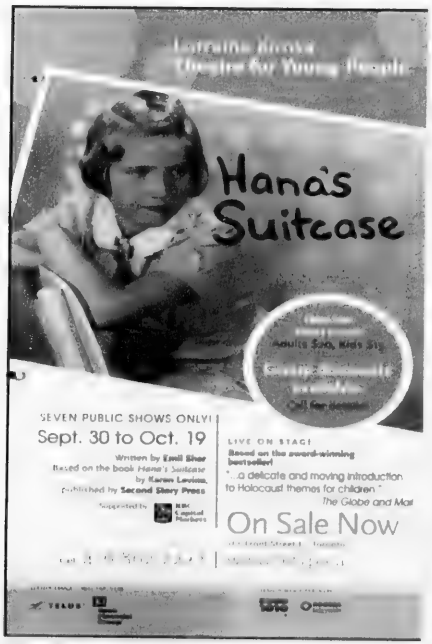
Halifax tours offered include a historic city tour of the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site. There are tours of Halifax that also include a drive to the picturesque fishing town of Peggy's Cove, which is one of Canada's most photographed sites.

Sydney is known for its miners and its music – internationally renowned songstress Rita MacNeil lives about a block from where the ms Maasdam docks. City tours include a trip to the Cape Breton Miners Museum and a seven-hour hike on the scenic Cabot Trail.

Once on land in Prince Edward Island, you can't help but notice the soil is a rich red, as rich as the history itself, including the literary history. Fans of Lucy Maude Montgomery's books, which include *Anne of Green Gables*, can visit Cavendish where you can actually walk through the homestead of the beloved fictional character Anne. You leave believing the little redheaded girl really must have lived.

When the ship docks in Quebec City, it is like stepping back in time. This is the first French city in North America; the old part of the city is rich with historic buildings, chic boutiques and cafés on every corner.

To book a Holland America Line, ms Maasdam cruise to eastern Canada and New England, contact your travel agent, call 1-877-SAIL HAL, ext. 54, or visit www.hollandamericaline.com.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Arts & Travel

# Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

## MUSIC, THEATRE, ART, DANCE AND MORE AT ASHKENAZ, AUG. 31 TO SEPT. 4

Toronto's Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture presents its celebrated mix of music, theatre, art, dance, literature, cabaret and film at Harbourfront Centre from Aug. 31 through Sept. 4.

The weekend is ushered in by colourful events such as the pageant and parade organized by Shadowland Theatre, kabbalistic yoga and dramatic Havdalah rituals.

A "cornucopia of exhilarating experiences" follows, including commissioned musical compositions and performances, theatrical premières, collaborations between choreographers and musicians, book and CD launches, silent film classics accompanied by live klezmer groups, and presentations of graphic novels. Offerings include:

• The six-member LufTeater theatre company from France recalls the world of Yiddish Krakow in *Echoes and Shavings of Yiddishland*, performed in Yiddish and French with English subtitles. Thursday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m. (preview) and again on Sept. 2, 7 p.m. and Sept. 3, 1 p.m. $18

• The **Klezmer Cuban Connection**, consisting of trumpeter and Ashkenaz founder **David Buchbinder** and pianist-composer **Hilario Durán**, offer new musical fusions, Sept. 2, 10 p.m. $18.

• Vancouver singer-songwriter **Geoff Berner**, who innovated a "punk klezmer" style with his 2005 release *Whiskey Rabbi*, performs Sept. 2, 11 p.m. $12.

• 91-year-old lounge king **Irving Fields** meets 78-year-old King of Rai, **Maurice El Médioni**, in a "once-in-a-lifetime concert featuring two awe-inspiring keyboard legends." Sept. 3, 5 p.m. $25.

• **Rabbi Itzchak Marmorstein** leads an ophanim yoga class, a recently emerged kabbalistic yoga that helps people "flow in harmony with their inner tree of life." Sept. 2, 3 and 4 (various times). Free.

• Torontonian **Michael Wex**, author of *Born to Kvetch*, offers a lesson in how to kvetch like a pro. *Kvetch with Wex* occurs Sept. 4, 1 p.m. $10.

Other performers include **Yasmin Levy, Beyond The Pale, Aaron Bensoussan, Matzo Ball Gumbo, Kharkov Klezmer Band, the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir, Golem, Theresa Tova, David Gale, Klez Kazoo Orchestra, Yiddish Barbershop, Adrienne Cooper, Janie Respitz, Amsterdam Klezmer Band, Chicago Klezmer Ensemble, Marilyn Lerner, Chassidic Jazz Project, Stan Mack, Boris Sichon** and **KlezFactor**.

Admission to the site is free, and tickets are available at the York Quay Centre box office, 235 Queens Quay W., or by phone at 416-973-4000. For a full schedule, visit www.ashkenazfestival.com.

* * *

**Tova Sings Beyle:** Toronto diva **Theresa Tova** sings the songs of 86-year-old Yiddish poet-songwriter **Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman** in *You Ask Me Why... Tova Sings Beyle*, a concert with a virtuoso all-star jazz band featuring **Matt Herskowitz, Artie Roth, Daniel Barnes, Brian Katz, Jane Bunnett, Kelly Jefferson, John Macleod** and **Julie Michels**.

"This music is fresh and seductive, bridging the gap between the traditional roots of Jewish culture and 21st-century sensibilities and rhythms," Tova says. Her new CD of the same music is being launched at the concert, which occurs as part of the Ashkenaz Festival. Harbourfront Centre Theatre, Sept. 4, 5:30 p.m. Tickets, 416-973-4000.

* * *

**Music in Exile:** The Royal Conservatory of Music presents Music in Exile, a weekend exploring rarely heard music by composers whom the Nazis exiled, as performed by ARC, the conservatory's resident musical ensemble. The program includes works of several Jewish composers such as **Mieszyslaw Weinberg**, a Polish Jew who fled Warsaw for the Soviet Union in 1939.

Also included is the Canadian première of *Through Roses*, an acclaimed work by American pianist-composer **Marc Neikrug**, who is to conduct it in Toronto. Born in 1946, Neikrug is a longtime accompanist to violinist-conductor **Pinchas Zukerman**. His *Through Roses*, which blends music and dramatic text, has been translated into many languages and been performed all over the world, including Israel.

The weekend also features lectures by musicologist **Albrecht Dumling** and **Bret Werb** of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. W. Oct. 14 and 15. 416-408-2824, ext. 321

* * *

**Arts in Brief**

• The 23-year-old, Moscow-born electric violinist **Eugene Draw** and band perform at Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W., Sept. 2 and 3, 8:30 p.m. $23-$25. www. hughsroom.com

• Jazz pianist and vocalist **Fern Lindzon** and guests perform an eclectic program ranging from **Cole Porter** to **Johnny Mandel**, with contemporary jazz, klezmer originals and spoken poetry. Hear her arrangements of jazz standards and original compositions at the Trane Studio, 964 Bathurst St., Wednesday, Sept. 6, 13 and 20, 8:30 p.m. 416-913-8197.

• Rebelfest is a non-profit festival meant to showcase truly independent films that have received no government funding and have not been produced through the established film institutes or film centres. Its third annual season runs Sept. 6 to 10. Innis College, Townhall Theatre. 647-286-0067, www. rebelfest.com


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## FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

**BATHURST / COLDSTREAM**
**BRAND NEW** custom family home. Approx. 4,000 sq. ft. + fin. bsmt., 5 + 2 bdrms., 6 baths, separate entry to in-law suite, main floor library, extensive use of granite, limestone, crown mouldings, custom trim, pot lights. Fabulous location close to TTC, schools ++. $1,195,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**BATHURST / WILSON CONDO — NEW LISTING**
**SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM CONDO,** 2 baths, **PRICED TO SELL AT ONLY $189,900 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST MANOR — AMAZING VALUE!**
**HUGE BACKSPLIT!** Ideal family home, 4 + 1 bedrooms, 4 baths, sep. entry to self-contained apartment, huge family room on lower level, main floor library, 2 heating & AC zones. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $499,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**ALEXANDRA WOOD ONE OF A KIND — SPECTACULAR!**
Spectacular bungalow on 73 X 140 ft. lot. Over 4,000 sq. ft. on main level, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 8 baths, ideal for entertaining. Dance hall in bsmt., circular driveway, $1,918,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712 and enjoy the virtual tour at **eichornrealty.ca**

## GREAT HOME RENTALS, GREAT MONTHLY RATES!

- **BATHURST / STEELES** 2 bdrm. condo, $1,500
- **BATHURST / LAWRENCE** 3 bdrm. 1 1/2 storey home, $1,500
- **BATHURST / RANEE** 4 bdrm. bung., 2,400 sq. ft., $3,250
- **BATHURST / WILSON** RENTED bungalow, $1,800
- **LYTTON PARK** 6 + 1 bdrm. executive home, $5,000

Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

## SOLD IN 10 DAYS FOR 98% OF ASKING PRICE

**BATHURST / GLENGROVE CUSTOM EXECUTIVE 4 + 2 BEDROOM HOME!** Bright & spacious, stained double door glass entry, family-size kitchen, huge rec. room, new carpets, gleaming hardwood floors. **ACT NOW!** Call Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

**10 PRUE CONDO—SPACIOUS 1,700 SF 2 BDRM.—NEW PRICE REDUCED TO SELL NOW!** 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, sunken living room, ensuite laundry, security camera. **ONLY $429,000 — ACT FAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / RANEE — REDUCED $ 50,000**
Very spacious ranch bungalow on gorgeous 57 x 132 ft. lot, approx. 2,400 sq. ft. + finished basement with separate entry, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 4 baths. **ONLY $649,000 — ACT NOW!** Also available for rent @ $3,250 / mo. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**BATHURST / LAWRENCE**
**BRAND NEW** custom executive home, approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + finished basement, luxurious finishes, 4 + 2 bedrooms, 6 baths, gleaming hardwood floors throughout, 10 ft. ceilings on main floor, 9-10 ft. ceilings on 2nd level. Extensive use of granite, marble, cherry & ash. Stone front, interlock driveway. **ONLY $1,149,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

**PRESTIGIOUS CORTLEIGH PARK**
Custom 3,700 sq. ft. + finished basement with its own kitchen. 5 + 1 bedrooms, 6 baths, main floor library and family room, both with custom built-in bookcases. Dream French country kitchen, palatial bathrooms, gleaming hardwood floors on both levels. Designer decor and luxurious upgrades throughout. Steps to Cortleigh Park! $1,595,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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**CENTRAL PROPERTIES**

**226 COLDSTREAM AVE! LUX 5+1BR 6BTH!**
$2,279K! Lytton Park Area! Just Completed! Timeless Elegance! 47x201'! I/G Pool! Sandon Schwartzben**416-226-1987

**AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE EXECUTIVE CUSTOM HOME**
Spacious 5+2 bdrm, 2 kitchens, 6 baths, main floor, library, den, huge kitchen. 40 x 134 Ft Lot. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

**NEW PRICE! FABULOUS AVENUE ST. CLAIR $1,195,000**
5+1 Bdrm, Centre Hall, Large LR, Den, Dr, Hardwood Floors, Sep Entrance to Fin Basement. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

**GRAND CUSTOM HOME 5000 SQ.FT.OF LUXURY**
Bathurst Glencairn, 5+3 bdrms, 3 kitchens, main floor family, lib. Sep ent in-law ste. 50x137 lot. Brenda Westbrook* 416-226-1987

**UPPER VILLAGE/RICHARD WENGLE CUSTOM DESIGN**
4+1 Bdrm, 4 Bath, Family Room, Gourmet Kitchen, High Ceilings, Garage, Cac. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

**PRESTIGIOUS BALMORAL ESTATES $959,000**
Magnificent designed & upgraded 4+1 Bdrm/5 Bath. Fab finished w/out bsmt. Great cul de sac. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

**$949,000. "ALEXANDRA WOOD" AREA**
Incredible 4+1 bdrm executive home, Double garage, finished lower level. Heddy Blaug** Barbara Barker* 416-226-1987

**UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE $749,000**
Quiet Street, 4 Bdrms, 4 Baths, Main Floor Family Room, Finished Bsmt, Garage. Faithe Seversky**/Les Aaron** 416-488-2875

**27 CEDAR SPRINGS GROVE! $699,900!**
"Bathurst Manor"! Spac'us 4+1Br, 3Bth, B/S! Mn Fam+Lau+3Pce! Incredible Ravine Lot! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**226 ARMOUR $609,000. EXCLUSIVE LISTING**
Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2 storey, freshly painted & redone hardwoods. Breathtaking 42x135' lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

**ARMOUR HEIGHTS EX[SOLD]NT VALUE $579,000**
Bright + Spacious 3 bedroom [SOLD] beautiful 43X174" lot. Live in, renovate or build. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

**CHRISTIE/ST. CLAIR – [SOLD] REDUCED! $525,000**
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**CENTRAL PROPERTIES CONT'D**

**JUST LISTED WILSON HEIGHTS**
$498,500. Lrg reno 3 bdrm, 3 bath bungalow on super lot, sep. entr to bsmt apt. Anne Eidlitz* Ingrid Hemmerich* 416-226-1987

**BATHURST/SHEPPARD – BUNGALOW $459,000**
Spacious 3 Bdrm Bungalow on Huge Lot, 69.37 x 102.75, 3 Bdrms in Basement. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**NORTH/BAYVIEW PROPERTIES**

**2952 BAYVIEW AVE! FAB 43X118'!**
$539,900! N/Sheppard! Best Local Facing The Park! Prime Bldg Lot! Walk To Subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES**

**TOWNHOMES OF HOGGS HOLLOW – $719,900**
1790 sq. ft Premium South Facing Courtyard Unit, Loaded with Upgrades, 3 Bdrms. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**FOREST HILL VILLAGES – JUST $539,000**
1500 sq.ft. 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2 Car Parking, New Hardwood Flrs Thru, Fab Views. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**NEW OFFERING! STUNNING 2 BDRM LOT $399,000**
Open Style 2 Level, South/West Corner Balcony, Beltline Views, 935 sq.ft., 2 Baths. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

**1ST AD! 10 DELISLE AVE! $375K!**
Yonge N/St Clair! Amazing 1+1Br, 2Bth, End Unit Garden Ste W/Priv Terrace! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**247 HILLHURST BLVD! E/BATHURST!**
$319K! Seldom Available! Mn Flr, 3+1Br, 2Bth Ste W/Prkg+Locker! Try Your Offer! Sandon Schwartzben**416-226-1987

**BATHURST/GLENCAIRN CONDO $309,000**
Quiet, Low Rise Bldg, 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2 Parking Spaces, Approx 1225 Sq. Ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

**1ST AD! 942 YONGE STREET! $229K!**
N/Bloor! Fab 1+1Br, 1Bth Garden Ste W/Hi Ceilings+Locker! Wow! Sandon Schwartzben**/Geoffrey Korn* 416-226-1987

**ORIOLE/KILBARRY CO-OP APT $218,000**
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## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**BATHURST/STEELES "COURTLANDS"**
Stunning spacious corner unit, 2 BR, 2 Bath, solarium and balcony, ensuite laundry room, loads of closets and storage, 2 Parking spots and storage locker.
Call...**Janice Long**
**416-782-8882**
Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc, Brokerage
wwww.janicelonghomes.com

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**EXECUTIVE CONDO!**
**$379,000**
Stunning 2 Bedroom + Solarium In Thornhill's Most Prestigious low rise Building! Very Spacious Approx 1720 Sq Ft of living space! Corner Suite With Lots Of Light. Steps To Transportation, Shopping & All Conveniences! Large bedrooms, ensuite bathroom, eat in kitchen and so much more. Don't wait! For all inquires or for a private viewing call

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**Bathurst/Lawrence**
large bright 2 bedroom, 2 baths, with eat in kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer, solarium, prkng, Shabbes elevator, near Shul. Price reduced for immediate sale.
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**Bathurst/Baycrest**, Sr. bldg., 2 Neptune, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, close to all. $259K. Call 416-402-6611.

## 30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

**BATHURST & LAWRENCE**
*New Listing!*
'THE ENCORE' bright corner suite 2 bdrm/2 bath approx 1140 sf, lovely hardwood flrs, large eat-in kitchen, balcony, parking, locker. $389,900.
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## 35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

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## 10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

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**Bathurst/Sheppard**, beautiful, very clean, newly reno'd 2 bdrm. apt., 6 storey apt. bldg. w/underground prkg., avail. from Nov. 1. $1100+hydro. Call 416-635-5031.

**Bathurst/Sheppard**, beautiful, clean, newly reno'd 1 bdrm. w/underground prkg., from Nov. 1. $950+hydro. Call 416-635-5031.

**Yonge/Sheppard**, very bright bsmt. apt., sep. entr., n/pets/smkr., lndry., 10' ceiling. 416-223-5931.

## 105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

**Balfour Beach**, day camp Katonim, lrg. lot & cottage, 5 br., 1 1/2 bath, avail immed. Call 905-883-3646.

## 125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

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## 75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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## 130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Boca Century Village,** sunny 1 br., 1 bath. Clean, fully furn. Top flr. 3-6 mos. from Jan. 3-2007. Please call 416-489-6333.

**Miami Sunny Isles, Winston Towers,** lux. conv., 1 bdrm., 2 baths, walk to beach. Jan./Feb. $2000/mo. US. 416-739-7555 or 416-567-6751.

**Hallandale, Three Islands,** reno'd, 1 bdrm., w/den, 1 bath. Deck overlooks canal, tennis, pool. 10 mins. to Aventura, and all amenities. $2000/mo. US + hydro. Nov. '06-April '07. Please call 416-630-2177, primeannex@hotmail.com

**Fort Lauderdale Beach,** Las Olas Blvd./A1A/Oceanview. 1500 sq. ft., 2 bdrms, 2 baths., resort like pool, sauna/spa, large exercise room, covered parking, 24hr. gated security, short walk to beach, non smokers only. Available Sept. to Dec. $3800. US/month. Call Julie 416-725-3918.

**West PB, Century Village,** bright ground flr apt, 2 bdrm, 1 + 1/2 bath, a/c, $1500 US/mo. + amen. Min. 4 months. Call 905-770-1029.

## 140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED

**Want to rent 1 bdrm condo** in Century Village for March '07. Please call 416-638-5632.

## 232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

**Judaica gift shop,** est. 40 yrs. owner retiring, $80K. Please call 416-781-8261.

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## 280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 305 ARTICLES WANTED

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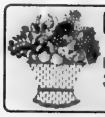

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Sports & Leisure

# *Peer posts best Israeli finish ever at Rogers Cup*

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
*Special to the CJN*

**MONTREAL** — Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer showed Canadian tennis fans why she has become so celebrated in her homeland when she put in the best-ever performance for an Israeli at the Rogers Cup Canadian Open, held earlier this month in Montreal.

Making her Canadian debut, the 19-year-old Peer finished as a quarter-finalist in singles and a semifinalist in doubles for her best-ever performance in a major tournament.

As a result, Peer's ranking rose from 25th to 22nd in singles and from 35th to 33rd in doubles (as of Aug. 21). Both are the highest of her career and make Peer the highest ranking Israeli and Jewish player on the women's pro tennis circuit.

The unseeded Peer defeated Uzbekistan's Varvana Lepchenko 6-4,6-4, then upset sixth seed Anastasia Myskina of Russia 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4, and doubles partner Marion Bartoli of France 2-6,7-5,6-4 before losing in the quarterfinals to Russian Anna Chakvetadze 7-6 (3),7-5.

"Although it was tough to lose in the quarter-finals, I am pleased overall with my performance in Montreal. I appreciated all the support I had over the tournament from the many Israelis and Jewish people in Montreal," Peer said after her last match.

Known for her fitness and mental strength, Peer's best match was her upset of Myskina in the second round. Peer's cross-court backhand at the net gave her the first set tie-break. After dropping the second set and after both players broke each other's serve in the third, Peer served out the match with a 5-4 lead.

Peer never gave up, even when trailing big in her matches. Against Lepchenko, she trailed 4-0 before winning five games in a row. Even in defeat, Peer fell behind Chakvetadze 0-3 before rallying for a tie break in the first set, and she evened the match at 5-5 in the second set before Chakvetadze broke her serve.

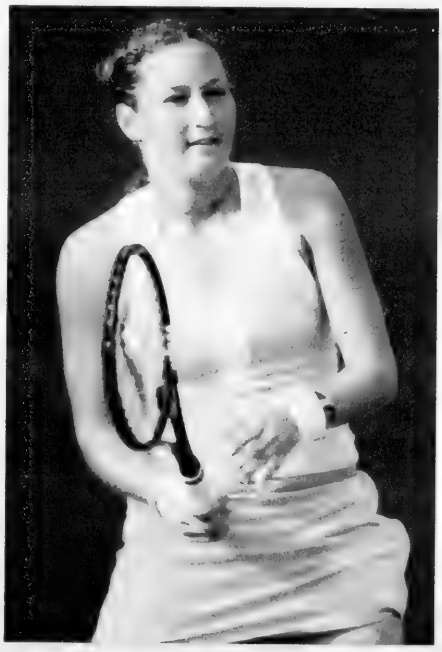
"Shahar is a great fighter and runs down every shot. She is an exciting young player who I expect big things from," said Tracy Austin, a former Canadian and U.S. Open champion who was a Rogers Cup TV commentator for CBC and TSN. "Her feistiness and mental determination to wear down her opponents gives her a bright future in tennis. The Rogers Cup may be the major breakout tournament for Peer."

During the event, Israel's recent war with Hezbollah was on Peer's mind, as it was for the other two Israelis in the tournament, Anna Smashnova and Tzipi Obziler, who both lost in the first round.

"I have a cousin who is in Lebanon and am glad he is fine," said Peer, 19. "I check every day on the situation. The best thing I could do for myself and my country is to be the best tennis player I can be."

Like other 19-year-old Israelis, Peer is serving a two-year stint in the army. But for 30 weeks a year, she exchanges her army uniform for a tennis outfit and shoots balls instead of bullets.

In the process, she has become the most famous Israeli-born female athlete ever. In May alone, Peer won two tournament titles and became the first Israeli-born tennis player to reach the fourth round of the French Open.



**Shahar Peer**

Her impressive play caught the eye of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. "The prime minister has called me after the French Open saying how much he likes to watch me play and thinks that I represent Israel well around the world," said Peer.

Olmert's call is not the only way Peer has been touched by Mideast politics. Last month, Indonesia refused to send a team to compete in Fed Cup play in Israel in order, it said, "to protest the Israeli action against Palestinians." As a result, the International Tennis Federation awarded a forfeit to Israel, which will advance to World Group Two competition in 2007.

"Although the team advanced, I would have preferred to play. It's a shame we could not, because we had a lot of fans in Israel that don't get to see our matches around the world, and it would be good for our fans to see us play," Peer said.

Israelis have been proud of the many achievements of their three players on the women's circuit over the past two months. In addition to Peer's achievements, Obziler, ranked 135th in the world, won a small tournament in Washington, D.C., on July 18, and Smashnova, ranked 62nd, won her 12th professional tournament – the most titles of any Israeli and Jewish player currently competing – in Budapest on July 25.

Born and raised in Maccabim, a West Bank settlement, Peer started playing tennis at age six, taking lessons with her older brother, Shlomi, and sister, Shani. In 2001, at age 14, young Shahar won the prestigious Orange Bowl 14s title, and in 2004, she became the first Israeli to win the Australian Junior Open.

Peer has also won singles and doubles titles in Prague, a city she has familial connections to. "My grandparents are from [Prague] and when my parents were very young, my grandparents emigrated to Israel and are Holocaust survivors."

Peer's father, Dovik, a computer software specialist, travels with Shahar as much as possible while her mother Aliza remains at home.

The Rogers Cup also brought out the best in Sharon Fichman, 15, of Toronto, who was playing in her second Rogers Cup tournament. Fichman has already made Canadian tennis history by becoming the youngest person (at 14) to both make the Federation Cup team and win a gold medal at the Maccabiah Games (doing so in 2005). Although Fichman lost in qualifying at the Rogers Cup 6-3, 7-6 (3) to Russian Galina Voskoboeva, she remains optimistic about her future.

"She [Voskoboeva] played the big points well, otherwise the match was close and competitive. I feel that I will improve in the future and hope to play the Rogers Cup for many years," Fichman said.

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# Blind golfer the star attraction at Beit Halochem event

By PAUL LUNGEN
*Staff Reporter*

Zohar Sharon would be hard pressed to duplicate his remarkable feat of last year.

Not many sighted golfers, let alone those who are totally blind like Sharon, ever card a two under par eagle, yet that's exactly what he did last August during a friendly round at Maple Downs Golf & Country Club.

This year, Sharon says he's hitting the ball even better, although at a fundraising event last week for Beit Halochem Canada – Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel (Canada), he struggled early on the driving range to iron out a kink in his swing.

The day before the tournament at Angus Glen Golf Club, Sharon received some advice from a golf coach about the position of his left arm during his swing.

The advice, Sharon asserted, disrupted his natural motion and threw him off his game. But, he added with his ever-present broad smile, he'll fix it.

Sharon, arguably the best blind golfer in the world, needs to get his game in order as he prepares to defend his title at next week's World Invitational 2006 blind golf tournament in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Sharon, 55, fully expects to walk away with the title yet again – after he gets his swing back on track.

For 144 supporters of Beit Halochem, Sharon, kinks and all, was an inspiration and the guy everyone wanted to meet. Sharon was planted at Angus Glen's 17th hole where all foursomes passed through. They had their pictures taken with him and got the chance to "beat the pro."

Tournament chair Mark Dodick said Sharon proved to be a tremendous draw for Beit Halochem.

That and an awareness of the injuries sustained by Israel's troops in the recent war with Hezbollah brought out a full complement of golfers and enticed sponsors to ante up the kind of prizes and awards that golfers appreciate, including two cars, a golfing trip to Atlantic City and $25,000 in cash for a hole in one on the course's four par threes.

Beit Halochem's golf day – the ninth consecutive one sponsored by the organization – is the second "major" in the charity's calendar of events, behind a June concert which drew 1,700 spectators.

Dee-Dee Shiffman, executive vice-president of Beit Halochem, said money raised at the tournament and at other events goes toward providing rehabilitation equipment at Beit Halochem's four Israeli facilities, as well as programming, staffing and counselling.

Beit Halochem operates centres in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Nahariya that offer disabled veterans a way to reintegrate themselves into normal life.

Over the past few years, Beit Halochem Canada has sent on average $1.2 million annually to Israel for rehabilitation programs, said Shiffman, adding that the organization takes pride in remitting 88 per cent of the funds it raises, with the remainder allocated for administrative and other costs.

In addition to the golf day, Beit Halochem raises funds at its annual concert and holds successful events to raise awareness of the organization, such as the recent young leadership party at the home of president Toby Feldberg, which was attended by 500 people between 25 and 40. Other items on the calendar include an annual Chanukah Party, a mission to Israel (this year's is scheduled to depart on Oct. 19 and last 10 days) and information evenings. Last March, former Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon addressed the group, Feldberg said.

Every June, 10 disabled veterans are brought to Ontario for rest and recreation in a program that harkens back to Beit Halochem's very first attempt at assisting wounded Israeli soldiers. That program was launched by Beit Halochem Canada founder Berny Weinstein more than 20 years ago, Feldberg said.

Sharon is one of Beit Halochem's success stories. He spent a lot of time at its facilities during his rehabilitation and he still works out there. A former IDF sniper who later became a bomb disposal expert, Sharon lost his vision when a chemical substance was sprayed in his face.

Within two years, he was totally blind and he sank into a deep depression. He took up golf – or at least putting on a carpet – at the suggestion of his wife's lawyer during divorce proceedings. From that modest start, he ventured to outdoor golf, but at times he became so frustrated that he gave up the sport completely. Five years ago, he resumed his infatuation with golf, and these days he plays six days a week, taking time off only to observe Shabbat.

**Shimshon Levi, left, lines up the club of blind Israeli golfer Zohar Sharon at the practice range at Angus Glen Golf Club before a charity fund raising event. [Paul Lungen photo]**

He plays in about 20 tournaments a year as far afield as Miami, San Diego, Chicago, Toronto and, of course Scotland. Any money he earns is sent back to Israel to train guide dogs for the blind, such as his constant companion Dylan, a mixed Labrador/Golden Retriever.

His longtime friend Shimshon Levi provides his eyes on the course. Levi describes the hole, the yardage, helps select the club, lines it up and grounds it behind the ball, allowing Sharon to take his stance.He also provides feedback, describing the flight of the ball and its distance, though Sharon's sense of touch is so acute, he often knows when he's hit it well or poorly even before Levi says a word.

When Sharon plays events such as the tournament in Scotland, he wears a hat on the course, but takes care to wear a knitted kippah at awards ceremonies and the like. As he explained, "if I play with Gentiles, I see myself as an ambassador for Israel. But when I play with Jews, I feel as though I am with brothers."

As for his performance at Angus Glen, site of the 2007 Canadian Open, it appeared he'd gotten his game back on track after a shaky start at the driving range.

With a Mulligan in his pocket on his first shot on the 175-yard 17th, he smacked his second ball to the left edge of the green, and on his next shot, he made good contact, too, sending the ball to the right, albeit a little short.

Looking ahead to Scotland, Sharon breaks into his beaming smile.

"It'll be OK," he said."I'm playing better than I am showing. Yesterday someone told me to change my left arm in the swing. That broke my swing. Now, I'm looking for it. I'll find it. I just need time."

# Caught in the present

By YONI GOLDSTEIN

New Views

In the Middle East, it never pays to look to the future. In a region where war is always on the horizon and the threat of terrorism is a constant worry, you take whatever peace you can get today and prepare for the next fight.

So, Israel's latest ceasefire with the terrorist group Hezbollah – as threadbare as it most certainly is – must be seen as an opportunity. The ceasefire will give Israel a chance to regroup and some time to consider its successes and failings in Lebanon. Most importantly, the UN-endorsed ceasefire means that there will be no more rocket attacks on Haifa, Afula and Safed, no more civilian deaths and no more dangerous military operations over uncharted terrain. (Unfortunately, the ceasefire also means that the kidnapped Israeli soldiers will not be returning home any time soon.)

If the past 58 years have taught us anything, it's that the State of Israel must never look too far into the future. There will almost certainly never be a comprehensive peace between Israel and its state and terrorist enemies. And it is equally implausible that Israel will be able to fully defeat its many opponents over any period of time. The only real option is to stay alive at all costs and live to fight again on another day.

Over the past few weeks, many people have proclaimed that Israel lost this latest war and, in effect, strengthened Hezbollah's standing as a saviour in the Arab world. Israel failed to disarm Hezbollah, was only semi-successful in neutralizing the threat of rocket attacks on the northern part of the country, and it brought international ire upon itself with a month-long bombing campaign that killed 1,000 people and ruined Lebanon.

But calling the war a defeat implies that this was in some way a winnable war. In reality, there was little chance that Israel could have rid Lebanon of Hezbollah and destroyed the group's cache of missiles. Anti-terrorism campaigns are so difficult because they are entirely different from conventional warfare, with innocent civilians used as shields and the urban landscape as a tactical front. Israel's only option to "win" this war would have been a carpet-bombing destruction of Lebanon – and, even then, Hezbollah would have still probably survived (in Syria, Iran and Gaza).

The world – that is, the democratically developed world – is still learning how to successfully combat a terrorist offensive. The recent arrests in Britain of more than 20 alleged would-be-terrorists suggests that we are getting better at preventing terror attacks before they happen, but no one has figured out how to wage a successful war against an active terrorist enemy. The stakes in this case – namely, Israel Defence Forces casualties on the battlefield and massive civilian death in Lebanon – were too high to be sustained in a long campaign. In an age where nations at war need as many lawyers as foot soldiers, the aftershocks of a large-scale invasion of Lebanon were potentially more damaging than helpful.

Israel did just about all it realistically could have in its attempt to defeat Hezbollah. But this just wasn't a war it could hope to win. Instead, Israel got the next best thing – time to learn how to fight (and defeat) this new breed of enemy and an end to the terrifying rockets attacks on the north. This is neither the beginning nor the end of Israel's conflict with its many enemies. It's just the latest chapter in the present middle ground, in which every day brings equal possibilities, of both war and peace.

But for the time being, one million Israelis can return to their homes and jobs, and some semblance of a normal life. And parents can go to sleep without worrying about their children being crouched and scared on an unfamiliar hillside in a hostile country.


## Grilled Chicken Mango Salad

4 medium chicken breasts
1/2 cup Raspberry Vinaigrette dressing, divided
4 cups baby spinach leaves
1 red onion, sliced
1 mango, peeled and cubed
1 avocado, peeled, pitted and cubed

Marinate chicken in 1/4 cup dressing for 5 mins. Remove chicken from marinade and discard marinade. Barbeque 6 to 7 mins. on each side or until cooked through.

Toss together spinach, onion, mango and avocado. Drizzle with remaining dressing. Divide salad mixture onto 4 plates, top each with sliced grilled chicken breast.

For no-mess marinating, place chicken breasts and dressing in resealable plastic bag. Discard bag after use.

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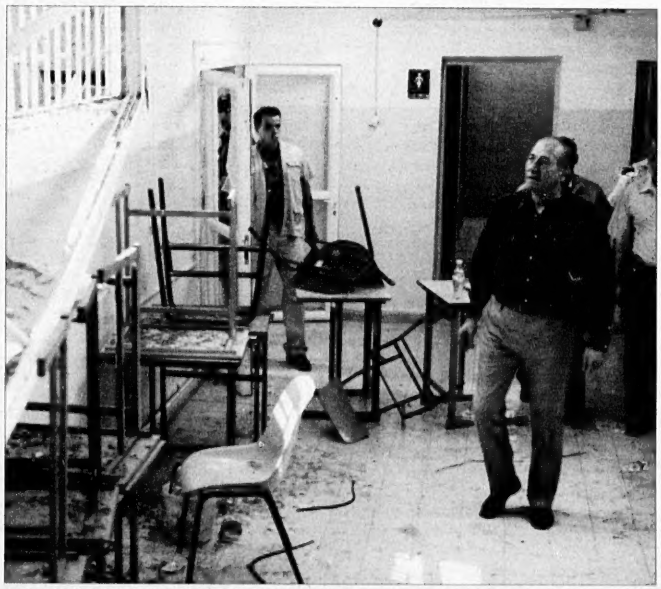

**ASSESSING DAMAGE FIRST HAND: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert visited a school in Kiryat Shmonah last week that received direct hits from Hezbollah rocket fire. [Isranet photo]**

# Role of Diaspora Jewry: defending Israel

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

URBAN WRITER

How should Diaspora Jewry respond to Israel's war against Hezbollah?

Disagreement and dissent is a healthy attribute of our people. However, whether or not we agree with the way the war was fought, the challenge to Diaspora Jewry is how best we can be used at this point to strengthen the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

Israel is taking enormous amounts of flak, both inside and outside the country, for what many armchair critics see as weak leadership and a badly fought war. Whether this is the case or not, clearly Israeli's reputation as a strong and mighty nation is taking a beating. This sentiment is being heard throughout the Arab world, as well as in major international media outlets.

Questions are being asked such as: "Can Israel win the next round of war against Hezbollah, Iran and Syria?" "Is Israel the same fighting machine, with committed soldiers and citizens, as it used to be?" "What about Israel's leadership? How is it that Olmert and his cabinet could act so inappropriately by announcing a victory while hundreds of bombs were raining down on northern Israel?"

The more these questions are asked, the more the world, and especially our enemies, will believe that Israel has slipped in terms of its ability to defend itself – as it has done miraculously well over the past six decades. Weakness of this type, in Israel's part of the world, is a real danger.

If we decide that it's appropriate to speak publicly in order to criticize and/or condemn Israel for a strategy that we may not agree with, are we not, in effect, adding to the problem?

I suggest that the role of Diaspora Jewry is to act as an emissary for the State of Israel by consistently, and whenever possible, praising it for its bravery, and reminding the world of Hezbollah's evil actions and intentions.

Israel is a master at defending itself. It doesn't need us to be armchair generals. Diaspora Jews, however, are skilled at being marketers and goodwill ambassadors – an area of expertise that Israel has not had the time to master.

We must, therefore, use our gifts, to remind the world that Hezbollah regularly acts outside of the rules of war (for instance, by involving women and children in fighting); is funded by drug sales, in full knowledge of its spiritual leaders; and has as its goal the elimination of the State of Israel – the Middle East's only real democracy – and the Islamicization of as many nations as possible.

Did Israel fight badly? Was the army unprepared? These questions can't be answered by Jews living safely thousands of miles away from the battle lines, without the understanding or details that only the Israeli cabinet was privy to – such as why a ceasefire at this time might be a prudent preparation for the next step.

Mostly, Diaspora Jewry owes Israel an enormous amount of respect and gratitude for the resources it has invested in securing the Jewish people, and for the tragedy of losing thousands of Jewish sons and daughters since 1948.

That respect should translate into accepting the fact that Israel will work through its military challenges, and will do so brilliantly – and partly through dissent, arguing, infighting, etc. Similarly, respect must come in the form of support, not only from philanthropic contributions or visits to the Holy Land, but also through our skills at articulating a strong and well-thought out defence of Israel.

It's easy, and often cheap, to be vocal about Israel's response to Hezbollah. But we can play a crucial role, one that demands real effort, in the defence of the Jewish People through our own readily available resources – our ability to speak loudly and clearly about our precious State of Israel.

*Avrum@veahavta.org. Sudan?*

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